

# THE PRODUCERS NEWS

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FOR THE PEOPLE

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PLENTYWOOD, SHERIDAN COUNTY, MONTANA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1918.

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## GOODBYE, JOHN BARLEYCORN, GOODBYE

### LEAGUE ORGANIZER ACQUITTED BY JURY

FREE, INDICTED FOR POLITICAL EFFECT, WINS IN FEDERAL COURT.

BY V. E. MICHEL.  
St. Paul, Minn.—John V. Free, organizer for the National Nonpartisan League, was acquitted by a jury in federal court here after 30 minutes' deliberation. Free was charged with violation of the espionage act, but evidence in the case plainly showed that the charges against Free constituted a political frame-up for the purpose of discrediting the work of an organizer and to discredit the farmers' political organization by which he was employed. The trial of Free was the first case of the kind to be tried by a United States federal court. Previous charges of disloyalty against the League have been brought in state courts. The majority of these charges, which were brought during political campaigns in which the farmers' organization participated, and which were attended with great publicity in the larger and more reactionary newspapers, were dismissed when they came to trial. The decision of one federal court and the state supreme court of Minnesota that charges of disloyalty against the farmers' League are unwarranted and made for political effect, said to presage the dropping of the few cases still hanging fire, now that the elections are past. That Free was the object of persecution designed to intimidate him into ceasing organizing for the Nonpartisan League, is the claim that he made in connection with the case. He testified that in the fall of 1917, Dave McKenzie, Republican political boss of Lake County, stopped him on the streets of Lake City and told him if he did not "cut out that Nonpartisan League stuff" he, McKenzie, would get Free if it was the last thing he did.

McKenzie, who was county director of the Minnesota Public Safety commission in addition to being a prominent Republican of that county, has fought the Nonpartisan League. Testimony showed that he had taken a federal agent through his party in an effort to dig up evidence against Free.

Miss Ethel Metcalfe was the principal witness against Free. She testified that while milking cows in Washington county she overheard Free tell men that they were foolish to join the United States army and that they would make a better investment in enrolling in the Nonpartisan League.

Her testimony, however, was very much discounted when she admitted the witness stand that state authorities had granted a pardon for her conviction of wife murder and a sentence at the state prison at Billwater, immediately after she had promised to testify against the Nonpartisan League organizer. There has always been a sentiment in some circles that state authorities in Minnesota were willing to do anything to discredit the Nonpartisan League, which, the League followers claim, imperils their rule.

In delivering a charge to the jury, Judge Page Morris said that he realized that some persons thought Nonpartisan League were cranks, idealists and dreamers and that they ought to be driven out of the country. He stated, however, that Free and not the League was on trial and that a verdict should be returned based upon whether Free was guilty. The judge's charge recalled to the jury that the four brothers had enlisted in the United States army and he asked the jury to decide whether the prisoners would be capable of stabbing their brothers in the back.

### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ARE IN SESSION

The Board of County Commissioners for Sheridan county are in session in the commissioners' rooms at the county house. It is understood that the commissioners are closing up the business for the year. It is also reported that the board will sit as a Canvassing Board on Monday when the official canvass of the county of Sheridan county will be completed and certificates of election

### Not To Permit Any Profiteering

ADMINISTRATION WILL BE ON JOB UNTIL RELEASED BY PRESIDENT.

The food administration is still on the job and will stay on the job until released by presidential proclamation, and there will be no relaxation of regulations that will permit of profiteering or speculation in licensed food products, Dr. E. F. Ladd, federal food administrator for North Dakota, said in a statement today.

"It is still very essential that food be conserved very carefully, as reserve stock in the United States are the lowest in years," Dr. Ladd said before making his statement public.

Dr. Ladd's statement follows in full: "The partial demobilization of the food administration and the withdrawal of many of its rules and regulations have given the impression in some quarters that all its activities have ceased or are shortly to cease.

"This is not the case. The act imposes upon the administration certain obligations which continue until the presidential proclamation releases us from the food control act, and particularly the obligation to curb profiteering and speculation in license food products. This function must continue to be performed, and there is no intention of relaxing in this direction.

"It has been possible, now that peace is assured, to cancel many requirements for reports and many of the details of the regulations, but the profit margins and rules have been for the most part retained and will be enforced by the revocation of licenses and other appropriate penalties.

"It is expected that it will be possible from time to time to remove certain commodities from the license list, but this will not be limited to commodities which do not seem likely to be subject to the possibility of speculation and profiteering."

