

HURRAH, HURRAH! Hark Ye Rubes!

The Second Annual Nonpartisan League Picnic will take place at Brush Lake, July 11th and 12th, two days. The famous Walter Thomas Mills will speak in the afternoon of the 11th and Arthur C. Townley, the Cursed and Loved President of the League, fresh from the overwhelming victory in North Dakota, will speak Saturday, July 12th.—Yes, Reuben, sure thing, this time! Be there.

BE THERE

THE PRODUCERS NEWS

A PAPER

OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE,

FOR THE PEOPLE

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PUBLIC EXAMINER'S REPORT SHOWS BIG FRAUD LAST YEAR

County Treasurer

The records of the County Treasurer are written up promptly and efficiently. We note that the Treasurer, at the request of your Honorable Board, is accepting partial payments on Seed Grain Liens after they become delinquent and are spread upon the delinquent Tax Rolls. We believe this practice should be discontinued, as said liens, at this time, have the same status as delinquent tax and partial payments cannot be accepted on any delinquent tax.

The Treasurer is carrying as outstanding several small checks issued by his office which have been returned to him unpaid. We recommend that any checks that are one year old, and on which he is unable to make delivery, be cancelled and credit for same be taken through his records.

We are informed by the Treasurer that it has been the practice to accept Cashier's Checks and drafts of the local banks to cover the excess of deposits over bonds in said banks during the period when the deposits are heaviest and that this was done on the recommendation of the Board of Commissioners. It is very evident that the intent of the law requiring banks to indemnify the Treasurer for County funds deposited with them is to protect said funds from the possibility of bank failures and the possession of said checks and drafts are not protection in any sense. In the case of a failure of any such bank these drafts and checks would be no protection whatever. The law is very plain as to the duties of the Treasurer and Board of County Commissioners in this matter and we strongly urge that it be complied with in all respects.

Clerk and Recorder

The books of the Clerk and Recorder are written up promptly and neatly. It has been the practice in the past for the Auditor to handle the financial records of the County, but we are advised that same are to be transferred to the office of the Clerk and Recorder, where they justly belong.

In this connection, we recommend that the Clerk discontinue any surplus records and confine himself strictly to such records as are outlined in the Schedule of Accounts. We also advise the carrying of a controlling account for Highway and Bridge expense in preference to the present method.

Clerk of the District Court

The records of the Clerk of the District Court are promptly and efficiently written up. His fee book and registers are neatly kept.

Sheriff

The records of the Sheriff are neatly written. A more careful entering of cases and extension of charges would improve this work.

Auditor

In reconciling the Petty Cash Fund of the former Auditor, we found that in opening his books on this account, July 1, 1918, he took credit for cash in bank, amounting to \$300.00, and failed to take into consideration Voucher No. 226, for \$63.95, and Voucher No. 227 for \$10.00, which had been issued and were then out-

standing. Vouchers were subsequently cashed by bank and credit taken in deposit of October 26, 1918. These vouchers are attached to claims on file in the Auditor's Office.

The Petty Cash Fund of the present Auditor shows a deposit of \$1.00 in excess of the authorized allowance. This occurred through Voucher No. 6 being issued for \$1.00 more than the claim presented and overpayment being refunded by payee. Auditor was advised to present her claim for \$1.00 less than the amount stated on Receipt No. 6 on account of receiving this refund.

Claims

Care should be taken that all claims state dates (day, month and year) on which services were performed or supplies furnished.

All claims of the members of the Board of County Commissioners, containing charges for mileage, should state number of miles traveled.

claims should be numbered after the warrants are written, in order that all claims affecting the different funds will be entered and filed in numerical order.

Claim No. 15889, favor of John W. Auker, for \$7.68, covering refund of County portion of erroneous tax, should have been distributed to "101 A" instead of "102 D."

