

# THE PRODUCERS NEWS

A PAPER OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE  
Continuing the OUTLOOK PROMOTER Vol. V. Number 49

VOLUME I.

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## EQUITY OPENS CHICAGO MARKET

### Opening of a National Live Stock Market in Chicago By Equity Means Much to the Farmers.

One of the biggest forward steps ever recorded in the livestock history of the United States will be taken August 1st when the Equity Co-operative Exchange will establish a selling agency at the Chicago stockyards.

Not only will the opening of this agency mean the granting of a great opportunity for farmers of the north and middle west to market their cattle co-operatively but it will also mean another pledge of the farmers of the north and middle west to market their cattle co-operatively but it also will mean another pledge of the farmers of the United States to aid their country in winning the war.

The founding of the livestock department of the Equity Exchange at Chicago will mean that thousands of farmers, heretofore at least partially discouraged in raising cattle because so much of their profits have gone into speculator's pockets at the terminal markets, will be inspired with new faith and increase their livestock business.

Such an increase will be exactly in line with the plans being made constantly by President Wilson and his co-workers for more production of foodstuffs for the boys fighting "over there" to make the world safe for democracy.

In addition to increasing the nation's food supply by giving the farmers the largest possible percentage of what the consumer pays, the co-operative selling agency also will aid war work in another manner,—by releasing men now working as speculators at the terminal markets to enter the ranks of their nation's army.

The opening of the Chicago office of the Equity Exchange follows not only the marvelous success and growth of the Equity Exchange program, but also that of the livestock selling department at the South St. Paul stockyards.

This department was opened October 1, 1916. At that time the South St. Paul stockyards were being operated under the usual system whereby the speculator and the commission men were getting most of the profits.

With the establishment of the Equity department it went on record as being only one of its kind in the world—a terminal live stock market and the starting of a similar department at Chicago will mark the founding of the second department of its kind to forward the co-operative movement.

Conditions at the South St. Paul market were typical of those at other markets where the farmers had to be "fleeced" by speculators and commission men.

L. Bardick, one of the biggest men of North Dakota tells in a letter sent out recently of conditions he found them at South St. Paul, "I found how he lost \$2,000 on one lot of cattle. Mr. Bardick's experience is as follows:

F. B. Wood, Manager, Livestock Department, Equity Co-operative Exchange, South St. Paul, Minn.

Sir:

Referring to the report that I shipped you 130 head of steers last September and that I lost approximately \$2,000.00 on them, I wish to state that this is not true as to the part of the proposition.

I have never shipped you any cattle any time. The second part of the proposition is true, and the facts are as follows:

On or about the first day of September, 1917, I shipped to South St. Paul 130 head of steers, all branded with a U bar on the right shoulder being a brand I use in Sheridan county, North Dakota.

While making up my mind where to ship these cattle I at once decided to ship them to an old friend of mine at South St. Paul. These steers

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## WAR PROFITS SHOWN BY FEDERAL REPORT

### Packers, Millers, Steel Companies and Others Scored for Greed and Dishonesty.

All doubt as to the existence of vicious and wide-spread profiteering by special interests in the United States has been swept aside by the Federal Trade Commission's report to congress on June 28. This commission reports as follows:

That profiteering by American business exists, in some instances to an alarming degree.

That leather profits increased as high as five times over pre-war years.

That 23 typical bituminous coal mines in Central Pennsylvania averaged a margin of 90 cents a ton in 1917 against 20 cents a ton in 1916.

### STEEL PROFITS EXCESSIVE

That in 1917 the steel companies made abnormal profits in the period to the government price fixing, and that a number have continued to make unusually heavy profits since that policy was inaugurated. Their profits in some instances have ranged from 100 to 319 per cent.

That the average profits in the copper industry have been more than doubled over those of normal years.

That milk and salmon canners and other food product companies have made exorbitant profits in the war years. Salmon canners' profits, for instance, were approximately 52.8 per cent on net investment in 1917. The Helvetia Milk Condensing Company made 65 per cent on its investment.

### PACKERS PREY ON PEOPLE

"The outstanding fact in the industrial surveys which the commission has recently made," declares the commission, "is the heavy profit made by the meat packers and by those allied with them, and by the flour millers."

"Their (the packers) manipulations of the market embrace every device that is useful to them without regard to law.

"However delicate a definition is framed for 'profiteering,' these packers have preyed upon the people unconscionably."

"In the three war years from 1915 to 1917 their total profits (Armour, Swift, Morris and Cudahy) have reached the astounding figure of \$140,000,000, of which \$121,000,000 represents excess over their pre-war profits.

### BIG PROFITS IN FLOUR

Flour millers made unequal profits, with average earnings up to June 30, 1917, of nearly 38 per cent. In face of the regulation of 25 cents per barrel maximum, the average profit per barrel on this flour (a 4,000,000 barrel output investigated) was about 45 cents a barrel, or over three times the normal profit. The profits of jobbers in 1917 were over twice the normal.

