

THE LEAGUE IN OTHER STATES

IMMUNITY BATH READY FOR MILLERS

BRAN PRICE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE ENGAGES IN LOVE FEAST. "REASON" IS FOUND FOR BIG INCREASE. MILL FEED COMPARED TO BUTTERMILK BY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICIAL.

(By Fred A. Harding) (Minnesota Leader) A beautiful coat of whitewash is being prepared for the millers by the special house committee appointed to inquire into the sudden rise in the price of bran and other feedstuffs. All that remained after a committee meeting last week was to write the report.

John S. Pillsbury of the Pillsbury Milling company, G. L. Crocker, manager of the feed department of the Washburn-Crosby company, and C. C. Dovee of the same corporation appeared before the committee and convinced all, with the possible exception of C. M. Bendixen, that the millers are pure as the lily.

Asher Howard, executive officer of the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, was convinced before the committee began its investigation that "supply and demand" was responsible for the soaring bran prices. Perhaps some of the others on the committee, including C. F. Serline of Mille Lacs, J. E. Baxter of Murray and "Colonel" R. A. Wilkinson of Washington county held similar views. At any event, after the millers had done explaining there was a general love feast.

The millers contended that the lifting of the restrictions on mill feed by the federal food administration last December caused them to lose money, in spite of the fact that prices advanced 66 2-3 per cent. It was asserted that the Pillsbury and Washburn-Crosby mills alone had suffered losses aggregating \$800,000, or \$800,000,000, I forget which.

Mr. Bovee made a heartrending plea for sympathy on behalf of the millers. He said the millers were getting gray-haired because they didn't know what congress was going to do in the matter of disposing of the guaranteed price of the 1919 wheat crop.

Mr. Crocker produced many figures and statistics to back up the "supply and demand" claim of the millers. "We want you to believe we are straight," he said. "Ask Hoover about us. He will tell you that no class of men has given him such cooperation as have the millers." The statement was slightly ambiguous, but Mr. Crocker didn't mean it to be.

Mr. Pillsbury assured the committee that the millers do not set a price on feed. They take the best price offered for their product, which Mr. Howard compared to the buttermilk of a farmers' co-operative creamery!

How philanthropic the Pillsbury Milling company really is can be judged from Mr. Pillsbury's statement that mill feed is sold to small buyers at a lower price than to brokers who buy in 100,000-ton lots.

He suggested that the committee might be in better business than investigating the patriotic millers. "Why not investigate the dealers who are charging high prices for feed?" he asked.

When one of the committee suggested that the millers' profits be investigated he was promptly sat upon.

A SOUND INVESTMENT AND A CONTRIBUTION TO PROGRESS. THE VALUE OF A LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP.

By H. P. RICHARDSON

The time has arrived for every member of the Nonpartisan league in North Dakota to assess the value of his membership; to cast up accounts of benefits already gained as over against the amount the membership has cost each one.

Those who joined in the first few months of 1915 paid \$6.00 for the period ending the following December 1, 1916.

For the two year period 1917-1918, all members paid \$16.00. Thus, it will be observed, that the League to Dec. 1, 1918, has cost each "Six Dollar Sucker" \$22, and each "Nine Dollar Sucker" \$25.

These amounts include your National Nonpartisan Leader for approximately (according to the date you joined) three years and three months, and the North Dakota Leader, started later, for one year. Moreover, these amounts financed four furious political and educational campaigns; the salaries of eminent journalists and investigators who were sent to every part of the United States to give you the facts concerning the beginnings that had been made in the direction of state and municipal ownership of public utilities; employed a corps of experts in economics, sociology and the law, to plan and draft the legislation required to carry the proposed program of the Nonpartisan league into effect and actual operation.

These party dues also financed a battalion of expert organizers, all but a few of them fresh from the farm, and trained speakers and lecturers who built your League to such a formidable degree of strength, that the combined financial power of the American grain gamblers, profiteering

packers, and speculating land-hogs were unable to stop the advance of your solid ranks of "We'll Stickers." All this under the masterly leadership of A. C. Townley.

You won the last great battle in Nov. 1918, after a series of political battles for three and one-half years unparalleled in American history, save only the struggle for the abolition of chattel-slavery that culminated in a bloody Civil War in the middle of the last century.