Claim No. 16055, for \$320.00 drawn in favor of Mrs. Ben H. Johnson, is not an entirely just claim against the County. This claim was issued in payment of services rendered posting notices of the closing of the registration books for the Primary Election in each of the 64 precincts of the county at the rate of \$5.00 per precinct. Owing to the fact that Mrs. Johnson, at this time, was County clerk, and, as such, was performing one of the duties of her office, she was entitled to her actual traveling expenses only. The Board of County Commissioners has no authority to pay any County Official a flat rate to cover traveling expenses, and only such claims should be allowed as show a duly itemized statement of such expense.

The following claims are subject to the same criticism as No. 16055.

Claim No. 17038—Mrs. N. Johnson. Claim No. 17460—G. M. Hoster. Claim 17494—Mrs. Ben H. Johnson. Claim No. 18163, for \$5.00, favor of A. W. Killam, refund of filing fee for an amended complaint in Case No. 2145, should have been paid from the Contingent Fund and not the General Fund, for the reason that all fees of the Clerk of the Court's office are credited to the Contingent Fund.

Claim No. 18584, favor of Drs. Collinson and Munch, for \$37.50, acknowledged thus:

"Drs. Collinson & Munch by C. J. M."

This acknowledgment should be signed with full name of member making affidavit. See also Claim No. 18585, for \$149.34.

Claim No. 1613g, C. E. Coryell, County Surveyor, for \$175.00, was paid from the Contingent Fund. This claim contains charges for road and bridge work, and should have been paid from respective funds.

Claim No. 16197, favor of Jack Bennett, Sheriff, for \$133.80, reads: Warrant of arrest, Mileage to Great Falls and return, 892 miles \$89.20 Prisoner (mileage) \$44.60 \$133.80

The Sheriff is not entitled to collect mileage on a prisoner, but is entitled to the actual traveling expense of said prisoner, for which expense an itemized claim must be presented for the approval of the Board.

Claim No. 16264, favor of S. P. Adams, for \$1.50; Claim No. 16265, favor of Ruth Warwick, for \$50.00, and many others do not show approval of Auditor.

Claim No. 16401, favor of R. A. Rathbun, deputy assessor, for \$50.00 covering expenses, does not have vouchers attached.

Claim No. 16419, favor of Standard Medical Supply Company, covering scale for Exemption Board, was distributed to "209 B." This is an outlay item and should have been so distributed.

The following claims are not properly itemized:

Claim No. 16444, Marion Chandler \$500.00, Claim No. 16527, Matthew Higgins 40.00, Claim No. 16528, John J. Higgins 40.00, Claim No. 16531, W. T. Helton 40.00, Claim No. 16548, Even Johnson 64.50, Claim No. 16572, John Dundgrun 40.00

Claim No. 16492, favor of L. D. Fornbrook, undersheriff, for \$15.00, covering trip with Game Warden. We do not believe the County should be charged for trips of this nature with State Officials.

Claim No. 19153, favor of Rex M. Movius, County Treasurer, for \$18.00, covers refunds of Special Poor Tax collections made directly by the Treasurer. The matter of making refunds of this nature has been called to your attention repeatedly, and we must insist that this practice must be discontinued.

Claim No. 17643, favor of Jos. F. Dolin, for \$7,812.00, covers the printing of ballots for one election. We do not believe that this bill was presented in accordance with the printing contract. We find that the same charge (\$15.75 per M) was made for the sample ballots for each party, as was charged for the first one thousand and, whereas, the contract states that after the first thousand and rate per thousand will be less. It is our opinion that the official ballots and the sample ballots for each party should be considered as one "run" and all over the first thousand paid for at the rate stipulated for each subsequent thousand.

Concluding, we wish to say that many of the items mentioned herein have been called to your attention in previous reports, and we would appreciate a closer following of the law and the recommendations of this Department.

Respectfully submitted, H. S. MAGRAW.