### Charged With Mismanagement

Washington, Dec. 26.—Gross mismanagement and extravagance permeated the affairs of the American International corporation in building the great Hog Island shipyards at Philadelphia, according to the findings of department of justice investigators, made public here a few days ago.

While no criminal responsibility is fixed, recommendations are made for examination into the corporation's expenditures. Officials of the corporation failed to satisfy the investigators as to why the yards cost \$61,000,000 when the first estimate was \$21,000,000.

"Such discrepancy must be due to some fundamental miscalculation in the original estimates, supervening conditions, mismanagement of operation or a combination of these factors," the report says. Discrepancy of this magnitude would "seem to call for a clear explanation of this corporation, but this is not furnished."

Investigators reveal how the government paid "two to three times as much per shipway at Hog Island," compared with building other yards under similar conditions. In some cases, men stood about idle. The labor turnover, as a result, ranged as high as 100 per cent a week. Thirty-seven employees of Stone & Webster, subcontractors, were transferred to the Hog Island pay roll and their salaries raised from \$3,973 to \$5,879 each, annually.

### DEMANDS ASSAULT PROBE

Madison, Wis., Dec. 26.—C. B. Ballard, newly elected member of the legislature and organizer for the Society of Equity in Outagamie county, has laid before officials of the department of justice of this city affidavits concerning assaults made on farmers in that section during the recent Liberty loan drive. These affidavits have also been laid before Governor Phillip and action for the prosecution of the perpetrators of the attacks has been asked.

There is no hope for poor "Old John," his life is fast ebbing away---he was "a good feller" in some ways, was Jawn, but he "done some of us dirt" yet lets not speak ill of the dying.

"Oh Jawn, we held your falling head, we looked into 'ur eye, But, srill in spite of all of this, you had to up and die."

Next Monday night, December 30th, at midnight, the state of Montana goes dry, dry, dry, as a burnt brick in a July sun. Attorney General Ford has signed "old Jawn Barley Corn's" death warrant, and says there must not be any wake. His many friends will hold a quiet funeral. All obsequies are being held before his departure and many eulogies are being delivered in his honor and many toasts drunk to his memory.

The Butte Bulletin delivers itself thusly: "Comes now the beginning of the end

"Physicians who are in constant attendance upon the Hon. Mr. Jonathan Barleycorn last night gave out the following bulletin:

"Condition precarious. Patient has been unable to take any nourishment whatever and is falling rapidly. Cannot possibly last beyond next Monday night. Death will occur somewhere about 11:50.

"All of which has brought more than the usual mourning to a large circle of friends and relatives. Many of these have definitely decided to close their places of business on the announcement of his death.

"Why stay open?" asked a weeping one yesterday afternoon. "Jawn's dying. He was a good old soul. The finest scrapper I ever seen."

"He wiped his eyes and then wiped a glass.

"Yes, sir, the gamest scrapper I ever seen. The only way a feller ever could whip that boy was by not fighting him."

"All of which is a sort of prelude to the announcement that with today there begins the last week of liquor for Butte. Just five more days of booze remain for Butte. Five and a half, in fact, for they're counting the hours now. At midnight next Monday night the end will come.

"Twilight and old Three Star And one good souze for me, And won't there be some moaning at the bar

When Jawn has ceased to be." "For good old Jawn Barleycorn is dying. He was a fine old guy, as the perfect gent in front of the glassware said yesterday afternoon, but he want an' done a lotta folks dirt, and he's got to go. Jawn is dying and a weef from tonight he'll depart.

"And so low has the stock of sustenance become that many of the first class bars may cease to moan in the middle of the week. Practically every saloon in the city is sold down now to only barely enough to carry the ordinary trade through four or five days more—and should Butte develop an unusual thirst in the next few days, the supply will not be enough to go around. And even though they should have a wee bit of stock on hand, it is more than probable that the high-class bars will all be closed by 9 o'clock, at least, Dec. 30.

"The hotels are taking unusual precautions to keep out the rough element also. There is a fear that there will be too much of a desire to mourn in the native or destructive fashion as Jawn Barleycorn passes in his shekels. And to this end every reservation is being carefully scrutinized. More than that they are being held down to smaller numbers than ever before.

"Liquor houses estimate that at least a few bottles "in case of sickness or accident" are going into practically every home in Butte. Bills ranging as high as \$500 and \$600 are being purchased from the big liquor houses this week, while \$50 consignments will be common.