Your fight has been waged against another form of slavery; the slavery imposed by a rotten economic system whereby powerful financial buccaners have grown up to seize the product of the farms with such ravenous hogishness in market rigging and unscrupulous interest as to plunge the farmers of North Dakota into mortgage indebtedness of three hundred and twenty millions, on farms alone, in less than two generations.

In three and one-half short years you have brought about a political and economic revolution, bloodless, but so far as your enemies are concerned, most peaceful.

Your legislature is creating the fabric of laws necessary to put your desired state-owned enterprises into operation under efficient management.

North Dakota enjoys the distinction of being the first commonwealth in the western hemisphere to break away from the old order of transacting the business of handling the products of the soil and to usher in the new methods that abolishes the useless middlemen.

It is you, members of the Nonpartisan league, your working men allies, and other sympathizers and well wishers in the cities and villages of North Dakota, who have thus brought yourselves face to face with the dawn of

a better day, and who have inspired your brethren in the other states with hope that they, too, may organize and prevail over the common enemy. Their hearts are beating in concert with your own.

While you have been paying your \$22 and \$25 for three years and three months, what have those who have bitterly opposed you been paying to defeat your aims?

Your enemies within the state, the lickspittles of the Big Business interests of the Twin Cities, camouflaging themselves, Old Gang Republicans and Democrats alike, under the seductive title of the "Independent Voters' Association" are already soliciting \$25 and \$10 yearly memberships in the towns and cities of North Dakota, on the principle that if they can't get \$25 from their brand of "sucker" they will take him for \$10.

Sounds familiar, does it not? Haven't you seen them mark their merchandise thus:

| WAS | NOW |
|---------|---------|
| \$25.00 | \$10.00 |

Not content with hooking the town suckers, they met in Bismarck on Thursday night, Jan. 30, and perfected a plan to hook their "friends" the farmers, with a bait of \$16.00 for two years and a magazine "thrown in."

They promise a receipt signed under another camouflage: "THE NONPARTISAN (Reconstruction) LEAGUE"—better known as the "Tom and Jerry" League.

NICE WORK!

Here is a fat chance for every old gang farmer politician to show his mettle—and his metal. Here is the golden opportunity for every reactionary citizen in town or country to finance the tearing down of what the members of the Nonpartisan League

have just begun to build, after years of painful endeavor.

Beautiful prospect! The fact is that League members may expect a campaign of this sort, although variously camouflaged, every two years—until the state owned utilities are built and running successfully.

Even then it will be unsafe to expect that these enemies of public ownership of public utilities would not sabotage them, as certain noted railroad interests are sabotaging the temporary government control of railroads to head off outright government ownership.

If the Nonpartisan League members allow their organization to disintegrate, the same fate that befell the progressive people of Wisconsin, where a few years ago a reactionary state administration regained power and eradicated nearly every vestige of the beneficial legislation enacted by the Progressives after a long struggle.

In North Dakota you have entered upon the defensive phase of the battle. You must now fortify and stand fast, so that no power can capture the ground gained.

You made a victorious advance, but it will avail you nothing if you do not remain steadfast, united and watchful.

A League member recently asked the writer, "How long are we going to pay dues?" I told him that if he was a wise man and continued to live in North Dakota, he, and every other member should pay dues just as long as their political and economic enemies pay dues in their organizations to fight you.

"WILL YOU STICK?" What is the answer? The eyes of the world are upon you.

NORTH DAKOTA STATE BANK ATTRACTS FUNDS

According to a news dispatch from Chicago, published last night in the Bismarck Tribune, officials of the United Mine Workers assured Governor Frazier that when the Bank of North Dakota opens for business they will withdraw \$1,000,000 of the unions deposits from Chicago banks and transfer the account to our state bank.

The United Mine Workers' union is one of the largest labor organizations in the country and the action of its officers in pledging support to the State Bank of North Dakota is one that is likely to be followed by national labor unions.

These unions have millions of dollars on deposit all over the United States. Suppose that a large portion of this money were transferred to the North Dakota state bank. It would replace the millions which the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce gang say is going to be withdrawn from this state. It would make more money available for the needs of North Dakota farmers.

When the state bank was first introduced, the Capital Daily Press declared that there would be no difficulty in selling its bonds among the workers of the country. Many persons are putting their money in a state bank. Deposits are guaranteed. The bank of St. Paul—an institution which the prostituted newspapers of that city never miss an opportunity of sneering—has more than \$3,000,000 on deposit and most of this is held by workingmen.