THE WEEK

English Miners Call Noble Bluff

Junkin Displays Red Flag

Labor Meets at Atlantic City

N. D. Laws Win

Robert Smilie, president of the British Coal Miners' Union, embarrassed and shocked English royalty the other day in a way that was instructive as well as amusing. At a great national meeting he asked the royal coal land owners to produce the titles to their land. He said he was tired of hearing vague assertions about "the land being in possession of the family since before the Roman conquest," and demanded documentary evidence of noble assertions.

Most of the old nobility, it appears, have no titles that would bear analysis. Some got it by the sword; some got it by seizing the public commons; some got it through ancient fraud. Thus the Marquis of Butte, who takes in \$500,000 in coal royalties a year, has a title which was signed by Edward VI. over 300 years ago when that king was a boy between 10 and 14 years old. This marquis contends that he has a right to big profits from the labor of miners in this day and generation even if it were proved that the signature of the boy king was forged.

Lord Tredegar demands his \$425,000 on the ground that his family had always had the land and if they didn't own it somebody else would. How would common people get along without profiteers?

How eminently fitting it is that interests so active in pushing the foolish, if not vicious, red flag bill and under the nose of a subservient government that he might have the patriotic pleasure of signing it, are the first to violate it. The May number of America First, a new anti-farmer magazine long on big money support and short on subscribers carries a picture of a red flag in red on the cover.

The law reads thus: "It shall be unlawful for any person to have in his possession, custody, or control any red or black flag or any picture or facsimile thereof, whether printed, painted, stamped, carved or engraved on any card, paper or insignia, with intent to display the same in the state of Minnesota."

Now the question is: Will the duly constituted authorities in this state who ran for office on the "loyalty" issue prosecute Tom Parker Junkin, editor and publisher, for this display, which is a felony according to law? Better yet, will they prosecute the men higher up who are financing and encouraging Tom in his criminal display of the red flag?

Judging by past experience, however, we may more likely expect the Burnquist crowd to list all the league farmers and labor union members to whom Tom has set the sheet free of charge and arrest them for having the "unpatriotic" display in their possession.

The craftiest politicians in the American Federation of Labor are fighting politics. What they mean by keeping out of politics is not in endorsing one or the other of the old parties, but dicker with both.

This practice, the traditional practice of both farmer and labor leaders before independent political organization came along, kept these leaders up to their ears in politics largely of the personal, wire-pulling kind. Many met official death by drowning in the political mudholes.

Consequently the fight being made by Labor party men at the national federation convention, now being held at Atlantic City, is not a fight to put labor in politics, as the more conservative decalre, but to separate labor from political machines owned and run by the special interests.

By being the suckers for these political machines, laboring men have the "honor" of seeing a few of their officers given political appointments, of kept newspaper praise, and being "looked after" by legislators far wiser and more efficient than they are. On the other side of the account laboring men find the special interests giving a free hand to prey on their livelihood, and spies, gunmen and mobbists given practically a free hand to prey on their organization.

It will be a great thing if organized labor as a whole decides against our corrupt two-party politics at Atlantic City, but even if the conservatives block the movement there, it will go on just the same throughout the nation. The need is too great for Compers or any other labor leader to hold it back.

Keeping track of Nonpartisan league victories in the courts has become a tedious affair. During 1918 we heard of no less than 23 disloy-

alty cases against League leaders. Five of these coming under federal jurisdiction were won by the defendants, a 100 per cent record. Then the state cases started to fall one after another. Some five or six still remain caught somewhere in the meshes of our intricate court procedure. One League man, Joseph Gilbert spent one night in a Martin county (Minn.) jail, and it cost the sheriff who turned the trick \$200.

Now a federal judge has dismissed a "taxpayer" suit brought to kill the new legislation in North Dakota and the supreme court of North Dakota has ordered the turncoat secretary of state to sign the new state bonds. Probably none of the hostile suits were brought with much hope of securing a decision against the League. Even in the time of war hysteria they could not be made to stick. They were brought because the controlled press could have a royal time condemning the defendants before trial. Then, too, they knew the lawyers' fees and court costs mount up like the ticks. Handy way of tapping the \$16.

