

THE PRODUCERS NEWS
A PAPER OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE
Continuing the OUTLOOK PROMOTOR

PEOPLES PUBLISHING COMPANY, PUBLISHER
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CHARLES E. TAYLOR, Editor and Manager.

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Quick, fraudulent and irresponsible firms are not knowingly advertised, and we will take it as a favor if any reader will advise us promptly should they have occasion to doubt or question the reliability of any firm which patronizes our advertising columns.

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 1918.

Stuck Pig Squeals!

The "Pie-near" Press, the subsidized publicity organ of the court house gang, in a headed first-page article last week, tried in a sickly and puerile way, the only way it is capable of, to justify both itself and the county commissioners and others responsible, for the looting of the treasury of the people of Sheridan county in the recent letting of the contract for the county printing, by squealing like a stuck pig.

It got all red in the face and het up, and fairly screamed: liar, liar, liar!

We have, in our experience met up with just such instances before, when people have been caught in questionable acts or with the goods upon them.

When they have nothing else to offer in defense of disreputable or near criminal acts, they usually wrap themselves in the flag, talk patriotism, and yell: liar, liar, liar!

If the little boyling editor of the "Pie-near" Press can show to the satisfaction of any honest, disinterested person, where the Producers News has lied in one instance in reference to the letting of the county printing, this paper will apologize in a scare-head article.

The "Pie-near" Press started its ridiculous article by calling the Producers News a "pay sheet", as it said the News is commonly known. The Producers News has been unable to find out from any of those considered wise and quick at puzzles and conundrums, just what is meant by this clever remark. All said that the expression sounded very "phunny", but they could not tell for the life of 'em what it meant.

However, if the "Pie-near" Press man meant that the Producers News is a paper that can grow and thrive and wax strong, without a subsidy or a pipe-line into the peoples' strong boxes, then we confess, that perhaps "pay sheet" is a very clever and appropriate name for the Producers News.

We wager that the "Pie-near" Press is not in half so happy a condition, and will add right here, that if that subsidized organ, by any hook or crook, should slip up on its county printing "pap" that we would not give over thirty cents on the dollar for the five thousand dollars' worth of paper held by the banks of this city; we would surely consider it "shaky" to say it easy.

The "Pie-near" Press says that the Producers News tried to defame the county commissioners. Now that's a mean jab. This paper cannot keep up with the commissioners and their allies at the court house on that job. No, no, sonny, they need no one to defame them. They are doing that to themselves faster and more completely than it would be in the poor capability of the Producers News to do so.

Just think of it.

At this particular time, when the nation is face to face with a national crisis—when the boys of the land are giving their life blood for liberty and democracy—when the people are digging down deep in their pockets and denying themselves, to buy Liberty bonds—when the citizens of our land are giving to the Red Cross till it hurts—when the farmers are, almost single handed, planting the biggest crop in the history of the nation, working night and day, while their sons are facing the firing line of the Huns, in order that the people of the world may have more food, and the war sustained, what are the custodians of the peoples' money doing in Sheridan county?

Wasting it like water.

Giving it to their political favorites.

And at the same time, our loyal and sacrificing farmers have no money for roads, necessary roads, over which the wheat to feed our soldiers must be drawn.

This surely is infamy, and the Producers News need not defame the fair name of any one.

Shame on such deeds at this time, which are scandalous and disgraceful at any time.

Yes, shame on such a deed.

Any one that in any way hinders the farmers and producers, in this

hour of our country's need, is aiding and abetting the enemy.

So much for this defamation assertion.

As far as the fair-minded citizens of Sheridan county are concerned, we are willing to leave the whole matter to them and trust our own vindication at their hands, which is more than the "Pie-near" Press would be willing to do. No, the "Pie-near" shines in the "Star Chamber". Nothing open and fair and above board for that organ.

The "Pie-near" man never saw printing machinery until he saw what he has been enabled to buy through the benevolence of the county commissioners and the little boy thinks that he has the only outfit that money can buy.

The taxpayers are not in the least worried about the "Pie-near" Press printing outfit. They know that any paper, with a nice fat, juicy printing contract, can buy printing machinery.

What they are concerned about is the paying of two prices for the county printing. The county would not have had to accept poor or inferior printing, and the successful bidder would have had to give bonds; the Producers News would have been "Johnnie on the spot" with the bonds. That would be all that need concern the county commissioners. And besides, if the "Pie-near" has such marvelous and unheard of laboring saving machinery, that it makes it possible for that paper to do work so expeditiously and cheaply, why should it fear to meet the printers of Sheridan county "in a fair field and no favors?"