The Bank of North Dakota will bring out millions of dollars in this state that is now hoarded and held out of circulation and the Capital Daily Press is confident that it will attract other large deposits from all over the United States.

If necessary, the bonds to finance our institutions could be sold in every industrial center in the United States. The plain people have confidence in the Nonpartisan league and its program of industrial independence and they will back it with their small savings as well as giving it moral support.

Let the Minneapolis monopolists threaten to withdraw their credit. For every dollar they take out of this state the people will send in ten more.

The Bank of North Dakota is the foundation upon which will be built a new era of prosperity for this state and its people. It is the rock against which the waves of financial depression boycotts will beat in vain.

MORE AND MORE PAY-TRITIC ENDEAVOUR

P. S. BODY'S ATTORNEY GETS \$6,521; REPORT HE WORKED FREE SHAKEN.

When Ambrose Tighe was appointed attorney for the safety commission at the organization of that body, it was announced that he would work without remuneration, inspired by patriotic motives.

Attorney Tighe has just been paid \$6,521, out of the funds of the commission, for his services. It is not announced whether he will receive further pay. He is the author of the bill which created the safety commission and gave himself the job.

It is reported that the commission still has \$200,000 of the \$1,000,000 of the taxpayers' money that it got originally.

THEY SAY WE'LL STICK. LETTERS ON REFERENDUM

Hobson, Montana. Nonpartisan League, St. Paul.

Gentlemen: It is a great pleasure for me to cast a vote for one who has and is leading the farmer League to so many victories. I'm looking for a great victory in 1920. "We'll Stick."

Election day was so stormy that no more than half of the farmers in the country voted. My wife and I drove through a big storm 91-2 miles from home to vote and found very few farmers there, but I feel that before the next election we should establish a system of instruction for people about the business of voting. If the information were published every now and then in the papers it would help, but special printed leaflets would be better.

Yours respectfully, T. M. PARTRIDGE.

Big Sandy, Mont., Dec. 23, 1919.

Dear Sir: Although I was this year financially hampered from paying my membership I however, will do what I can for the League so here is my vote for Townley, also I will give my opinion about your write-up on Roosevelt, you did not make it strong enough if he thinks all the pro-Germans are in sympathy with the League then he is a betrayer and hypocrite. For if he knows all pro-Germans in this country why does he not have them interned or dealt with according to our constitution as we all want to know pro-Germans. If Roosevelt thinks he can tug people towards him by insults to the poor over-burdened, over-ridden, bound-down farmers he is mistaken.

In regard to your verse on hunger will say that if a close investigation was taken in a 40-mile square right in my territory, after two years real crop failure perhaps it would be about as necessary it to do some real charity right at home, but I guess it had not reached our officials or newspaper as it only takes according to salary received by them, about 2,000 to 3,000 farmers to support one official.

Raising the salary from lowest to highest do you think it can ever be remedied if it takes this much money to run our offices and as we need such an immense lot of them it seems as we can never come out whole at that rate. I close and remain Yours truly, F. W. SILHA.

Malta, Mont., Jan. 3, 1919

Dear Sir: I am a little late to do my voting, but I just got my paper, so could not do it before, and there are others that have not got their yet for some reason. Well, I know it is late to be counted, but here is my handshake to Townley, just the same. Yours very truly, PEDER H. PAULSON, Box 963, Malta, Mont.

Tampico, Mont., Jan. 7, 1919.

Gentlemen and Brothers: Please find enclosed two ballots, my brother's, who, is a member of our great organization which I hope will gain enough numbers in the next two years to make a sweeping victory in the 1920 election.

Very respectfully, O. M. HALVORSON, Tampico, Mont.

Winifred, Mont., Dec. 20, 1918.

National Nonpartisan League: Sending the ballot and assuring the organization my confidence in Mr. Townley as our president because I know he will continue his great work for the welfare of the whole nation.

Wishing the League a Merry Xmas and a happy New Year with real success.

I am as ever a Farmer and Member. JACOB D. AVELSEN, Winifred, Mont. Billings, Mont., Dec. 21st, 1918.

National Nonpartisan League, Referendum Campaigning Board, Fifth Floor, Endicott Building, St. Paul, Minn.

Gentlemen: I am enclosing you my ballot as per the request of N. P. League.

I trust this will meet with your approval. I think Mr. Townley has done the right thing in asking for a referendum vote as this will show the people that Mr. Townley is doing the right thing by the farmers.

