

# THE PRODUCERS NEWS

A PAPER

OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE,  
Continuing the OUTLOOK PROMOTER Vol. VII Number 14

FOR THE PEOPLE

VOLUME 2

PLENTYWOOD, SHERIDAN COUNTY, MONTANA, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21 1919

NUMBER 32

## A PROTEST BY JOHN HARDERSON'S NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS

To the Editor of the Producers News,  
Plentywood, Mont.  
Dear Sir:

A misleading and willfully slanderous article appears in the October 24th issue of the Pioneer Press, and ye editor sneakingly like a yellow-backed slacker crawls behind the camouflaged signature of the "UN-ORGANIZED" vindictive Landerberg. We ask you to take this little protest into your paper. We are also sending it to other papers. The protest is as follows:

We, the friends and neighbors of John Harderson, protest to the Public Mind of religion, law, and moral decency to forbid a camouflaged, slimy sneak of an editor to use the name of a righteous, well-meaning gentleman in order to spew his cooked-up political venom upon the Nonpartisan League or upon Socialists. John Harderson is in every way a gentleman and an honest thinking man. He has previously served a three years' term of volunteer service in the U. S. army and returned with a clean military record—an honorable discharge. Mr. Harderson knew what military law and

order meant—but his conscience and religious belief protested to him taking part in killing. He did not seek a "Bomb proof" job some where in the rear—like many of our camouflaged "patriots" (?) did—the yellowest slacker. He is a Conscientious Objector and has fully shown himself to be so—not a yellow-backed mud slinger like ye editor of the "Poisoner" Press. We would also like to know what he'll do, so-called editor of the "Poisoner" Press, took part in, or what he's doing for an excuse you have for staying home to throw slanders, slimy spears at working people?

John Harderson was a good farmer and homesteader. His only variance with the Government was his Russellite religious belief, but having a faith in the government to exercise his right of religious belief as guaranteed by the Constitution and as set forth in Wilson's "Selective" (J) service plan, he allowed himself to act in accordance with his conscientious belief.

In closing this brief protest we attach a poem entitled, "We Should Protest" by Ella Wheeler Wilcox:

To sit in silence when we should protest  
Makes coward out of man—the human race  
Has climbed on protest. Had no voice been raised  
Against injustice, ignorance and lust,  
The inquisition yet would serve the law,  
And guillotines decide our least disputes.

The few who dare must speak and speak again  
To right the wrong of many.  
We must protest against oppression and condemn  
The lawlessness of wealth-protecting laws  
That let the children and child-bearers toil  
To purchase ease for idle millionaires.

Therefore, I do not protest against the host  
Of independence in this mighty land,  
Call no chain strong which holds one rusted link,  
Call no land free that holds one fettered slave,  
Until the marauded slim wrists of babes  
Are loosed to toss in childish sport and glee,  
Until the mother bears no burden, save  
The precious one beneath her bosom until  
God's soil is rescued from the clutch of greed,  
And given back to labor, let no man  
Call this the land of freedom.

Signed  
WILLIAM MOE, (Formerly Corp. Wm. Moe, 91st Div.), Archer  
N. M. ALMBERG, Archer, Mont.  
OLE MOE, (Formerly Corporal Ole Moe, 32d Div.), Archer, Mont.  
NELS HOE, Archer, Mont.  
PEOPR P. MOE, Archer, Mont.  
EMIL MOE, Archer, Mont.  
EDDIE MOE, Archer, Mont.  
CHAS. MADSEN, Archer, Mont.  
KNUTE KNUDSON, Archer, Mont.  
CHRIST KNUDSON, Archer, Mont.  
KARL GILBERTSON, Archer, Mont.  
HENRY STYVE, Archer, Mont.  
W. B. NAJLOR, Archer.  
CPL. OTTO A. HOFF, 17 Inf., Archer, Mont.  
PVT. LAWRENCE M. LARSON, 28 Div., Archer, Mont.  
PVT. F. C. ALBERT ALMBERG, G. M. C., Archer, Mont.  
J. H. SANDVIG  
JOHN C. BERLER, Archer, Mont.  
NELS E. N. OP, Archer  
ANDREW L. FADNESS (Gen. Co., C. A. C. P. S. C. D.), Archer  
PETE KIAMAS, Archer, Mont.

## FORD WINS FIRST ROUND IN TAX QUESTION SUIT

On September 2, the state board of equalization assessed the Montana Power company approximately \$30,000,000. Governor S. V. Stewart is the leading spirit on this board. He acted as chairman of this meeting. A couple of months before the Montana Power Company had made a report to the Montana State Railroad commission. This commission has the power to fix rates that public utilities may charge in this state.

From this report we get the following:

**MONTANA POWER CO.**  
Stocks and Bonds.  
Preferred stock  
issued ..... \$ 9,700,000  
(Dividend last year, 7 per cent)  
Common stock  
issued ..... \$49,633,333  
(Dividend last year, 5 per cent)  
Bonds issued ..... \$27,673,000

Total ..... \$87,006,333  
Physical Value. This is simply cost of construction and acquiring properties, and does not include interest, income or dividends from investments in stocks and bonds of other companies.

