

THE PRODUCERS NEWS

A PAPER OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE

Continuing the OUTLOOK PROMOTER Vol. V. Number 50

VOLUME I.

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YANKEES WIN GREAT VICTORY ON THE FRENCH BATTLE LINES

LAND FOR SOLDIERS AN AFTER WAR NEED

Secretary Lane Urges Step and Declares That Now Is Time to Prepare

In a letter to the President on May 31, Secretary Lane of the Department of the Interior, urges that we immediately begin to prepare for furnishing workable land to all soldiers desiring it on fair terms at the close of the war. "The United States should be able to say to its returned soldiers," says Mr. Lane, "that if you wish to go upon a farm, here are a variety of farms which you may take your pick from, which the Government has prepared against the time of your returning."

The secretary points out that at the close of the Civil War, America faced a similar situation, but that fortunately there was a great public domain open freely to all citizens by President Lincoln's approval of the Homestead law in the second year of the war. Now, of course, the public domain is practically all appropriated, but the secretary of the interior sees a new possibility in the reclamation of arid lands, cut-over lands, and swamp lands and in opening up land now held out of use by private owners. The reclaimed land would not only furnish good farms, but the work of reclamation would supply a vast amount of labor of all kinds with useful employment at the time when it will be greatly needed. Instead of offering wild land, Mr. Lane would give the soldiers land cleared and equipped with buildings ready for use.

Great Areas Available
The completion of the upper and lower Colorado Basin Projects would reclaim 8,000,000 acres of arid land or 60,000 irrigated farms of 50 acres each. Fifteen million acres of irrigable land now remain in the government's hands. Of swamp and overflowed lands about 60,000,000 acres can be reclaimed and made profitable for agriculture. Secretary Lane makes a rough estimate of the cut-over lands suitable for agricultural development at 200,000,000 acres. Alaska is still a pioneer country with important agricultural prospects. The secretary of the Interior would have a body of experts "spy out" this land to determine what developments should be made and where, and he requests the appropriation of "a million or two dollars" to put the work well under way.

New Land Policy Needed
"Any plan for the development of land for the returning soldier," he declares, "will come face to face with the fact that a new policy will have to meet the new conditions. Security must to a degree displace speculation." A new policy is needed, in his opinion, to prevent increasing tendencies of American conditions: the rapid multiplication of farm owners and the drift of population toward the cities. His only concrete suggestion, however, for the new policy is to give the soldiers land on long term payments, and he would evidently use this method for getting land from those now holding land for speculation.

The practical result of such a policy would be that the speculators could add several dollars to the value of their land. Ever since the United States entered the war, our rich men have been putting large sums in anticipation of this war. The war need and of such a one-time policy. In the meantime since the slacker acres produce nothing, they do not have to pay income taxes other war burdens on working men. We can not save the soldiers' money by speculation in land without a new policy which will save all our money and prospective farmers as returned soldiers from its effects.

League Points the Way
The Nonpartisan League platform resolutions will be found the primary necessary to make Secretary Lane's plan a success. The organization believe from experi-

ence that the only way to handle speculation is to kill it. The League demands exemption of farm improvements from taxation to aid the farm operator and hit the speculator. It demands a state system of hail insurance by which part of the premium will be paid by land held out of use. In their famous conference at St. Paul in September, 1917, organized farmers and organized workers proposed a 2 per cent tax upon the value of all unused or inadequately used land, whether in city or rural districts. These measures would open vast tracts to cultivation, fair terms to producers, and would usher in an era of productive activity that would make the "after war" burdens easy to bear. The state of Texas, for instance, has nearly 100,000,000 acres of tillable land that has never known a plow. Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the Pacific Northwest would supply many millions more. Our whole south is very poorly settled. A new policy that will kill speculation in land will open these valuable areas to their best use.

FARM BUREAU MASS MEETING

THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SHERIDAN COUNTY FARM BUREAU WILL BE HELD AT THE COMMUNITY HALL, PLENTYWOOD, ON JULY 27TH.

