

THE PRODUCERS NEWS

A PAPER

OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE,
Continuing the OUTLOOK PROMOTER Vol. VII Number 15

FOR THE PEOPLE

VOLUME 2

PLENTYWOOD, SHERIDAN COUNTY, MONTANA, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28 1919

NUMBER 33

Judge Finds Against the Taxpayers

FARM BUREAU DIRECTORS MEET

Many Important Matters Discussed—Nearly All Directors Present.

The following Farm Bureau Directors met at the Farm Bureau Office November 14th: H. P. Madsen, Carl B. Peterson, Niels Christensen, John Stoner and Mrs. Clair Stoner. Members absent were Hans J. Dixon, Dagmar, and Mrs. Edith Humbert, Scobey.

Minutes of former meetings were read and approved. The report of the tellers committee on the election of the Farm Bureau Directors and Community Committeemen were read and approved. A division was made between the memberships of Roosevelt and Sheridan County Farm Bureaus. A tentative agreement had formerly been drawn up between the County Agents. The same was read and approved. Hereafter all the Farm Bureau members in Roosevelt County will secure the Roosevelt County Farm Bureau News instead of Sheridan County Farm Bureau News. If any Roosevelt County farmers wish to belong to the Sheridan County Farm Bureau they may join hereafter.

The correspondence with the Railroad Administration trying to find out why the Farm Bureau has to pay a higher rate on the shipments of gopher poison than other shippers was taken up. It was pointed out that there was more danger in shipping gopher bait in sacks than in boxes. Therefore the rate was higher. An effort will be made to get the rate reduced on gopher bait in sacks. A letter was received from Attorney General Ford stating that the money which had been received in the old County Seed Grain loans could not be used again by the farmers. This money must be used to pay off the bonds on these seed grain loans. All correspondence in connection with the relief for the drouth stricken farmers on the Fort Peck reservation was discussed and filed for further use. The Farm Bureau has the assurance that something will be done for the relief of the farmers on the Fort Peck.

The Directors further discussed the County Drouth Relief proposition and decided that they would not recommend to the commissioners to call an election unless sufficient requests were eventually filed to warrant the calling of the same. This stands as formerly. They also concluded that no election would be called for road bonds unless a Drouth Relief election was also called. They do not consider the road bonding proposition as a Drouth Relief proposition. Furthermore there are too many counties at this time taking up road bonding and therefore the costs are too high. Road bonding should be postponed for at least a period of one or two years. The following claims were presented, approved, and paid: Claim No. 23 by E. W. Anderson for postage on Oct. issue of the Farm Bureau News and for postal cards \$18.66. Claim No. 31, Producers News for printing October issue of Farm Bureau News \$39.50.

It was moved, seconded and carried that a budget of \$3500 be requested from the County Commissioners for County Agent work for the year 1920. It was moved, seconded and carried that H. P. Madsen, President of the Farm Bureau, attend the Farm Bureau Conference at Bozeman this winter. Mr. Niels Christensen, vice

PIONEER SETTLER CALLED NOV. 17TH

F. W. Richardson, Pioneer Cattleman of Big Muddy Valley Dies Monday.

Antelope Independent: The people of Antelope and community were deeply grieved Monday morning of this week when the phone message was received announcing the death of Fred Richardson for twenty years a resident and highly respected citizen of this vicinity. The end came after only a few days' illness, and in the presence of his wife, children and immediate relatives.

Frederick Wellington Richardson was born June 14, 1872, at the little town of Sackville, in the Province of New Brunswick, Canada. When nine years old, his parents, Robert II. and Anna Richardson, moved with the family to Custer, South Dakota. At this place, Fred finished his education and, at the age of eighteen, started out seeking his own fortune.

From Custer he journeyed west trailing a bunch of cattle to Chinook, Montana, where he rode for four years for the Sands Cattle Company. He then bought a herd of his own and in the spring of 1898 moved to Buford, N. D. Two years later he came to this county, pitching his tent in the wind sheltered flats of the big Muddy Valley, where his ranch home was later erected.

At that time settlers were few and separated by many miles of prairie and lonely hills. But finding the location an ideal one for cattle business he began the task of building up the quality of his herd, which finally brought prosperity. Joined by his brothers, Robert and Weldon, who took up adjoining ranches, the three worked in perfect harmony in their ranching, farming and coal mining operations.

On September 28, 1911, Fred was joined in marriage to Miss Florence Carlson.

Eight years ago Mr. Richardson became identified with the Citizens State Bank of Antelope at the time of its organization, and since that time has been one of its directors and officers. Although managing his ranch and looking after his mining interests, Mr. Richardson was always found boosting every welfare movement of the town and community.

About 10 years ago, he was afflicted with locomotor ataxia. During that time he served several years as custom officer between this and the Canadian governments.

To mourn his departure he leaves a sorrowing widow and three children; three sisters, Mrs. Webster of Heavner, Oklahoma, Alice J. Walsh of Los Angeles and Maggie of Antelope; four brothers, Edward, of Oklahoma; Robert S. and Weldon, of Antelope, and C. A. of Lodge Grass, Montana.

