

### Democracy Reaches

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as the state efficiency commission and gave it sweeping powers as a trade commission somewhat under the plan of the federal trade commission, with powers to license wholesale and retail trade, punish monopoly, trade conspiracies and general unfair practices.

#### Political Profiteering.

The history of this legislation in the session of the Montana legislature just closed has been remarkably interesting. It has been remarkable for the solicitude for popular opinion and popular rights shown by men known to be "company men."

For instance, the author of the legislative report on "profiteering," the chairman of the committee which presented it, was Edwin S. Booth, a lawyer of Fallon county. Booth was formerly a company lawyer at Butte. He was transplanted to Fallon county, it was said, for no other purpose than to give the company a representative from that part of the state.

Senator Doulin, of Missoula, representative of the lumber interests of the Anaconda, was the author of the trio of bills which resulted in the bills giving control over mills and trade in the state to the railroad commission and the efficiency commission. A fight developed in the legislature between the company faction headed by Dr. O. M. Lanstrum of Helena and the faction headed by Senator Edwards of Rosebud. Edwards got support which jeopardized the regulator bills and resulted in a compromise giving control of the mills to the railroad commission and the other trade functions to the efficiency commission.

#### Political Mummery.

Lanstrum's faction, Republicans, designed a state board of control which was to take over supervisory powers over state property and employes and virtually would have stripped Governor Stewart, Democrat, of most of the powers to his office by the constitution. This was a mere hypplay, as it were between friends both controlled by the company. The result was a division of functions and the naming of an "efficiency commission" which is to report on the efficiency of the operation of state departments and offices to the governor and the legislature and also takes on the much more important trade supervision duties.

Of course, it must be admitted that the company is not taking many chances. For instance, the members of the "efficiency commission" were named in the bill. They are Frank Ebel, a merchant and good Republican stalwart, of Dillon; W. O. Fisk, a merchant of Hamilton and N. T. Lease, former mayor of Great Falls. The company is known to regard all these as safe men.

#### Company Protects Itself.

But they say the company really means to do something more than the mere camouflage which all this might indicate. One consistent fighter of company corruption in Montana put it this way:

"The company is merely protecting itself in its own way. It realizes that the old tactics will not meet the emergency. Resentment against extortion and political rottenness is growing in the state. Some show of protecting the interests of the people must

be made. Above all, they fear the growing strength of the Nonpartisan league and labor in the state. They figure that if they can go a little way to correct some of the grievances from which farmers are suffering and perhaps reduce the cost of necessities of life they may put some of the revolt spirit to sleep and may even be able to reduce wages in the mines. I should not be at all surprised if they forced their railroad commission and efficiency commission to take some real steps toward reducing prices and giving the farmers a better deal. They know something has got to be done."

But don't make any mistake about the way this legislation is viewed by the real people of Montana. R. C. Arnold, veteran farmer of Valley county, elected by the League, was shrewd enough during all the legislative session not to be caught by any of the snares of the company crowd set for him. After ten days of the session they gave up their attempts to win him over and tried to make the best of the fact that on every roll call the company bills met a roaring "No" from the first man on the roll in the house.

#### Arnold Dopes It Out.

"I have no confidence in anything that comes from the company," said Arnold. "I voted against this trade regulation bill, because when business is to be regulated I want it regulated by some authority in which I have confidence and I don't care to be put on record in favor of any legislation coming from the offices of the Anaconda."

So the company will have to give sole credit for the accomplishments of the legislature. The session was just as fully bossed by the company, was just as fully a copper-collar legislature, as it has been in the past, though there was a nucleus of good Leaguers who were a thorn in the side of the bosses.

But, having been given credit for the efficiency commission trade regulation bill, the company must also have credit for its bill to repeal the direct primary so far as it applies to legislative, state and congressional offices. The company is willing to let the primary stay so far as it applies to county and municipal offices.

The reason is very plain. The company could work through the primary system so long as it was not made effective by any real organization of the people to give purpose and accomplishment to the wishes of the people. But, with the rise of the League and its menacing showing in the last election it must get the choice of state and national officers into the hands of bodies of men small enough to be effectively controlled.

The "reformed" company has no thought of letting the people of the state control their government. Not by a jugful! If there is to be any "reform" in the state the company itself is going to pass the laws—and administer them.

#### Must Crush League.

This doubly-damned League has to be crushed. So the company's propaganda department, under the general direction of Will Campbell of the Helena Independent, is busy assailing the "leaders of the League" as "Socialists," "anarchists" and—of course, you know it—"Bolsheviks!" They're up to date in Montana.

Campbell operates under the nom de plume of "the Montana Loyalty League."