If some people would keep in mind how the special interests use their own people at home, they would not be so often surprised by what diplomats do abroad.

—SAVE THE PRIMARIES—

GERMANY WILL ACCEPT TERMS OFFERED BY ALLIED NATIONS

Haimhausen Refuses to Sign for Germany and Will Be Replaced by Mueller—Premier Bauer Voices Threat Against Allies—German Officers Promise to Resign if Reservation are Waived.

Weimar, June 24. (By the Associated Press)—Dr. Haniel von Haimhausen, who was on Sunday designated as the German representative to sign the treaty of peace has telegraphed his resignation from Versailles rather than attach his name to the instrument.

NO ADVICE FROM WEIMAR

Paris, June 25.—No word has been received from Weimar relative to the new German plenipotentiaries at Versailles. The date of the ceremony of signing the treaty has not as yet been given but the belief is gaining ground that it will occur Thursday or possibly Friday.

MUELLER TO HEAD PARTY

Paris, June 25.—Herman Mueller, the new German foreign secretary, will head the German delegation to sign the peace treaty, La Liberté says.

TO ARRIVE FRIDAY

Paris, June 25.—The German delegation which will sign the peace treaty will arrive at Versailles Friday morning, the French foreign office has been informed. It is thought probable in French circles that the signing of the treaty will take place at 2 o'clock Friday afternoon.

The information regarding the time of arrival of the German delegation was made known to Premiers Clemenceau and Lloyd George and President Wilson while they were at Versailles this afternoon looking over the arrangements for the signature of the treaty.

ARMY OFFICERS WILL STRIKE

Berlin, June 24.—General Maercker, who commands the forces guarding Weimar, made a pessimistic statement at a meeting of various parties today regarding the signing of the treaty, according to a Weimar dispatch. All the generals and staff officers of the army threatened to retire if the government signs the peace treaty unconditionally.

BAUER MAKES THREAT

Berlin, June 25.—Addressing the German national assembly at Weimar today in reference to the unconditional signature of the peace treaty, Dr. Gustav Bauer, Premier, said that "a defeated nation was being violated body and soul to the horror of the world."

"Let us sign," he continued, "but it is our hope to the last breath that this attempt against our honor may one day recoil against its authors."

VOTE ALMOST UNANIMOUS

Weimar, June 24.—The German delegation to sign the peace treaty probably will be named tonight or tomorrow.

Before the national assembly voted today to sign the peace terms unconditionally, gery appeals in opposition were made by the democrats and conservatives, but they apparently had little effect, when the vote was called, all but a few members arose to signify their affirmation of the government's decision to sign.

Many wild rumors of what would happen when it became known the assembly had voted almost unanimously to accept the terms gained currency. One that appeared to get most support was that all the officers of the German army would resign if the government did not refuse to surrender German leaders, especially Field Marshal von Hindenburg and General Ludendorff, and defy the allies to seize the former emperor. In military and semi-military circles a strong insistence has developed that the former emperor is innocent and that under no circumstances must he be placed on trial except in a neutral court.

In some quarters the threat of the officers to resign was taken most seriously on the ground that such action might pave the way for a spartan and communist uprising throughout the country.

Opposition to the surrender of German war leaders is apparently the point to which the greatest objection is raised. The delegates to the national assembly seem disheartened and crushed.

President Fehrenbach made a desperate rhetorical attempt to inspire hope in the future, but failed to stir a single delegate to applause.

PARIS CELEBRATES ACCEPTANCE OF TREATY

(By Associated Press)

Paris, June 24.—Long months of strain during the peace negotiations and weeks of doubt whether Germany would accept the conditions offered or would invite by her refusal of them a further invasion of her country, ended late this afternoon when a note announcing Germany's unconditional acceptance was delivered to the supreme council of the conference.

