

**THE PRODUCERS NEWS**  
 A PAPER OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE  
 Continuing the **OUTLOOK PROMOTOR**  
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**CHARLES E. TAYLOR, Editor and Manager.**

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FRIDAY, JULY 19, 1918,

**League Again Vindicated**

The recent decision of the Minnesota supreme court clearing A. C. Townley and Joseph Gilbert, respectively president and manager of the Nonpartisan League, of the charge of circulating seditious literature, puts the Minnesota political gang and the big business interests back of it in a bad light.

The unanimous vote of these judges after mature deliberation that the League resolution contained nothing that would be interpreted as opposing the war or tending to discourage enlistments, shows to what length this gang is capable of going to destroy its political opponents. If this body of men of long judicial training and experience could find nothing disloyal in these resolutions,

what can we say of these political gangsters who pretend to find in them enough to convict and destroy a whole political organization. Were they poisoned beyond the point where judgment and common sense ceases, or were they merely taking a desperate chance in a crooked game?

After witnessing this farcical attempt of the political agents of big business to destroy a farmers' organization by foul means, it will not be so difficult in the future for the people to believe that the entire charge of disloyalty and the repeated arrests and trial of League speakers and organizers are nothing but the schemes of subservient and designing politicians to destroy by hidden means a movement they dare not fight in the open.

**Big Business Disloyal**

By a strange twist of circumstances the big monopolists of Wall street have started a campaign favoring competition and government regulation in the operation of the railroads, express companies, telegraph and telephone systems after the war. In a recent newspaper article they cunningly intimate that the government operation of the railroads and express business has demonstrated that the principle of combination and consolidation is a failure. For years they had been arguing for consolidation in order to justify the trusts.

What has caused this sudden change? It is this: The Government operation of the railroads, express business and shipping has so thoroughly demonstrated the superiority of combination and consolidation

that it has taken away every excuse for private monopoly.

Now these interests are dishonestly claiming that government operation and consolidation has failed and that our only salvation is to return to competition under government regulation. They know when they advocate a return to competition that competition died years ago and that big business units can not compete because they have learned that laws mean nothing in the face of secret understandings. They know also that government regulation under existing conditions means that the trusts will regulate the government, and not that the government will regulate the trusts.

This covert attack of big business on an established war policy is both disloyal and dishonest.

**Burnquist's Elastic Conscience**

Governor Burnquist seems to possess a wonderfully elastic and accommodating executive will when it comes to serving the big business interests. Two months ago when a farmers' delegation asked him to protect the Nonpartisan League against mob violence and disorder, he replied he could not interfere in local affairs. He smilingly advised the impossible procedure of local suits. AT THAT TIME MOB VIOLENCE AND DISORDER HELPED BIG BUSINESS.

When the Minneapolis newsboys struck recently and demanded that share of the raise in newspaper rates and the labor administration refused to take sides against these boys, the governor saw a new light. He was

perfectly able to interfere in local affairs when he thought disorders might hurt the big business interests. He threatened to remove the labor administration for alleged failure to maintain order, although there are more than a score of county and town administrations throughout the state that have openly encouraged mob violence against the farmers and are still on the job.

From all that can be learned from authentic sources there was very little disorder and nothing that could be called mob violence during the newsboys' strike. They have won, and Burnquist again stands before the workers and farmers in the light of a most brazen and unfair partisan of big business.

**Value of Organization**

Whether or not President Wilson signs the bill for \$2.40 wheat, the value to the farmers of political organization has been demonstrated. Over half the members of the senate and the house of representatives have voted for the raise. What has got this to do with the political organization of the farmers? Simply this: The Nonpartisan League has become a terrible political bugaboo to the old party politicians; they are under the continual necessity of doing

something for the farmers in order to keep from losing votes to the League. The stronger the League grows the stronger will be the pressure on these old parties. When the farmer joins the Nonpartisan League he not only is adding one direct vote to the farmers' cause, but he is adding one other indirect vote in each of the other political parties. He not only concentrates himself politically, but he multiplies himself politically, which is going some.

**Coming Political Battle**

Now is the time for the farmers to build up their political organization. Wall street has started a propaganda idea of government ownership. In a recent article these monopolists admitted that the question as to whether or not the people shall keep the railroads, express business and telegraph and telephone systems, will be an open question to be settled by congress after the war.

The people will elect the congress that will settle this question. The Nonpartisan league is the biggest and most successful organization in the United States that stands for government ownership. Let every farmer get busy and push the League so that the national legislature that sits after peace is declared will be overwhelmingly for government ownership of the big national utilities.

**Let Us Stick Together**

The delegates duly elected, representing thirty-one precincts in Sheridan county, assembled at Welliver Hall last Saturday and selected candidates to be run as the endorsed candidates of the Nonpartisan League.

It is unusual for the farmers to participate in county politics for the

reason that it is considered unnecessary—most of the officers being ministerial or clerical in nature and it being in a broader view immaterial whether or not they belong to or are even opposed to the League, providing the League secures control of the state government: the executive, lawmaking and judicial branches; for

with this control, the control is complete and absolute.

However, the conditions are such in Sheridan county the demand was almost unanimous that a county ticket be placed in the field, and the will of the majority of course prevailed as it does in all Nonpartisan activities.