Why should such disgraceful business methods have been resorted to? Oh, Joe, go tell it to the "simps!"

Now in regard to the law on the subject, we quote the "Pie-near" and the law:

"An Act to Provide for the Letting of Contracts for the Public Printing." Chapter 71, Laws of Montana, Fifteenth Session, 1917.

"Contract to Be Let to What Newspaper—The Contract shall be let to the newspaper that in the judgment of the county commissioners shall be most suitable for performing such work."

The same chapter prescribes the exact price which may be charged for all printing for which the county shall be chargeable.

The present contract is substantially the same as that awarded to Jos. J. Dolin two years ago, when competitive bids were asked for (which was in compliance with the former law) and two years ago the contract was awarded to the lowest and best bid."

Now, in the above quotation, there is a deception. We won't use the word "lie". We shall however state the fact. The famous chapter 71 of the session laws of 1917 does not change the law in reference to letting of the printing by bid or in any other matter in as much as a punctuation mark. The law to a certain point is identical to the point where it goes on to itemize more fully the maximum prices allowed for printing.

There was no more necessity for letting the printing contract out to bids two years ago than this spring. The law is identical.

However, the constitution of the state of Montana limits the power of the legislature in the matter of printing contracts by the following:

Article V.—Section 30:

"All stationery, printing, paper etc., used in the legislative and other departments of government, shall be furnished, and the printing, and binding and distributions, etc., shall be performed under contract, to be given to the lowest responsible bidder, below such maximum price and under such regulations as may be prescribed by law."

Any lawyer knows that the county is a part of the state government; any lawyer knows that the legislature cannot delegate the right to do a thing, which they are themselves denied the right to do by the constitution.

And the courts will settle this question, "Pie-near" Press, you can tell your story to the judge.

Wall Street Will Farm

Wall street is going into wheat farming in the West on a scale that will surely revolutionize agriculture in America in a short time if its latest ventures succeed.

The dire need of wheat in this critical period has led the government to throw open 16,000,000 acres on Indian reservations, much of which is the richest kind of wheat land. Wall street capitalists have subscribed several million dollars to plant an enormous acreage this fall. They are planning to purchase all the latest in farm machinery and organize a strictly modern industry that will look like a combination in restraint of trade. It will be nothing but a big corporation wheat factory.

Bonanza farming was thought to have failed once in America. But that was some time ago and these big corporation farms managed by hired men and operated by armies of wage laborers equipped with modern machines are now succeeding. That the latest big Wall street venture will succeed is almost a foregone conclusion.

What will its success mean to the small farmer? There is only one thing that it can mean—unless the farmer takes the proper steps to protect his interests—corporation farming with machinery and modern business methods will largely supplant individual farming.

One of the big facts that is likely to cause such a change is that

the vast productive superiority of big scale, machinery farming over small scale farming has been definitely established. The little farm can not compete with the corporation farm when the corporation farm actually establishes itself and begins to do business. Another big fact is that so much capital seeking investment has accumulated that it has overflowed into all new fields in an overwhelming flood. This of our staggering war profits. Think of 15,000 new millionaires. Think of the billions that are being piled up by our great monopolies. Do you think this ever-swelling accumulation of capital can be kept forever out of agriculture? Already we have corporation fruit farms and corporation wheat farms in the west and many sugar factories are raising their own beets. But we know of nothing that will give corporation farming such an impetus as this latest agricultural venture of the highest financial circles of Wall street.

We live under an industrial system that is in a tremendous stage of change. The foundations of the old order are being broken up. Only by cooperating with his neighbor, organizing himself politically for his own protection, and using the powers of state and national government, can the individual farmer remain an individual farmer and keep from losing his farm and sinking to the condition of a wage-earner working for a corporation.

They Didn't Buy Bonds

Montana insurance agents have organized to fight the Nonpartisan League and their dues, instead of being a modest \$8 a year, are put at \$36. Each insurance agent in the state is assessed \$33 a month for a year in order to help finance a fight against the League.

These Montana insurance agents are real progressive in their methods. They do not send out organizers to reason with their fellow insurance agents and by this means wring the \$36 from the unwilling insurance agents whose children may need shoes. No such crude methods are employed. The insurance men are simply told that they are members and that their dues are \$36 a year and that all they have to do is to pony up.

Think of it! No referendums as to how the money is to be spent and no word in the management by the member. It is enough to make big business weep. Surely the farmers will send out literature to these misguided agents showing them how they are being used.

And there is another point worth noting. Of course, having dues money on hand, the executive committee will doubtless invest it all in Liberty bonds so the members need have no worry as to how it is being spent.