These conclusions carefully arrived at by the Federal Trade Commission are sufficiently serious condemnation of the attitude of our monopoly interests toward the nation in time of war, but the real facts are stronger. The commission had to rely on reports sent to it by the corporations. The means and the temptation for concealment in these reports are almost without limit, and what doctoring of figures the commission has discovered, as in the case of the millers, must be only a small part of what has been going on. Inventories have been juggled, depreciation increased beyond reason, and officers' salaries padded. One concern, for instance, the American Metal Company, Ltd., of New York, was found to have charged to expenses nearly \$2,000,000 of salaries and commissions.

### NEW WAVE OF TRUST PROPAGANDA

Just as the earlier investigations

AT HIS OLD JOB.



## SAM NICKEY IS ACQUITTED BY JURY OF HIS PEERS IN ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES

It took the jury just a few minutes to find Sam Nickey not guilty of the charge of sedition as preferred against him by the Sheridan County Council of Defense and maliciously exploited by the copper collared publicity organs of Sheridan county, most prominent among which are the Pioneer Press, the Antelope Independent and the Scobey Citizen, who have left no stone unturned to so prejudice the people of this county against the defendant that he might be railroaded to the penitentiary to gratify the venomous personal spite of vicious political scum of this county.

The trial was called Wednesday morning at 9:30. Two hours were spent in selecting a jury. The preliminary pleas in bar were made, and the state by County Attorney Onstad and his able assistant, Truax W. Greer opened the case for the state by calling O. P. Hanson, a Medicine Lake barber, who was followed by Ed. Green, a Canadian citizen.

The defense called Samuel Nickey who testified in his own behalf and the following character witnesses were called, who testified relative to the reputation of Mr. Nickey for truth, honesty and integrity and for loyalty and patriotism: Edward Stubban, Frank A. Young, Carl Nelson, Lieut. G. R. Bach, of the U. S. Army Reserve, and C. W. Lynd, Emil Um-

breit and Andrew Monroe, all old and respected citizens of Medicine Lake. The state endeavored to attack Mr. Nickey's good reputation by G. E. Fulkeston, J. C. Lewis and P. Bessiere, banker and lumberman of Medicine Lake.

Attorney L. J. Onstad made an eloquent address on behalf of the state. He was followed by D. E. McLaughlin, who made a telling plea to the jury in behalf of the defendant, riddling the state's case so badly that it looked like a sieve. Attorney McLaughlin was followed by Attorney Arthur LeSeuer, a noted attorney of St. Paul, who spoke also for the defense, making a splendid patriotic address, in which he made a very learned and eloquent discourse on sedition and seditious laws and their meaning and application. Attorney Truax W. Greer made a splendid and analytic speech to the jury in a supreme effort to save the state which his actions indicated had been lost since the first few sentences uttered by Attorney LeSeuer, but to no avail.

The general sentiment is that the verdict was a righteous one, and in accord with the law and evidence and in full harmony with the great principles of liberty and democracy, for which the farmer boys of Sheridan county are fighting in France and for which patriotic citizens at home always contend.

### MISS RANKIN TO RUN FOR SENATE

Washington, D. C.—Miss Jeanette Rankin, representative from Montana announced that she will be a candidate for the republican nomination to succeed Senator Walsh, in November. The nominating primaries will be August 27 and Miss Rankin said, at present, there is no other republican candidate.

made by the Nonpartisan League, especially in regard to mill profits, were met by a nation-wide campaign of abuse, these new proofs of profiteering also will be met by a renewed Big Business propaganda. Swift & Company are already out with an elaborate and specious defense. Other companies will follow. Millions will be spent for advertising and lying news stories. Lobbyists will be rushed to congress to lie, argue, and threaten. Give your congressman support in the fight against the profiteers by letting him know where you stand on the issue. Write or wire him at once that you expect him to be 100 per cent American in the struggle against the robbers within our gates.

### NEW LIGHT PLANT AT WOLF POINT

Mayor John Listerud has begun the erection of a new electric plant that will be modern in type and of much greater capacity than his present plant.

The new structure is being built on the railroad right of way close to a side track to economize in the handling of fuel. The building will be 46x60, with poured concrete foundation and superstructure of Anchor concrete blocks from the local factory of E. L. Shipman. Thorwaldson & Johnson have the contract. W. H. Lewis made the plans.

Two separate steam power generating units will be installed with a total of 130 horse power. A 70-foot brick smoke stack will be a feature of the plant and will form a new landmark for the vicinity.—Wolf Point Herald.

### NONPARTISANS TO PUT INDEPENDENT UP IN MINNESOTA

St. Paul, Minn.—Announcement was officially made recently that the Nonpartisan League will endorse a

## GOPHER SUPREME COURT KNOCKS OUT DISLOYALTY CHARGE

INDICTMENTS AGAINST A. C. TOWNLEY and JOSEPH GILBERT, PRESIDENT AND ORGANIZATION MANAGER OF NONPARTISAN LEAGUE, BROUGHT DURING POLITICAL CAMPAIGN, WERE NOT FOUNDED ON FACT, TRIBUNAL RULES.