The permanent organization will be perfected; a plan of work for Sheridan county, will be discussed and adopted; officers will be elected, and a splendid speaking program will be put on. The following speakers have been asked to take part: Gov. S. V. Stewart; Uncle Sam Hampton, Howard S. Ensign, secretary of the Montana State Fair; M. L. Wilson, state leader of County Agents, and Miss Mignon Quaw of the Home Demonstration Service.

This will be a big day for Sheridan county. Watch for more definite information later. All members should attend. Bring your family and your neighbors.

E. W. ANDERSON.

REX OTTES SERIOUSLY INJURED BY JACK

Rex Ottes was seriously injured at his farm south of Redstone Wednesday a week ago, by a Jack which he is standing at his farm.

Ottes had led a saddle horse into the adjoining stall when the Jack reached over and seized him by the muscle of the upper arm and lifted him over the stall wall into the stall occupied by the Jack where the animal held him for several minutes before he released his victim.

The muscle of the upper arm was torn loose and the large artery severed. The injured man crawled out of the barn and gave an alarm and the doctor was sent for, but the man was nearly dead from the loss of blood before he was relieved.

Dr. Tony, of Redstone, dressed the wound, but as the weather has been so unfavorable it is feared that blood poisoning is developing.

Mr. Ottes is now at Redstone, where he has constant medical attention and the best is hoped for. However the man is in a precarious condition.

SERVICE FLAG AT LUTHERAN CHURCH

A service flag in honor of the boys in the service of the U. S. will be dedicated at the Lutheran church on Sunday evening. Appropriate music will be rendered by the choir. Everybody welcome.

Americans go over the top in large numbers with the French in powerful offensive launched north of Chateau Thierry this morning. Fighting began at five o'clock, the American troops being brought up in the night. Enemy taken completely by surprise. In their advance behind rolling barrage the Americans captured many guns, prisoners and equipment. The town of Soissons is well within the range of American guns. The Germans put up a strong resistance at some points, but the Americans were able to take all objectives. The French captured several thousand prisoners. There were no gains made in the Marne-Rheims-Compeigne region over night. American casualties were slight compared to that of the enemy. Our wounded are being cared for in Paris hospitals.

COUNTY FUEL ADMINISTRATION FIXES FUEL PRICES

Under date of June 22, 1918, the County Fuel Administration fixed prices on all soft coal effective at once, as follows:

Car lots, mine weight, no delivery, per ton	\$ 1.50
Coal taken from car, no delivery, per ton	1.40
Coal taken from dealers' bin, per ton	2.00
Car load lots, mine weight, no delivery, per ton	1.25
Slack	1.35
Slack, per ton	1.35
Mine run, per ton	1.50

If your coal is forked an additional 25c a ton should be allowed. In one-half ton lots the price should not be more than one-half of the ton price plus 25c.

"Gross Margin" is the sum, which added to the average cost of the retailer's coal supply at his place of business or where the coal is unloaded or the point to which it is shipped for distribution to the consumers, determines the maximum price at which the coal may be sold. The items, which enter into the cost of the coal to the retailer are:

1. The price at the mine (which is set by the U. S. Fuel Administration).
2. Transportation charges.
3. War tax.
4. Commission allowed purchasing agent, if it is a bona fide transaction.

The retail gross margin includes:

1. Retailer's expense of unloading and yard expense.
2. General expenses.
3. Shrinkage.
4. Net profit.

The cost added to retail gross margin is the selling price. The local fuel committee feels the responsibility, not only to the retailers, but to the general public and in determining the dealers gross margin have taken into consideration all data obtainable from the retailers and wholesalers, so as to not assist in maintaining an uneconomical business by the establishment of prices, which are unjust to the public. These margins are to be strictly adhered to and report of any violation thereof to the fuel committee of this county will be given prompt attention.

The Committee desires to emphasize the seriousness of the fuel situation, the imperative need of storing coal has not been impressed upon the consumers of the county. The situation is more serious than is realized, the storage capacity of Montana is in the bins of individual consumers.

County Fuel Administration.
J. F. Redmond, Chairman.