"And thus, with a few draperies to mourn on, Butte prepares for months and years of dry climate, with now and then a mourning notice:

"In memory of Jawn Barleycorn, who died Dec. 30, 1918: "Oh, Jawn, we held your falling head We looked you in the eye;

But still in spite of all of this, You had to up and die.

"From His Loving Friends and Relatives, who are better off without Jawn. But still it is always best to speak well of the dead."

In Plentywood and Sheridan county the bars have been moaning dolefully all the week, and the coming departure of "Jawn" is painting pictures of sorrow on many sympathetic faces, and little pieces of "Jawn" are being cached away for use if the worst to worse, just as a sort of reminder of the days when the old scrapper reigned supreme.

Attorney General Ford sends out the following Proclamation, which brings no joy in its song:

Helena, Montana, Dec. 16, 1918.

To All County Attorneys, Deputy County Attorneys, Sheriffs, Deputy Sheriffs, Constables, Mayors, Marshals, Police Officers, and Other Peace Officers:

I desire to call your attention to the fact that the prohibition laws of this state, Chapter 39, Session Laws 1915, Chapter 175, Session Laws 1917, and Chapter 143, Session Laws 1917, will be in full force and effect ON and after Tuesday, December 31st, 1918. There seems to be a general impression through the state that these laws will not be in force or effect until January 1st, 1919, but this impression is erroneous as they will take effect immediately after midnight of December 30th, 1918, and will be in full force and effect on Tuesday, December 31st, 1918, consequently it will be a violation of these laws for saloons to be open or for intoxicating liquors of any kind to be sold, given away, or otherwise disposed of, on Tuesday, December 31st, 1918, or at any time thereafter. Each sheriff should immediately notify all saloon keepers in his county of such fact.

Also, for your information, I desire to call your attention to certain provisions of Chapter 143, Session Laws 1917, with reference to the duties of certain officers.

Section 12 makes it the duty of a county attorney, or deputy county attorney, having knowledge of the violation of any of the provisions of these laws, or even informed by any person, whether such person be an officer or not, of such violation, to forthwith diligently inquire into the facts of such violation, while Section 19 makes it the duty of the county attorneys and deputy county attorneys, in their respective counties, to diligently prosecute all violations of these laws of which they may have or can obtain knowledge, and provides that any county attorney or deputy county attorney failing to perform such duties may be removed from office.

Section 9 provides that when any violation of any of the provisions of these laws shall occur in the presence of any sheriff, constable, marshal, or other officer having power to serve criminal process, it shall be the duty of such officer to, without a warrant, arrest the offender, and seize the liquor, bars, furniture, fixtures, vessels and appurtenances so unlawfully used, and to take such offender immediately before a court or judge having jurisdiction in the premises and there make complaint charging the offense committed, and make a return setting forth a description of the liquor and property seized, and the place where seized, while Section 20 makes it the duty of all sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, constables, mayors, marshals and police officers, having notice or knowledge of the violation of any of the provisions of such laws, to notify the county attorney of the fact, and to furnish him with the names of the persons within their knowledge by whom such violation can be proved, and provides that for failure, refusal or neglect of such duties, any city, township or county officer may be removed from office.

Section 21 provides that if any

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### Progressive Farmers Club Meet at Welliver

Fine Speaking, Oyster Supper and Dancing Are Features of Entertainment.

Last week a special stockholders' meeting of the Progressive Farmers' Club was held at Welliver Hall, which was well attended by the stockholders and patrons.

The Progressive Farmers Club is growing and prospering, and the number of stockholders are on the increase. Because of the greater requirements of the club, the capital stock was recently increased from \$20,000 to \$50,000, of which \$50,000, \$25,000 has been sold.

The object of the meeting was the amending of the By-Laws and Constitution and the increase of the capital as indicated above. However, the members of the club took advantage of the occasion to have a social time as well.

In the afternoon Charles Eckerle of Minneapolis delivered a splendid speech on Farm Organization and Cooperation, which was splendidly prepared and delivered and well received. There was a free oyster supper and in the evening the tables were cleared away and dancing was the program which lasted until 3:30 in the morning. The hall was beautifully decorated and the music was furnished by a six piece orchestra. A large crowd was in attendance.

### Plentywood Enjoys Big Christmas Trade

Local Merchants Did Thriving Business, Sales Were Much Larger Than Anticipated, Due to Close of the War.

The Plentywood merchants did a Christmas business this year far beyond their most optimistic expectations.

It is reported that the Christmas stocks were almost entirely sold out. It is also reported that the line of merchandise sold for presents were more practical than usual, resulting in the clearing of much regular stock.