This is worth pondering, but the main thing is that the Montana insurance agents see the handwriting on the wall. And they do not like what they read.

The Farmers Will Stick

The farmers will stick. This has just been proved in a striking manner. The Nonpartisan League of South Dakota asked its farmer members not to go into the recent primaries. It is the plan of the League in South Dakota to put its candidates on the ticket by petition.

Results indicate the most complete boycott of a politician's election ever recorded in this country.

The South Dakota Leader says: "According to all available data only one-third of the normal vote was cast this year. This is a conservative estimate, the estimate, in fact, of the politicians."

This paper tells of some remarkable instances of the solidarity of

the farmers. In one township in Day county only 18 out of 98 farmers voted. In another township in the same county one ballot box was returned empty. In a township in Beadle county seven out of 44 votes were cast, and in a township in Roberts county only six votes were cast. This is the story of the farming districts all over the state.

What could show more eloquently the utter disgust of the farmers with the politicians and the old political methods? We are in the midst of one of the most remarkable political uprisings in the history of the country. If there is not a landslide to the Nonpartisan League candidates next fall, all signs have failed.

North Dakota Again Leads

North Dakota has established so many records since the farmers were awakened by the Nonpartisan League that mention of even a new one sounds almost trite. We can not refrain, however, from alluding to the latest patriotic achievement of the only League state.

It surpassed all other states in the Union in the last Red Cross drive.

Latest reports record an oversubscription by North Dakota in the last Red Cross drive of 160 per cent. It is conservatively estimated that when completed the oversubscription will reach 185 per cent. This, according to authentic estimates, places

it ahead of all other states.

North Dakota led in the second and third Liberty loan subscriptions. It was first in the last Red Cross drive. It was the first state to put the slacker acres of absentee land speculators to work to produce food to win the war. It is the only state controlled by the Nonpartisan League. It is a state where the League voters are in an overwhelming majority. Of course it is easier to believe that these facts are all "mere coincidences" than to suspect the profiteering interests were wrong when they charged the League with disloyalty.

How fortunate it would be to have the Sheridan county commissioners handling the Red Cross funds some time when "Little Joe" needed a contract to keep the "Pie-near Press."

The funds of Sheridan county are as much a patriotic fund as any moneys could be and we could only judge what might happen by, oh, well, perhaps they need the money and they are all good fellows and "patriots" anyhow. Only the farmers, who pay sixteen dollars to find out about these gentlemen are unpatriotic. Keep your sixteen, Mr. Rube, and the county "patriots" and the "Pie-near gang" will see that you find out nothing.

The Standard Oil Co. has taken over the retail oil business in Kansas. The Standard Oil Co. does not believe in middlemen. It finds them too expensive. All of the profits

"The newspaper best suited" etc., is well demonstrated by the fact that the "Pie-near Press" entirely overlooked the fact that a Sheridan county Veteran made a speech at the Orpheum theater on June 9th. Of course this was perhaps occasioned by the fact that this Veteran was a farmer boy from near Froid and not one of the "court house gang." It does not seem to be news to the "Pie-near" when a farmer boy returns and tells of actual fighting.

The way to help the boys at the front is to curb the profiteers and the dishonest contractors at the rear.

We could live without the profiteer but not without the producer.

from the well to the auto thus flow to Mr. Rockefeller. Food producers and consumers who want the state instead of the food trusts to act are only following an illustrious example.

OPEN FORUM

Our friends and foes alike, are cordially invited to avail themselves of the use of this, the "peoples" editorial column. Write plainly, on one side of the paper. Nothing obscene or scurrilous will be published. Always accompany your communication with your name and address. Otherwise your article may not be published. If you do not want your name disclosed, say so, but we must know who you are. This paper assumes no responsibility for any article appearing in these columns.

MAYOR GETS "PHUNNY."

Scobey, Mont., 6-18-18.

Editor, Producers News, Plentywood, Mont.

I wish to inform you of a matter of importance to the people of Sheridan county, and which took place on the streets of Scobey today.

A few days ago the Equity organization of Peerless, a little inland town in Valley county, about 20 miles west of Scobey, held a meeting and at which it was decided to hold a picnic at that place, June 30. It was also decided to hold the picnic in conjunction with the Nonpartisan League. Those in charge had previously corresponded with the Speakers' bureau of the Nonpartisan League and had been informed that U. S. Dist. Atty. B. K. Wheeler and Cong. Jeanette Rankin would attend to deliver patriotic addresses for the occasion. Today a couple of farmers came to Scobey and got out bills announcing the picnic. The bills, as printed, announced that the picnic would be held under the auspices of the Equity organization and the Nonpartisan League, and also that the entire proceeds would be donated to the Red Cross. The Women's Red Cross organization of Peerless intends to take up the collection and all of the same will go to the Valley County Red Cross chapter.