The deceased was a member of the Masonic Order, whose members took charge of the funeral this afternoon, conducting the solemn Masonic ceremony at the home and grave. The funeral was one of the largest ever witnessed in Antelope.

His place in the community was so well known that it was moved and seconded that the Farm Bureau News be sent to paid up Farm Bureau members only as near as possible. Carried. Adjourned.

Producers News Wants Ads bring results. If you have anything to sell, rent or have lost or found an article, our Want Column will serve you.

GET PETITIONS IN

The time has come when all "Save the Primaries" petitions must be sent in. All those having petitions should send them to League Headquarters at Great Falls at once.

Find your petitions and mail them in today.

SKY PILOT GETS CONTINUANCE

Scobey's Fighting Preacher Will Be Tried December 3rd for Assault on "Mista Johnsing."

The Reverend Mr. Cookingham, the famous Scobey fighting Sky Pilot took a continuance before Judge Olson the first of the week and will not be tried until December 3rd, we understand, for disturbing the peace in the very heart of the city of Plentywood a couple of weeks ago by jumping upon and punching Mr. Johnson of Scobey on account of being so mad because the jury did not find Johnson guilty of a crime with the prosecution of which Mr. Cookingham is reported, to have been very active.

The Rev. Mr. Cookingham is very widely known in Sheridan county, becoming very prominent last summer by holding a special prayer meeting for rain at Scobey, which was answered, it seems before morning, by a sprinkle at Scobey and a down pour to the northwest of the big end town.

The trial of the Scobey pastor in attracting more interest in the county seat than a circus, and when the trial takes place there promises to be a street fair audience present.

FOSTER FOUND NOT GUILTY

Comertown Citizen Tried for Assault With a Deadly Weapon in the Vicinity of Comertown Last Summer, Acquitted.

H. P. Foster, well known Comertown citizen, was acquitted in the district court by a jury of his peers after a trial covering a couple days at the court house at Plentywood, last Monday evening.

Mr. Foster was bound over to the district court last July and held to trial on the charge of assault with a deadly weapon upon Wm. Galloway and other of his neighbors.

It seems that there was a dispute over the possession of certain property, off from which Foster drove the complaining witness with a gun.

It seems to have developed in court that Foster had the right to the possession of the property and the jury held that the defendant was doing nothing more than defending his own property which the law justifies according to the instruction of the court.

Attorney Vollum appeared for the defendant, Foster, and County Attorney Gunther, assisted by Howard M. Lewis, appeared for the state.

The jury acquitted on the first ballot.

CRIMINAL CALENDAR IS FINISHED

The criminal calendar was finished the first of the week, except those cases which were put over till February when there will be another criminal calendar. The court is now busy hearing civil cases, with which it will be busy till the first of the year.

FARM BUREAU COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Suggested dates and meeting places of Farm Bureau Community Committees and General Farm Bureau meetings. The Committee meeting is to start at 9:30 a. m. and the community program at 1:30 p. m. Both should start promptly at the hour set. If it should be that the meetings can not be held at the places indicated the committee in consultation with chairman should make the necessary changes. Dates cannot be changed. Other school house meetings and dates may be arranged for February:

Dec. 8, Monday, Scobey; at theatre; chairman, Frank Hughes.

December 9, Tuesday, at Scobey, Middle Fork hall, C. O. Humbert, chairman.

December 10, Wednesday, at Madoc, hall; Hans Hole, chairman.

December 11, Thursday, at Flaxville, in hall; Carl Froslan, chairman.

December 12, Friday, Redstone, at hall; Carl Froslan, chairman.

December 13, Saturday, Archier, at hall, J. J. Morgan, chairman.

December 15, Monday, Plentywood, F. B. office, A. F. Ziebarth, chairman.

December 16, Tuesday, Antelope, at hall, Fred Glaze, chairman.

December 17, Dagmar, at meeting house; Jorgen Jorgensen, chairman.

Dec. 18, Thursday, Medicine Lake, Hotel; Raleigh Gentry, chairman.

Dec. 19, Friday, Homestead, at hall; S. A. Noland, chairman.

December 22, Monday, White-tail, at hall; W. E. Dunn, chairman.

December 23, Tuesday, Daleview, at hall; Horace Hurst, chairman.

December 24, Wednesday, Outlook, hall; Andrew Ueland, chairman.

December 30, Tuesday, Raymond, hall; W. R. Mack, chairman.

December 31, Wednesday, Dooley, at hall; D. J. Cooper, chairman.

January 2, Friday, Comertown, school house; R. P. Fitzgerald.

If there are to be any meetings or school programs in your vicinities you should notify the County Agent Anderson, also state subject you wish to take up. He will let you know if he can be present.

PROGRAM:

10 a. m. Community Committee meeting.
1:00 p. m. General Community meeting, school children and songs, committee reports, County Agent Anderson, Farm Bureau Director and others. This will be a real community program.