It was long after the reply had been received and opened before the supreme council, that guns began to boom from the forts around Paris, and rejoicing crowds began to stream through the streets, having been apprised by the sound of cannon that the Germans had accepted the allied terms. Allied flags were flung out as if by magic from windows. Automobiles loaded with cheering doughboys and excited poilus dashed through the thoroughfares. Church bells throughout the city were pealing everywhere and cheering, animated throngs gave evidence of the joy with which the crowds welcomed the end of the long years of agony and tension.

The celebration soon assumed a more tumultuous character and by 8 o'clock in the evening Paris seemed bent on indulging in an excited demonstration of joy. Bands of students had taken possession of the German trophy cannons ranged on either side of Champs Elysees from the Arch of Triumph to Palace de la Concorde and were dragging them in a procession through the city, each cannon carrying its burden of cheering youths. Special editions of newspapers with huge captions "Peace has come" were snatched from news sellers by excited Parisians going home from work.

London Distrustful

London, June 25.—Profound distrust of Germany is the predominant note in London press comments on the German government's decision to sign the treaty of peace. It is contended the Germans proved themselves treacherous throughout the war, the latest instance being the sinking of their interned fleet in Scapa Flow, and therefore it would be premature to celebrate peace until the treaty is actually signed.

Even afterward, it is said, the allies must be continually on guard until the last penalty is paid.

ENEMY SINKS OWN FLEET

(By the Associated Press)

On the day the German ministry under Premier Scheidemann was giving way at Berlin to a new ministry under the premiership of Herr Bauer, for the purpose of meeting the allied demands with respect to the peace treaty, the German officers and crews of the German warships interned at Scapa Flow opened the sea-cocks of the vessels. Many of the larger vessels—battleships and cruisers—were sent to the bottom. Some of the smaller craft were beached. Only a few remain afloat.

Under the terms of the armistice, according to the British admiralty, these interned vessels were manned only by Germans. When the ships were settling deep, the Germans took to the boats, some of them refusing to surrender, were shelled and a number of the Germans killed or wounded.

The new German cabinet includes Dr. Edward David, formerly president of the assembly; Mathias Erzberger, head of the armistice commission, and Gustave Noske, minister of national defense.

Premier Scheidemann and his ministers apparently are still in office while formation of a new government is being discussed. Dr. Edward David is given most mention as the

new premier and one report has Count Von Bernstorff as foreign minister, but with few other changes from the old cabinet.

Peace conference circles view the situation with optimism and plans for signing of the treaty are being carried into execution.

Berlin reports say Mathias, Erzberger, head of the German armistice commission, is sending the conference a request that Germany be admitted to the league of nations, that the purpose to try the former emperor be not pressed, and that the German indemnity be placed at 100,000,000,000 marks gold. There is no official confirmation of this.

A state of siege has been declared in the region of Munster, east of the Rhine in Westphalia. Spartacan disturbances are reported to have led to the proclamation.

The Italian cabinet situation has not been cleared up. Francesco Nitto, former minister of finance, apparently is continuing his efforts to form a ministry. It is reported that Tomasso Tittoni will resume his old post as foreign minister.

DAVID A SOCIALIST
Paris, June 24.—The reported for-
(Continued on Page Four)

THE COUNTY LIBRARY IS A CERTAINTY

There were more than enough signers secured for the Free County Library and the names have been turned into the County Commissioners and have been accepted by them. It will be necessary to post notices of a public hearing, said notices to be posted for four weeks, after which it will be only a matter of a short time before the Library is a reality. A year from now people will perhaps wonder how they ever got along without these libraries.

HELENA LIGHT PLANT IS BURNED IN FIRES

Helena, Mont., June 22.—A forest fire between Helena and Canyon Ferry late this afternoon burned Helena's light and power wires. A large crew of men is working on the wires but the power company says the capital may be without lights and power all right. The fire in the forests is not especially serious but happened to cross the power company's system of wires, burning them out for more than mile.

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS

There will be a stockholders meeting of the Archer Farmers Union at Archer, Mont., on Wednesday, July 2nd, at two o'clock in the afternoon. ARCHER FARMERS UNION.
By M. C. KNUDSEN, Manager.