(Note—The difference between the amount of stock and bonds and the physical value is made up largely of investments in the stock and bonds of other companies.)

Earnings. Net earnings from operation, which does not include interest, income or dividends from investments in other companies or from any source other than operation, and from which is deducted depreciation and taxes paid.

Capitalizing net earnings at  
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## DISTRICT COURT MILL GRINDING

Criminal Calendar Nearly Completed—Many Interesting Developments—Will Be Through With Criminal Calendar Next Week.

The District Court mill is grinding its grist slowly and will probably be through with the criminal calendar next week. Judge C. E. Comer of the Twentieth Judicial District is presiding. Several verdicts of judgment have been rendered and many of the judgments have been discussed.

The first case on the calendar was the case of the State vs. Anton Johnson, of Scooby, slacker case, resulting in an acquittal; Alfred T. Vellum, attorney for defense.

The next was the Westby gambling case, the State vs. J. O. Johnson and George Daughters, tried on Friday, the 14th, resulted in acquittal; Howard M. Lewis, attorney for defense.

This case was followed by the State vs. Stading for violating liquor laws, found guilty by jury and jury assessed fine of \$27 and ten days in jail and suspended the jail sentence; Attorney Bentley of Westby appeared for the defense.

Then came the case of the State vs. Bert Herron and Wm. Best, gambling; found guilty; Howard M. Lewis, attorney for the defense.

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## SCOBEY PASTOR PEACE DISTURBER

Rev. Cookingham Takes Punch At Anton Johnson—Sure Some Pug—Will Be Tried Next Monday in Judge Olson's Court.

Rev. Cookingham, pastor of the Methodist church at Scooby, was arrested last Saturday on a warrant issued by Judge Olson for disturbing the peace in the quiet hamlet of Plentywood that morning.

It seemed that the Scooby divine had much to say over the verdict in the Johnson case. In which he took a very active part, and expressed his opinion of the jury in particular and the county officers in general in a very bossy manner, and also belittled himself with vehemence in reference to the acquitted man Johnson, and was engaged in taking a number of the jurors which he had next on the street, to task for their verdict when Johnson came up and the pastor hopped onto him, using abusive and scurrilous language and got so overheated that he finally took a sweat at Mr. Johnson, hitting him in the chest, following with an upper cut on the snout, and then pushing Johnson off from the sidewalk, and otherwise acting as a minister of the gospel should not, so it is said by eye witnesses.

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## STATE OPERATION OF MINES GREAT VICTORY FOR FRAZIER

The taking over of the North Dakota coal mines under the order issued by Governor Frazier early Wednesday morning, has not only been accomplished without a hitch, with the exception of threatened litigation by two of the leading companies, but the highly successful operation of the mines by the state had resulted in return almost to normal production by Friday and the unfolding of a plan to get the coal to the consumers at about the cost of production. In addition, the attempt of big business and U. V. A. Lobs to array the federal government against the state administration has already failed. The federal government has acknowledged the act of Governor Frazier and has offered to co-operate in the distribution of coal.

These results have turned the tables completely on the political and big business foes of the state administration who thru their treacherous machinations split the operators and prevented an agreement with the miners thus necessitating the temporary seizure of the mines by the state.

**Miners Accept Plan**

Prior to the issuing of the order by the governor, Henry J. Drennan, president of the United Mine Workers for this district, stated that the miners would return to work for the state, but not for the operators, and that all they asked was that the coal mines would be operated by the state for the benefit of the people and that prices and profits should be kept as low as possible. He wired the various miners' unions of the state, instructing them to return to work at the old scale of wages and hours of work in case the state of North Dakota took over the mines.

The plan of state operation and price and profits reduction put into effect by Governor Frazier was as follows:

The operators were left in charge of their mines, under state supervision. The bookkeeping in all the mines was taken over by the state. The plan will be to have a state commission for a uniform production under the most advanced and efficient system possible. The price of coal will be fixed by the state and distributed to the consumers at a profit. A fair profit will be allowed. In furtherance of the national plan, the state will be asked to take the distribution of coal to consumers under its attention.

**Big Companies Protest**  
The taking over of the mines by the state was accomplished mainly Thursday with no trou-

ble except legal protests and threats of litigation by two big operators out of the thirty mines taken over. At Wilton the Washburn Coal company resorted to a trick and sent the cars belonging to the Soo line at its mine back to Minneapolis and later served a legal protest against the state seizure of its property. Governor Frazier sent Minneapolis for the return of the cars and they were back at the mines Friday.

A protest was filed against the state operation of the two mines of the North Dakota Coal company at Pasco and Midway near Mand. Two representatives of this company and the Washburn company were the principal objectors who prevented the success of the Governor's conference of the owners and miners before the order taking over the mines was issued.

**Federal Authorities Agreeable**

The first word received by the state administration intimating the attitude of the federal authorities toward the taking over of the mines in North Dakota was received from Attorney General Frazier Thursday. It said,

"Receipts acknowledged of you, with advising that you have taken over the coal mines in your state. As at present advised, I see no occasion for action of the coal be handled thru you."