I. O. O. F. HELD BIG OYSTER FEED AT FROID

Froid Tribune: There was a good attendance at the I. O. O. F. meeting held last night, work in the third degree was conferred on two candidates after which the members enjoyed a big oyster feed prepared by chef Fransen. The next meeting will be held Monday night of next week instead of the regular night on account of Thanksgiving. Work in the initiatory degree will be conferred on two candidates. A good attendance is desired.

Decisions Hold That the Sections of the Constitution Prohibiting State From Spending or Appropriating \$100,000, or the County \$10,000, Without Submitting to People, Just Legal Fiction.

Judge Comer, who has had the decision in the Land Classification Injunction suit filed by Clair Stoner on behalf of the taxpayers against the Board of County Commissioners and Lockwood and Blakelee, Classification Contractors, under advisement for some time rendered a decision today adverse to the taxpayers, holding both that the county commissioners were acting within their power when they let this classification contract without bids in the sum of about \$30,000, in spite of the inhibition of the constitution which prohibits absolutely the county commissioners from entering into a contract or the contracting of any indebtedness involving a sum greater than \$10,000 without first submitting the proposition to a vote of the electors of the county.

The court takes the position that the state legislature has the authority to provide for the equal levy of taxes throughout the state as provided for in another section of the constitution. However, under this very section of the constitution, the state could not provide for the expenditure of more than \$100,000 without first submitting the proposition to a vote of the people of the state, according to the constitution, and this law will cost the people of the State of Montana over a million dollars, but it seems in this case that Judge Comer holds that the legislature can delegate authority to the several subdivisions of the state to do the things that both the legislature and the subdivisions themselves are prohibited from doing by the constitution.

In fact the decision of Judge Comer seems to upset and set aside the entire constitution of the state of Montana, and it seems that it takes a pile of legal hob-nob-pokus to make the decision of the court in this case harmonize with the very first principles of either constitutional or any other kind of law.

It is fundamental in law, that any body cannot delegate to another body powers that the

delegating body does not itself possess.

Yet this decision decides that it does; decides in other words that the created is greater than the creator.

This case will be discussed more fully next week.

In the meantime, a notice of appeal will be filed by Onstad and Greer, attorneys for Clair Stoner, and the case appealed to the Supreme Court of the state. To do this it will be necessary to raise more money. It is a shame that always the burden of this kind must be placed always upon the taxpayers, upon those who are constantly being defrauded, but it seems that this is the case and if the taxpayers of this county and this state want to put a stop to this, one of the most barefaced and rotten graft that has ever been perpetrated upon the taxpayers of this county, this case must be carried up.

It is the sincere belief of this writer that the supreme court of Montana will reverse the decision of Judge Comer unanimously, that the classification law has not a legal leg to stand on, and that the taxpayers ought to see to it that the case is taken to the supreme court.

A stop must be put to this sort of graft in the state of Montana, and the grafters who are always promoting these gold brick undertakings at the expense of the taxpayers should be run out into the open where the people can get their number and force them to go to work.

To do this will cost the taxpayers money, but it will be money well spent. Less than \$150 has been collected so far mostly in the sums of \$1. It is necessary to raise the sum of about \$600 to put this case through the supreme court. We know that there are 600 people in Sheridan county that are willing to donate from \$1 to \$5 each to see whether the grafters of this state can pull a steal of this kind and get away with it. If you are one of those, send in your donation today.

DO IT NOW.

NONPARTISAN LEAGUE CALLS ANNUAL MEET

Accredited delegates from thirteen states, all the members of the state committees and five boosters from various states will attend the annual meeting of the national committee of the Nonpartisan League in St. Paul, Tuesday, December 9.

Among the matters to be taken up at this meeting as announced by the executive committee, will be policies, the platform and the campaign activities for next year's elections. The committee, under the articles of association, has authority to amend the articles and adopt rules and regulations for the government of the League, and it is expected that this will occupy much of the time of the delegates. The books and accounts will also be audited and a full report given out as to the finances and an accounting for the benefit of the members.

The national committee consists of the chairman of each state committee. These committees are chosen at state conventions. The national executive committee consists of three members elected from the mem-

\$750.00 AND "DUCK SOUP" WITH THE SHERIFF

Bert Herron and Bill Best Draw Short Flush From Judge Comer—Should Have Had "Rabbit's Foot" Instead of "Duck Soup."

Seven hundred fifty dollars and "duck soup" each with Sheriff Bennett for three months this winter is what the Raymond gamblers got when Judge Comer dealt the cards last Saturday evening, and Messrs. Herron and Best tried to fil to a "four flush."

Many of the pastebord artists insist that "duck soup" is "not there" as a defense to a gambling charge, and that for luck there is nothing to compare with a "rabbit's foot."

It is reported that Messrs. Herron and Best will go to the supreme court, but most people don't believe this.

Membership of the national committee. The national committee, consisting of farmers, under the articles of association is the supreme authority in the organization.