MUST LOAN GOVERNMENT MILLION

Ten Thousand a Month For Four Months Bankers Agree

On July 8th the Sheridan county bankers met at Plentywood, pursuant to call by N. L. Nelson, (Chairman for the county for the different Liberty Loan drives and now chairman for the Government Certificate drive.

The object of the meeting was to familiarize the different bankers with the new drive to commence July 9th. Chairman Nelson explained that under this drive the bankers of Sheridan county would have to raise \$1,000,000 before November 7, payable in installments every two weeks. This means that each bank in Sheridan county will have to loan to the government approximately, \$10,000 a month for the next four months.

To many of the bankers this amounts seemed almost impossible at this time of the year, but each pledged to do his best to bring Sheridan county "Over the Top" in this drive and maintain its record of the past.

Miss Clara Thayer, the principal of the school of Redstone, who was drafted as a candidate by the farmers at the convention at Welliver last Saturday, was in the county seat Wednesday and filed her petition in the office of the county clerk and recorder.

Miss Aimee Doerr arrived here Sunday from Great Falls, Montana, where she recently graduated from the Deaconess Hospital at that place and became a registered nurse in Montana. She is here visiting her father and brother, ye editor and family, while awaiting her call as a Red Cross Nurse.—Whitetail Courier.

SHERIDAN COUNTY PLEDGES LARGE SUM FOR W. S. S.

Flaxville, southwest	2,565
Outlook	18,725
Welliver	7,930
Archer	5,405
Dooley, south	1,580
Flaxville, south	7,200
Dooley	8,590
Westby, southwest	4,055
Plentywood, southeast	835
Plentywood, south	1,530
Plentywood, east	1,150
Antelope, east	4,725
Comertown, northwest	3,000
Daleview	3,560
Homestead	7,270
Comertown	5,250
Whitetail	13,865
Wolf Point	45,000
Redstone, south	2,475
Flaxville	13,580
Navajo	5,750
Dagmar	2,490
Madoc	6,135
Scobey, west	2,855
Westby, south	600
Brockton	4,820
McElroy	3,055
Dagmar, northeast	2,954
Coalridge	4,185
Scobey, southwest	3,170
Froid, south	1,640
Navajo, south	1,750
Froid, east	1,775
Total	\$481,200

FARMERS NOMINATE COUNTY TICKET

WE'LL STICK; WE'LL WIN

DISTRICT COURT ADJOURNS

The district court which has been in session in Plentywood for the past six weeks, adjourned Thursday.

The criminal calendar has been completed and great progress has been made of the civil.

Several cases were continued to the fall terms because the attorneys were called to Great Falls on business before the Federal court.

Among the attorneys called were Howard M. Lewis and D. E. McLaughlin.

On several of the cases Judge Hurley had been disqualified and Judge John Mathews, of Townsend, Mont., was called to sit on these cases.

All cases continued will be tried at the fall term. Judge Hurley has gone to his home at Glasgow.

AUDITING ASS'N HOLDS MEETING

The first annual meeting of the Northeastern Montana Farmers Auditing Association was held at Froid, Montana, July Fourth. A large group of interested farmers were present. County Agent Anderson addressed the meeting on the "Farmer and the War." Mrs. Heisler, auditor for Auditing Association, read President Wilson's message to farmers and spoke on "Elevator Auditing" and Mr. A. J. Ogaard, representative U. S. Department of Agriculture explained the "Farm Bureau and its Purpose."

The business meeting followed. The following officers were elected:

- For Three Years
John Stoner, Outlook.
Deibert Rodes, Wolf Point.
Frank M. Robinson, Madoc.
- For Two Years
J. M. Miller, president, Froid.
Sid Blair, Culbertson.
- For One Year
R. G. Tyler, sec-treas., Homestead.
Thos. Brockiey, Comertown.

Twenty-one farmer elevators have now consented to join the Association. Most of them have paid in \$100 for a share of stock; the others have set a date on which they promised to pay; others in the county have made no definite reply. Because three elevators outside the county had made application for membership, the stockholders voted to accept as members of the Association any Farmers Elevators in the neighboring counties that wished to join.