Late Friday Governor Frazier received assurance of full co-operation by the federal railroad administration in the following message:

**"Hon. Lynn J. Frazier, Governor—"**

"Have your telegram of 12th to director general, and assure you fullest co-operation. Hope you will instruct that distribution of the coal be handled thru railroad administration to insure proper co-ordination having in mind the dock and other bituminous coal railroad administration is distributing. We have brot this matter to the attention of Regional Director Ashton, who is in immediate charge, and we are sure he will cooperate to the fullest extent. I trust you will give the necessary instruction to the North Dakota people that they do their utmost to cooperate with Mr. Ashton."

**Production Nearly Normal**

By Saturday fifty coal mines were operating under state supervision and were turning out 4,000 tons of coal a day. This was within 1,000 tons of the regular production. The increase in output has been very rapid from the day the state first started to operate the first

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## BERT HERRON AND BILL BEST "DUCK SOUPED"

Raymond Gambling Case Develops Sensational Features—Duck Party Didn't Save "Nanny"—Many Different Stories Told—Somebody Blundered.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SHOWS SPEED

The Raymond gambling case has had its day in court.

Twelve men, good and true, found Bert Herron and Bill Best guilty of gambling with Louis Kessler and doing other things at the Harmon and Best pool hall at Raymond at the tail end of February last winter.

The case was called for trial Wednesday morning, November 19, County Attorney Gunther, and Assistant County Attorney Cudde appeared for the state and the able Howard M. Lewis, lawyer, for the defendants, which lawyer fought his usual with might and main. It other words did his darndest.

The jury was composed of D. E. Healey of Dellevue, A. B. Yull of Mader, Otto E. Anger of Westby, H. L. Chapin of Plentywood, John McNulty of Antelope, Francis Montague of Flaville, Frank Matternak of Scooby, Paul Paulson of Reserve, Christ Hansen of Mador, P. M. Astrup of Coalbridge, W. E. Lindsey of Scooby and M. Grantham of Plentywood.

The case has been the center of interest of the criminal calendar at this term, and the trial was attended by a large crowd, even standing room being at a premium at all times.

Evidence was presented at the trial that the defendants tried to bribe, through other parties, the complaining witness not to appear and that fifty dollars was paid to him not to appear, and it was claimed to have been bargained that after the trial that if he did not appear that he was to get one hundred and twenty-five dollars more. However, the complaining witness did appear, together with F. X. Kohler, who testified that he acted as a go-between in handling the money. Louis Kessler and F. X. Kohler are Russian Germans residing in Canada just across the line north of Raymond.

The case was hard fought and much contradictory evidence

was introduced, indicating that some one was not testifying to the truth.

One of the amusing stories told was the tale of a duck supper which was given by Bert Herron, so it was said, and which duck supper was held to celebrate the case and the defendants, but the date was to have been postponed and the duck supper was given on the wrong date, the night of the gambling case. It was supposed to have taken place instead of the night which the gambling case supposed to have occurred.

The jury grew weary as the duck supper was proceeded, until the case went to the jury. Many contradictory witnesses were called in order to determine just who was probably telling the truth. For there was evidence in the foot of them, evidence to the left of them, evidence to the right of them, evidence behind them and well did the jury know that someone had blundered, but there was not to inquire why, theirs but to try and try, while counsels thundered to learn just who got plundered—in fact this case has got the famous problem of who hit "Billy Patterson" backed completely off the track.

The jury retired, after they had been properly talked to by Howard M. Lewis and Attorneys Gunther and Cudde and after a few moments brought back a verdict of guilty, leaving the sentence to the court—and from all indications the duck dinner will be followed by duck soup.

From all appearances the verdict was a righteous one, however, it is reported that the case will be appealed to the supreme court.

The winning of this hard fought legal battle is sure a plume in the cap of the County Attorney and his assistant. It is appearing that that office is developing more and more speed as time goes on, which fact is gratifying to the farmers.

## SENATE VOTES DOWN TREATY PACT; SESSION ENDS

Ratification Fails After Three Tries—All Compromises Rejected and Straight-Out Resolution Fails—Country Still at War.

Washington, Nov. 19.—Failing after three attempts to ratify the peace treaty, the senate late tonight laid it aside, ended the special session and went home.

Two of three ratification votes were taken on the resolution drafted by the republican majority containing reservations which President Wilson had told democratic senators in a letter earlier in the day would mean nullification of the treaty. On each of the votes most of the democratic supporters of the treaty voted against ratification.

All compromise efforts to bring ratification failed, but three resolutions of ratification

were going down by overwhelming majorities.

**Introduce Resolution**

The republican leaders apparently despairing of bringing two-thirds of the senate together for any sort of ratification then put in a resolution to declare the war at an end.

The first vote on this resolution stood 39 to 55 against. On the second vote taken after several hours of parliamentary wrangling in which the democrats made vain efforts to win over some of the republican group of mild reservationists, 41 senators voted in the affirmative and 51 in the negative.

The third vote was on a straightout ratification without reservations which got only 38 votes to 53 opposing it. Only one republican, Senator McCum-

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