The big interest here in Billings has been fighting me ever since I started the Montana Farmers' Seed Co., but we are winning out, we are now working on a farmers' bank for Billings and by the help of the League members we will "Stick We Will Win."

Some of our farmers think that after Mr. Townley has had the office for two terms it would be a wise plan to elect Gov. Frazier of North Dakota after his term as governor is out, they state Mr. Townley can then do the big interest more hurt on the outside than on the in.

I would be much pleased if it was satisfactory with you to help get new members for the League on odd times with my other business.

I trust Mr. Townley will win out as we need him. Yours truly, HUGH O. PAGE.

Baker, Dec. 20, 1918.

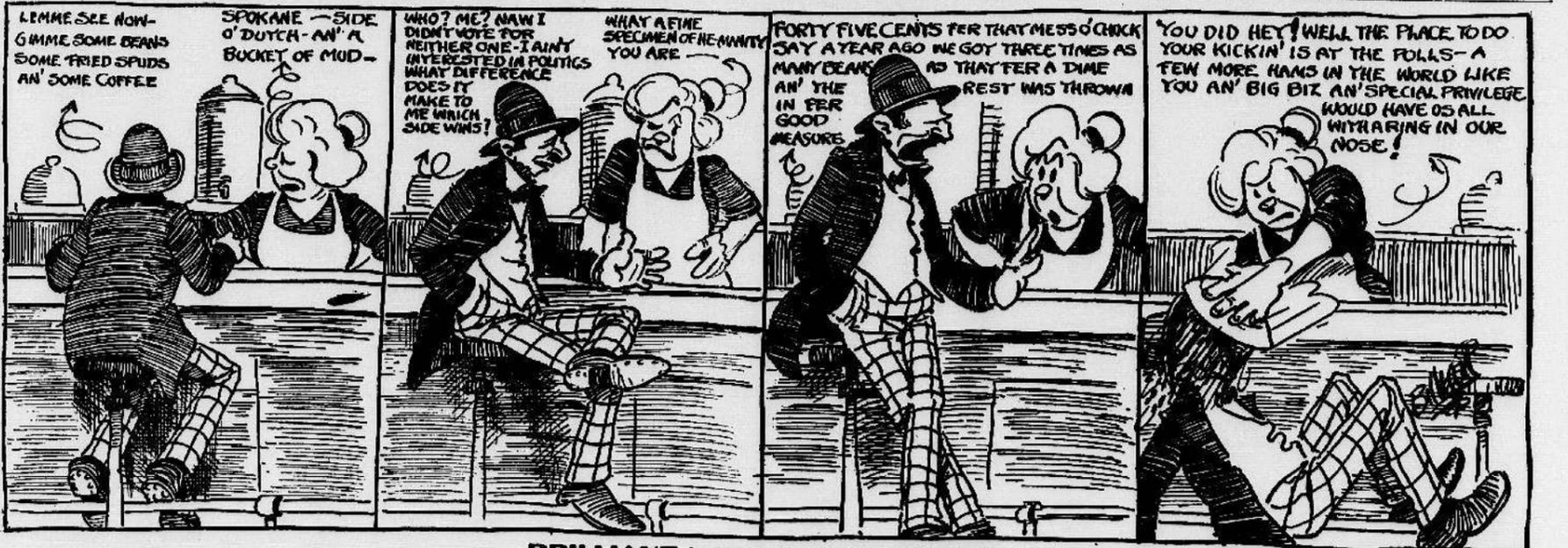
Dear Sir: Enclosed please find the ballot I think that A. C. Townley is by all means the man we want for president of the League. If it had not been for Mr. Townley, the League would never have started and it is the grandest thing for the farmers' cause. "We Will Stick."

A. GARVIN, Baker, Mont.

Pleantywood, Mont., Jan. 2, 1919.

National Nonpartisan League, St. Paul, Minn. Gentlemen: Find enclosed ballots of the following League members: Odin M. Lutness, McElroy, Mont.; Chas. E. Taylor, formerly McGregor, Minn.; John C. O'Grady, Raymond, Mont.

Wishing that every League member would avail himself of the opportunity to vote for the National president of the League, so that the question of who is at the head of the League is settled by the membership, so that the enemies of the League can not continue their false charges against Mr. Townley of being self-appointed autocrat. I wish best wishes for success of the League Movement I am, Yours very truly, F. W. UMBRETT, Box 437



BRILLIANT BOUT IN A BEANERY.