When these farmers began to place a few of these bills about the streets of Scobey they were stopped. Mayor Sid Bennett of Scobey stopped them and asked them to let him see the bills. When he had read one that they handed him, he rolled it, tore it up and threw it into the street, and in very emphatic language told these farmers that they could not advertise any Nonpartisan picnic in Scobey and gave them what he considered a severe tongue-lashing for their activity in advertising the picnic. He branded the League as a disloyal organization and said that there would be absolutely no permission given for any such publicity in Scobey or elsewhere where he could stop it.

The significant thing about this matter is that this picnic was being gotten up by good loyal farmers of Valley county, all of whom are most loyally supporting the war and doing their utmost to support the Red Cross work of this very town of Scobey, and the further fact that the entire proceeds will be turned over to the Red Cross organization. Trusting that you will give this matter publicity,

Very truly yours,
A Scobey Farmer.

A FINE PICNIC.

June 7, 1918.

Producers News, Plentywood, Montana.

Dear Editor:—

We had a fine picnic at Peerless

last Saturday, June 1. It was grand success. About 500 people attended. We had planned to have A. Mills, one of our capable organizers and speakers, to address the meeting, but learned last Monday that Mr. Mills was sick. However we were able to get Mr. P. E. B. postmaster at Scobey to deliver an address, and he gave us a very excellent talk. Mr. Worley represented the Producers News and gave a very interesting talk on the important needs of a press conducting the interests of the farmers. He explained the League program carefully. There were some speakers at the picnic, but nothing was started. In fact, it would have been very unsafe for them to do so.

Such gatherings as these, are a splendid thing. It brings the farmers together, not only the members but also the non-members, with result that they have a chance to compare their ideas and get a better understanding of the Farmers' League and what may be done when they are thoroughly organized.

The result of a complete organization of the farmers will mean they will use the political means in their own interest, instead of using it used against them as in case today. This is the reason Big Business is so violently opposed to the organization of the farmer. Let every farmer understand and let him help to get every one who is not yet a member in League movement.

Do not be misled by the statements and reports that are in the kept press from day to day. They are simply intended to mislead the farmers.

Yours for complete organization of the farmers.

A BOON

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMERS'

Come on Progressive Farmers

Come, while the weather's fine

We're going to have a picnic

The fun begins at nine

The date's June 22nd,

The place is Welliver,

So bring your wife and family

Your neighbors will be glad

There'll be a lot of speakers

And lots of things to eat

A ball game and foot racing

To see which side can be

There'll be a bucking bronco

The wildest we can find

On which will ride a cowboy

Content in heart and soul

And dancing, in the evening

To music that's a treat

Will help to make the picnic

A day that's hard to beat

So tell your friends and family

To come to Welliver,

On June the 22nd,

We're planning for you

What Other Editors Say

FACING THE FACTS.

North Dakota never faced a more important campaign. Its voters are confronted with a choice between state socialism and the old order of things. If the farmers decree that the theories of Townley be tried out, the state forthwith will become a laboratory for applied socialism. There is no escape. The League is not concealing its issues. The principles for which they fight are directly stated in house bill 44, which becomes the burning issue of the present campaign. If the League triumphs, it means that as fast as law can be formulated, North Dakota enters into state ownership in several conceivable forms.

No amount of ranting. No amount of personal invective will avail. Personalities have too large a place in all campaigns. Opponents of the League will do well to avoid over-indulgence in the biennial tirade that so often confuses the real issues and in the end gets nowhere.

The League candidates honestly believe that state ownership is necessary. To what extent it will be applied they wisely refrain from saying; doubtless they do not know until the first venture is launched. Thousands of farmers desire to see inaugurated a system of state distribution of farm products through publicly owned agencies of distribution.

The war has not banished this demand. It has quickened it. It is

just as well to face the exigencies of war have been to Federal control of every important commodity and every avenue of distribution.

Here lies a potent argument for the Leaguers. That they when the time comes are saying.—The Bismarck Tribune.

HANG TOGETHER

Most of the newspapers' position to the Nonpartisan League do not touch on its program. Most of their efforts are expended personal character active in the League, nouncing the League any without producing any that serious charge against membership of this organization few papers that do mention program dismiss it as impertinent and unworkable community. To the nothing to do but draw is actively connected with political organizations, looks not only impractical, generous as well. And him. The only gleam of politicians is "that the never known to hang they can always be before election." It's members to feel them this ley County (Mont.) News

The Producers News