The meeting adjourned to meet at Homestead next year.
E. W. ANDERSSON,
County Agricultural Agent.

ANNUAL MEETING

Farmers' Elevator Company of Medicine Lake Make Dividend

The stockholders of the Farmers' Elevator Company of Medicine Lake held their annual meeting at Medicine Lake last Saturday evening, July 13.

Practically all of the stock was represented and a harmonious meeting was held.

The elevator done well during the past year and a dividend of twelve per cent was paid. All of the money remaining in the earnings of the company after the dividend was paid was donated to the Red Cross.

The following directors were elected for the ensuing year: Hans Rasmussen, president; Emil Umbreit, vice president; Edward Powers, cashier of the First State Bank, secretary; Calvin Richwine, E. E. Richwine, Billy Nace and Sam Nickey.

Washington, July 12.—President Wilson today vetoed the annual agricultural appropriation bill containing an amendment increasing the price of wheat to \$2.40 per bushel.

The delegates elected at the precinct caucus on June 20th, pursuant to the call issued from the office of the state manager of the Nonpartisan League of Montana, assembled at McLaughlin's law office in Plentywood, Saturday afternoon at two o'clock, July 13th, as instructed, and was called to order by E. E. York of Outlook, who represented the state office of the National Nonpartisan League of Montana.

A credential committee was appointed and the credentials verified. After which the convention, in order to be in more comfortable quarters and in order to be more private adjourned to Welliver Hall, and left immediately in autos for that point, twelve miles northwest of town.

After the delegates reconvened and Clair Stoner of Outlook was elected chairman and J. S. Nyquist of Homestead was elected secretary.

After the reading of the instructions from the state office; the convention proceeded to the nomination of State Senator. Hans Madsen, of Archer; Dan J. Olson, of Plentywood; Clair Stoner, of Outlook; J. D. Brensdahl, of Antelope, and D. W. Templeman, of Archer, were placed in nomination. There were several ballots before Clair Stoner, of Outlook, was declared nominated.

The convention then proceeded to the nominating of a candidate for Representative. J. S. Nyquist of Homestead was finally nominated after several ballots had been taken.

The next issue to be settled was the party to be used. After considerable heated discussion it was decided to use the Republican ticket.

The convention then adjourned and reconvened as a county convention for the purpose of endorsing a county ticket. The same organization was continued.

All in all there could not have been a more harmonious convention. The only time when any heated discussion took place was when the nomination for County Attorney was under consideration.

The following ticket was endorsed: Sheriff—Jack Bennett of Plentywood.

Auditor—Mrs. John O'Grady of Raymond.

County Attorney—J. J. Gunther of Plentywood.

Clerk & Recorder—E. E. York of Outlook.

Treasurer—Rex Movious of Plentywood.

County Supt. of Schools—Clara Thayer of Redstone.

County Assessor—H. B. Hill of Plentywood.

Public Administrator—W. A. Wheeler of Froid.

County Surveyor—C. E. Coryell of Plentywood.

Coroner—M. N. Johnson of Plentywood.

County Commissioner—John Anderson of Froid.

After the nominations the Producers News was unanimously named as the official paper of the Farmers Nonpartisan League of Sheridan county and all farmers were urged to subscribe both for the paper and for stock in the corporation.

An executive committee of three was named as follows: Carl B. Peterson, of Welliver; Hans Madsen, of Archer; and Dan J. Olson, of Plentywood, which committee met Monday and organized.

After passing a resolution pledging the delegates to stick by the work of the day the convention adjourned.

There was, of course, those who were disappointed. Everyone cannot be pleased in a case of this kind. However, it is conceded on all sides that the farmers demonstrated great judgment in the selection of a ticket.

Those whom the farmers felt made good were endorsed for re-election and those who have made a signal failure and have been inefficient and direct in their duties will have a farmers' candidate to face—a man whom the farmers believe will make good in the position he is named for. We'll Stick; we'll win.