### STAFF SPECIAL

St. Paul, Minn., July 5.—The State Supreme court of Minnesota today ordered the disloyalty charges against A. C. Townley, president, and Joseph Gilbert, organization manager, of the National Nonpartisan League, thrown out of court.

Indictments brought against the men during the recent Minnesota political campaign were held to be not founded on sufficient fact.

Townley and Gilbert were charged by the indictments with obstructing enlistments in the United States army, by circulation of a

### TWIN CITY PRESS PLAYS DOWN DECISION

St. Paul, Minn., July 5.—Twin City newspapers which have bitterly fought the farmers played true to form this afternoon in printing the Supreme court decision affecting A. C. Townley and Joseph Gilbert.

The St. Paul Dispatch and the Minneapolis Tribune, which have led the attacks on the farmers, could not find space on their front pages for the Townley verdict although it was of wide national interest. For instance, the Dispatch used front page space to announce that certain restrictions were going to be made in the sale of fireworks one year from now, but the big story of the day was buried inside; that big story happened to favor the farmers. The Minneapolis Journal and the St. Paul Daily News really gave the Townley decision front page space.

pamphlet, "The Aims and purposes of the Nonpartisan League," which had been in the hands of Federal authorities here for eight months before the arrests were made.

The contents of the pamphlet was a set of resolutions drawn and adopted by members of the Nonpartisan League and labor unions at an open meeting, attended by several thousand persons in September, 1917. This is the only charge ever presented in court concerning Mr. Townley's loyalty and is, therefore, complete vindication.

Federal authorities had made no move to arrest the men. The arrests were made and prosecution was attempted by County Attorney A. R. Allen, who later spent weeks stumping the state of Minnesota in opposition to the farmer candidates in Minnesota.

### LEAGUE WAR VIEWS O. K.

candidate for governor to run as an independent at the fall election. Chas. A. Lindbergh, Nonpartisan candidate for the republican nomination was defeated by Governor Burnquist in the recent primary by nearly 5,000 votes.

The Nonpartisan League announced that a "farmers state convention" will be held to discuss the state legislative campaign. The name of the proposed candidate for governor may be announced at that meeting.

The decision of the state supreme court of Minnesota today is a clear statement of the fact, that the war views of the Nonpartisan League do not obstruct army and navy enlistments. The decision is a clear vindication of the untrue charges made against the League, its leaders and its members.

The two League officials were indicted in two instances in Martin county on the ground that they were responsible for the circulation of the League's war aims.

### SCOBAY LETS CONTRACT FOR WATER WORKS

At a meeting of the city council Monday night the contract for the city water works was let to the lowest bidder, and work is expected to begin as soon as the machinery for digging purposes and pipes, etc., arrive, which will be in a very few weeks.

Geo. W. Kemper of Minot, N. D., was the successful bidder, his bid being \$109,000. He at once gave bonds to the amount of \$55,000.—Scobey Sentinel.

### SHEEP.

The sheep industry of the Northwest is increasing rapidly in the states of Minnesota, North and South Dakota and northern Wisconsin.

This fact was recognized by the U. S. government last week when they designated the Twin Cities as a receiving station for wool. The government recognizes the principle of cooperation by authorizing the Equity Cooperative Exchange of St. Paul as a receiving firm for wool, and any farmer wishing the full government price for his wool can secure the same by consigning his shipment to the Equity Cooperative Exchange, St. Paul, Minn.

### CONGRESS AGREES ON \$2.40 WHEAT

Washington, D. C.—Congress has settled the long-standing controversy over the government guaranteed price of wheat by approving a price of \$2.40 as a substitute for \$2.50, as contended for by the senate. The senate accepted without debate, the substitute previously adopted, in the house and sent the measure to the president for his signature.

Demurrers to the indictments were overruled in the Martin county district court. Justice J. H. Quinn, former district judge in Martin county, where the indictments originated, wrote the supreme court opinion, holding the demurrers should be sustained and sending the cases back for action accordingly. All the other supreme court justices agreed with Justice Quinn.

The League pamphlet contained the following statement, on which the indictments were based:

"The moving cause of this world war was and is political autocracy used to perpetuate and extend industrial autocracy. It is the struggle of political overlords to extend and perpetuate their power to rob and exploit their fellowmen. Autocratic rulers who have robbed and exploited the fathers and mothers now slaughter the children for the single purpose of further entrenching themselves in their infamous position and securing and legalizing their possession of the fruits of others' toil and thrusting the world under the yoke of political autocracy, which is ever the shield and the mask of industrial autocracy."

Justice Quinn says in the opinion: "The language and the statements or assertions thereof are to be considered and construed in connection with facts of general notoriety and common knowledge and in that light we are to determine whether the natural tendency thereof is the discouraging of enlistments in the present war, or the advocacy that assistance should not be extended the Federal government in the prosecution of the same.

"Our conclusion is that the language properly considered and taken in the light of the surrounding per-

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