"Loyalty to whom?" asks one farmer; and answers it himself. "To the copper company, of course."

One of the amusing features of the session has been the Independent's solicitude for the interests of the dear people in its "progressive" measures. It published Booth's "profiteer" report with laudatory comment.

If anyone is interested in tracing the harmony of feeling between various controlled legislatures in the west, and surmising as to where their principal measures originate he can profitably consider the fact that a general campaign to repeal direct primary measures has been under way in half a dozen legislatures this year. In Idaho they have done it, completely and without recourse, for Idaho has no referendum law. In Montana the amended primary law is to be voted on by the people.

### A WELL POSTED MAN

Not so many years ago the old coddler, and fabled moss-back loitered around the village shop spouting his Rip-Van Winkle philosophy, who sat on the sugar barrel squirting tobacco juice all over the sawdust cuspidor, more often baptizing the stove with his ill-smelling fluid.

He of those days was alluded to as a man "well posted." Did he not in his day do well on a dollar a day, bringing up a family of ten children, (here he kept clear of detailed results.) Everything was done by hand in those good old days, and all these new fangled theories, and improvements he taboored, said they were not within the bounds of probability or reason. Impractical and the child of wild-dreamers brain. They could never pull fifty cars in one train, could never stop the train anyway with air (air was useful in some ways) but a nightmare as a car brake. Could not make the automatic coupler a success, the new grain

### THIRD ANNUAL PICNIC TO BE HELD AT KOLIN, MONTANA SATURDAY, MARCH 22ND, 1919. UNDER THE AUSPICES OF AMERICAN SOCIETY OF EQUITY. PROGRAM STARTS AT 10:00 A. M.

Address of Welcome by President of the Kolin Local, A. S. of E. 11:00—Address on the Nonpartisan League by Frank N. Korab of the Nonpartisan League.

12:00—Dinner will be served by the wives of the members of the Equity free.

#### Afternoon.

1:00—Music by the Kolin orchestra.  
1:15—Singing by all.  
1:30—Address by State President of the A. S. of Equity, Mr. W. M. Burlingame.  
2:30—Round Table Discussion, by all.  
Big dance in the evening.  
Everybody invited to attend.

binder was an utter impossibility, and what he did not know about the crime of 1873 about our financial relation, and mis-relation was not worth knowing.

And our well-posted man of today is the son of the late lamented old village philosopher. He who acquired his great wealth of knowledge from the famous four-paged book, entitled, "The Great Conspiracy," by the Immortal, W. A. Campbell, ex-cutive of the "Loyalty League of Helena." As a clumsy exhibition of beating around the bush it wins the cake. It sure cost the author many hours of midnight brain ravings to assemble so much ticklish logic within four little pages.

I wish you all would cultivate the acquaintance of the well posted man. He has oceans of time to explain just how this happened, just how this is all coming out. Does he not read every Head-Screamer in the daily press. Old Squire "Ricketts" told him so, and who are they who would for a moment doubt the wisdom of the moss-covered old Squire. Well-posted is the correct term, when the hole was dug in the days of his childhood he was the wooden post stuck in and while his body grew his brain stood still.

J. E. NESBIT.

## LOYALTY LEAGUE STILL UNDER FIRE VIEWS FROM ALL ANGLES and HUMORS

### Campbell Catching it Hot.

#### A Humorist

Fort Benton, Montana, March 12, 1919.

Mr. Will A. Campbell, Care Anaconda Copper, Helena, Montana.

Dear Sir: In reading the Nonpartisan I see some of the believers of Democracy, are getting stirred up over your Plutocracy. Well you cannot blame them neither do I, but I am going to sympathize with you for I am sure you do not mean what you say, as you are writing this bunk for a living; which most of them have not considered. You are doing good work, keep it up.

I did not understand what all the stir was about until I found a bundle of your "Great Conspiracies", in one of the back alleys a couple of days ago. I ran over them with my Ford almost upset the car. I wish it had, I would have sued The Anaconda Copper Co. for damages. Well, brought one home to read. After reading it I came to the following conclusions and more that I cannot take the time or space to write.

The producing and consuming democrats and republicans stood by your party guns as long as you fed us up on the idea that we stood for something different, and we fought amongst ourselves for your amusement until you thought our eyes were swollen shut and we could not see, you started in as you thought to rob the blind, but they were NOT ALL blind.

It is very evident from your "Great Conspiracy" that you have never read a N. P. issue. If you are afraid to let your boss catch you reading one, take one home and read it. In order to write intelligently on any sub-

not understand that any sane man would think any one posted, however slightly, on the history of current events would fall for such obviously garbled bunk.