It is thought that the reason for the large sales is due to the close of the war and the returning assurance of stable and undisturbed conditions, and the relief and happiness that peace conditions have brought.

### WEEK END EVENT

Disorganized Farmer Lundberg, Who Writes Phunny Stories, Has "Rough Ride."

Disorganized Farmer Lundberg, who writes such phunny stories for the Pioneer Press, almost ruined his literary arm in a nearly serious accident last Saturday evening.

Mr. Disorganized Farmer Lundberg hitched old dobbin to the shay last week end and wended his way to the county capitol for the purpose of transacting unimportant business, and securing lubricant to oil his disorganized mental machinery preparatory to grinding out his weekly contribution to the phunny kolom of the Press, and in the press of events he came across his friend, Martin Christianson, and they in the course of time started out towards the home of the disorganized farmer.

The disorganized was confidentially going over his next contribution and was practicing on some of the horrible words he was going to use in his next disorganized attack upon his League neighbors, when old dobbin became frightened at the phunny and phoolish noises and pricked up her ears and pulled out, badly scattering the disorganized Mr Lundberg and his friend, Martin Christianson, thus badly dislocating Mr Lundberg's train of thought, besides scratching up his guest, Mr. Christianson. No bones were broken.

Old Dobbin is thought to be some sort of an I. W. W.

Mr. Lundberg being more than ordinarily disorganized this week, we may expect an exceptionally dislocated story.

### GREAT MILITARY RECEPTION PLANNED

PRELIMINARY PEACE CONFERENCE POSTPONED UNTIL EARLY IN FEBRUARY.

London, Dec. 26.—King George has received word from President and Mrs. Wilson an acceptance of his invitation to be his guests at Buckingham palace during their stay in London. They will be quartered in the royal suite customarily used by visiting monarchs and will be entertained after a manner similar to that usual in the case of royal visitors.

A meeting of the war cabinet was held today, attended by representatives of all government departments, to arrange the details of the presidential visit, which will last from Thursday until Monday or Tuesday morning.

Arrangements are being made for an imposing military reception of President Wilson according to some of the newspapers. There will be a guard of honor at the station when he arrives and he will be greeted by King George. Mr. Wilson and the king will then drive to Buckingham palace through streets lined with troops. They will ride in the royal carriage. Premier Lloyd George will be among the prominent persons taking part in the welcome of Mr. Wilson.

It is said that the route of the procession will be as extended as possible so as to permit a great popular welcome.

Conference Postponed  
Paris, Dec. 26.—The preliminary peace conference at Versailles has been postponed until the beginning of February at the earliest, says Marscel Hutin, editor of the Echo de Paris. This postponement is due to changes of plans because of President Wilson's visit to England and the reconstruction of the British cabinet which will occupy Premier Lloyd George as soon as the result of the elections is announced Dec. 28.

Preliminary changes, which were to begin in Paris today, according to original plans, have also been deferred.

Mr. Wilson's Itinerary  
Paris, Dec. 26.—The outline of President Wilson's itinerary during his visit to England was announced today.

On his arrival in England, Thursday, Dec. 26, the President will dine with King George. For Friday a dinner at the Guild Hall is on the program. On Saturday the President will go to Manchester and on Sunday attend church at Carlisle, his mother's birthplace. Returning thence to London he will leave for France at noon, Monday, Dec. 30.

The President's immediate party will include Admiral and Mrs. Grayson, Miss Edith Benham, secretary to Mrs. Wilson, and a military aide, whose name has not been announced.

### YULE TIME AT PLENTYWOOD

THE DAY PASSED OFF QUIETLY. CHRISTMAS TREES AT DIFFERENT CHURCHES.

Christmas day was mild and everyone availed themselves of the opportunity to enjoy themselves, which was done in visiting and feasting.

Christmas Eve, or a night or two before, Christmas trees and programs were given at the different churches and "Old Santa" did his best to make the little folks happy.

Services were held at the several churches Christmas morning.

Father Hennessey of the Catholic church and Rev. Fretheim of the Lutheran church held Christmas services at Outlook also.

### CHILDREN DYING IN N. Y. HIGH FOOD PRICES CAUSE

New York, Dec. 26.—Aroused by reports that, with the holidays now here, east side children are "fainting in school rooms and dying at home from hunger," because their parents cannot pay the prevailing high prices for milk and staple foods, representative citizens today organized a committee to "feed them first and investigate afterwards."