In the selection of a ticket it is always impossible to please every one. Each man interviewed in reference to the ticket says that the ticket could not be better except for one man—and each individual points out a different candidate as the wrong man. This is bound to be, no matter who was nominated or who composed the ticket.

Among human beings there will always be a certain amount of personality.

We must, however, be broad enough to forget personality; for it is only by sticking to it we win. The delegates are your delegates—they did what in their eyes, seemed the best under the circumstances. No one can do better than his best and if you had selected the ticket, some one would have been displeased.

It was the policy of the farmers to endorse those now in office who have conspicuously made good.

This proved their disposition to be fair—this proved them to be above petty, place hunting, pie counter politics. This shows that they are in politics for a principle and not for revenue or plunder.

Those who have made good were re-endorsed. Those who have made a conspicuous and dismal failure, those who have been weighed in the balance and found wanting, were repudiated and men nominated in their places whom the farmers believe will meet the requirements of the office for which they were named.

These endorsements for the old officials comes from the farmers as the highest kind of recognition of worth and ability and character.

On the other hand it could not be more of a rebuke to those old officials who were not endorsed.

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**WHAT THE EDITORS SAY**

PRODCERS MUST BE REPRESENTED

We do not know just how the government control of the public stockyards will be handled, but we presume by a body of managers selected by the secretary of agriculture. Since there are several conflicting interests involved, there will doubtless be representatives of all classes selected. It goes without saying that the packer owners will see to it that their interests are fully protected, and it also goes without saying that through their close organizations, the interests of the livestock dealers, traders and commission merchants will not be overlooked, but how about the unorganized and those most vitally interested, the livestock producers themselves? Will they be properly and fully represented?

It also behooves the officials of the several livestock producers' associations to bestir themselves and make it known that the livestock producers want to be properly and fully represented upon these boards. The great fight against packer control and ownership has been won. It is now necessary that we reap the benefits that should accrue to the livestock producers.—Feeding and Marketing.

ANOTHER FRAME-UP BUSTED

The mouth patriots, peanuts politicians and cappers for big business have been making much noise for some time about A. C. Townley, president of the National Nonpartisan League, and Joseph Gilbert, national manager of the League, having been indicted in Minnesota for sedition. They were indicted all right and the Leaguers claimed a frame-up. The matter was taken to the supreme court of Minnesota and that tribunal Friday, threw the indictments over the transom, so to speak, on the ground that there was no cause for action. Gosh, but this will make the capitalist manipulators and their loud blating cappers feel like 70 cents. They laid great stress on this frameup to prejudice the public mind and now that it is shot full of holes the poor patriots have no string to harp on. The League has up to date won in every case that has been brought against them. All they have needed up to date to beat their persecutors is to get a square deal, and, presto, there you are. A knockout the first round.—Lincoln (Neb.) Herald.

THE NONPARTISAN LEAGUE.

Within the last three years a new granger party has sprung up in the Northwest. It has swept the older parties out of one state, North Dakota, organized in five states and invaded at least eight neighboring states.

This is a political phenomenon worthy of observation. From the standpoint of political expediency it can not be safely ignored. Movements of this character do not spring up without cause. There are human wrongs at the bottom of them all and it is the part of common sense to look them squarely in the face and deal with them, not to try to destroy them, ostrich-wise by shutting our eyes to them or by swearing at them.—The Chicago Tribune.

The Sheridan county board of commissioners appear to have pulled down a hornets nest about their heads over the letting of the county printing. The taxpayers are entitled to the facts and circumstances in the case and there is a well aroused bunch of newspapers in the county that will see that the taxpayers get them.—Wolf Point Herald.

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telephone business. In Australia the government has taken over the entire stockyard and packing plant business and has so cut down expenses that the consumer gets his meat products at half the former price, while the producer gets more than before. To try to bring about such a condition in the United States would be considered "disloyal" by the old gang of Minnesota politicians but our federal government may come to it without asking their permission.—Sacred Heart (Minn.) Journal.

REDMOND HAS NOT REPLIED

There is not a little surprise in Poplar that County Auditor Jim Redmond has not accepted the invitation of the Standard to declare himself on the county printing scandal. We, of course, know personally where Mr. Redmond stands but we did not believe it would be quite fair to the genial County Auditor to put him on record in this most disgraceful affair without his consent so we offered him of the columns of the paper gratis to come and tell the voters what he thought of this high handed

piece of work, but as yet he has not accepted. There is no doubt but that he will in the very immediate future however.—Poplar Standard.

With government control of railroads a fact, and the control of telegraph and telephone systems and packing plants almost a certainty, one of the planks of the platform of principles of the American Federation of Labor seems in a fair way to become true. The financial ledger-main that has built so many ill-gotten fortunes in this county seems soon to be relegated to the class of the dodo.—Fort Worth (Ind.) Worker.

Every day in the year Governor Burnquist is using his high office as a means of furthering and tightening the hold of special privilege upon the state, and the fear of the Nonpartisan League is driving him to desperation. Verily, a little patriotism is made to put over some awful things in this grand old state of Minnesota.—North Dakota Labor Leader.

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