You are right. I do not think it necessary to overthrow the present form of government in order to give all a square deal, neither does the Nonpartisan Government of North Dakota as the acts of that state legislature show. But the farmers in order to get THEIRS.

Your advice to "Think this over" is good. I have been thinking it over for many years, also I am somewhat familiar with old gang political methods, having voted three or four times in a Democratic township contest and I know they are thoroughly rotten.

Will you tell me if it is not necessary for farmers to organize to get what they want, why the Torrens land title system, embodied in a bill introduced in the legislature this last session, was stumped down, as the Butte Miner says it was?

Gets After Pamphlet. Now as to the article enclosed. You get the Nonpartisan program correct until you come to No. 3 and after that the connection ceases.

You paint in lurid colors what you call the leaders' plot to lead the farmers into red revolution, but you ought to know that if revolution occurs, it will come as the result of just such tactics as yours, which have been the spark igniting all outbursts, since history was. If you were in earnest in anything save protecting the interests of the exploiter, you would get busy with corrective legislation, instead of only talking about it, for progressive construction lives, but suppressive legislation is only momentary and reactionary. Take warning from the fate of Czar Nick and his bosom friend William, and remember that to poke a fire only causes it to flame more fiercely and that to sit on the safety-valve of a steam engine under full head of steam, is not only dangerous, but criminally foolish.

I thank you very much for your article and I am comparing it with a booklet called the "Soviets at Work," represented to be the program address of Nicolai Lenine before the Soviets in October, 1918, and if the booklet I have is true, it proves that Lenine is neither a murderer, a traitor or a fool, but a fairly well educated man, with a well thought out program which is about 50 years ahead of the intellectual grasp of the average person, and if he is successful in holding the confidence of the people and whipping them into line so as to be able to make his program a success, then—good-bye to the capitalistic form of society.

Respectfully,  
W. C. COPELAND.

#### Up Against It

Montana Loyalty League, Helena. Will A. Campbell, Secretary.

Dear Sir: I am answering your letter of Feb. 12th, 1919. You say that it is not necessary to overthrow the present government in order to get a square deal for the farmers. Let me tell you right here that you are fully aware of what the farmers are after only the fact is you want them to believe otherwise as it has been done time and time before.

You are up against it this time Old Top, you know that the farmers are beginning to clean house and are going to take away the power from the vultures who are living out of the

sweat and blood of the toilers and who will stop at nothing to gain dollars and cents, even if these dollars and cents are stained with the blood of the innocent. The revolution you talk of is going on right now in this country, a silent revolution where they use bullets, and not bloody bullets and is not the kind you are trying to make it appear.

Farmers Opposed to Blood. You say you are opposed to it, so are all the farmers but Big Biz whom you are trying to protect is actually bringing this condition about and you and your kind are helping them.

You say that corrective legislation is coming as the farmers are taking an interest in politics. Who made it necessary for farmers to take such an interest? Why you and your kind, the supposed friends of the farmer who have controlled the legislature for so many years. Why didn't you give the farmers the square deal you talk about and admit they need so badly while you had the power instead of telling them they had no business in politics?

#### His Own Medicine

Now don't stand there and shiver like a cow after a drink of cold water, it is your own medicine; now take it, we have given you fellows long enough rope don't complain if you have hung yourselves.

The copper crowd are feeling their grip slipping so they shiver and squeal and in order to make their squealing heard they hire some wolf in sheep's clothing to do it for them and it seems they have picked the officials of the Loyalty League for this job.

I am indeed interested in the fact that in the whole country there are only 608 loyal men fighting the Nonpartisan League according to your pamphlet, and it is too bad that the number should be so small. Would you mind giving me the names of the 600 who are so loyal that they must oppose progress. I don't think you dare, for amongst them we should find the names of Rockefeller, Morgan, Armour, etc., and these people like to remain in the dark.

Who Finances League? You say the Nonpartisan league is organized by paid organizers. Or course it is. But by the way, are you fighting the Nonpartisans for your health? If so and you are really anxious to recover from some sickness I suggest that you go to the hot springs, that is a much better place for sick people than an editorial office.

Your letter head is sure fine, it reads: "Patriotically opposed to Socialism, Bolshevism and the revolution in America as advocated by the radical and disturbing elements, seeking to create class prejudice and fan the flames of discontent. Permit me to interpret your words so that plain men may understand them."

Here is what you really mean: Positively opposed to Unionism, co-operation and actually creating a revolution in America as advocated by the Old Gang and the prostitute press. Actually creating class prejudice and fanning the flames of discontent.

LEO L. BOGUT,  
Riverside, Mont.

### Re-enroll Now



THEY GET YOU COMING AND GOING