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Townley, Ladd and Screenings

To Mr. Guy M. Putney:

Your communication in first issue of the Independent in February was observed, as well as your defender's, the editor of the Press. I have delayed answering in order to see a neighbor who has all records of and on Townleyism. The severe weather prevented my going to see that neighbor until last week.

If you had taken the trouble to go to some elevator man, instead of going to a radical editor, you most certainly would NEVER have written such a "kick." I knew all the while that the N. P. L. claims about "saving the farmers on dockage" was purely imaginary. But I least suspected that an investigation would prove that those "dockage laws" were not only NOT a benefit but actually detrimental to the farmers. This fact I will prove to you.

There has been so much false claims by league papers that it will require considerable space, hence I shall be compelled to give it in two or three installments.

Evidently your friend, the editor of the Press, is of the opinion that whenever he points his "ridicule gun" at a farmer, that it will scare the farmer so badly that he will be afraid to come back in reply. But ridicule cannot stand up against facts nor does it have any "scare" effect on me.

In this article I shall deal with the Townley, Ladd and your editor friend's part.

Your friend of the Press said:

"Dr. Ladd is not the person who compiled the statistics that showed the \$55,000,000 annual loss. * * * The figures were compiled by Dr. John H. Worst and caused his removal as president of the N. D. Agricultural College."

As to Dr. Ladd's part. Dr. Worst having asserted that farmers are losing millions of dollars annually—Fertility loss, because the farmers could not keep cattle to produce MANURE; and the screenings loss prevented farmers from keeping cattle. Dr. Ladd took the matter to his laboratory to prove the assertion by chemical analysis.

The following excerpts are taken from editor Townley's quotations from Prof. Ladd's "Ole and John" story, wherein Dr. Ladd by using false premises undertook to prove that millers made more profits out of "rejected wheat than out of No. 1 grade. Editor Townley said about Prof. Ladd and had the Prof. saying viz:

"The result is a mess of facts, scientifically accurate, that condemn the present grading rules and show that under them the farmers of N. D. are losing MILLIONS OF DOLLARS annually."

"The farmers of N. D. are docked. Not only that. They pay the freight on them to the terminal markets. Commissioner Ladd asserted that on the average 3.99 per cent of the wheat as it comes to the local elevators is screenings. * * * Screenings are shrunken and broken kernels of wheat, dirt, weed seed, wild oats etc. The wheat crop of N. D. averages 100,000,000 bushels and from this commissioner Ladd finds the farmers are docked 239,400,000 pounds x x x And they pay the freight on these screenings to the terminal markets each year."

"SCREENINGS A GOLD MINE"
"Prof. Ladd's analysis of screenings show them to be a valuable stock food, sold back to the farmers at \$20 per ton, after he has given them away thru dockage."

In an editorial editor Townley said:
"If (Ladd's article) will open your eyes to one of the greatest steals ever perpetrated upon the farmers of N. D."—National Leader, March 2, 1916.

Dr. Worst had discovered some "powder for a revolutionist" yet editor Townley's editorial evidently shows that from a "revolutionist" stand point Prof. Ladd had completely eclipsed Dr. Worst. Dr. Worst said the farmers had lost millions of something that would make rich soil, while Townley and Ladd discovered it to be a "Gold Mine."

There are four elevators in Berthold viz: Andrews, W. E. Tucker, Independent; Farmers and Victoria. All of the managers of these elevators call "dockage and screenings" the same thing. Dr. Ladd does NOT make any discrimination.

As to Worst's part. In the same issue of the Leader just quoted we find a complete statement about HOW, WHY, etc. Dr. Worst was dismissed from the Agricultural College. Editor Townley made NO intimation of Dr. Worst being dismissed on account of his stand on dockage. Here is the substance as given by the Leader viz:

"President Worst charged that the Better Farming association had been an organization of business men formed for the purpose of getting control of the college and that it had succeeded. x x Thomas Cooper was made director of Better Farming association. x x This branch of the work was taken out from under the management of Dr. Worst. x x Pres. Worst declared this situation was undermining the efficiency of the school dividing it against itself under the two-headed management and he demanded he be reinstated to full power."

It is easy to see from the Senator's statement that the case of Dr. Worst's dismissal was that the agricultural college was suffering from "Too much Worst dictatorship." The same as the N. P. L. which caused its defeat October 29 last, when the farmers discovered that the league was suffering from "Too much socialist dictatorship."

I will go into actual workings of the Dockage law in my next article. Keep this article for comparison and reference.

—Correspondent for Independent.

Leghorn Pullets Make Best Record in Month

Five White Leghorn pullets at the Agricultural college laid a dozen or more eggs in the last month, while but one hen, a White Rock equalled

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this record altho the hens in the college
poultry houses outnumbered the pul-
lets two to one. The Leghorns made
records of 17, 15, 14, 12 and 12 re-
spectively, while the White Rock hen
laid 12. This White Rock hen laid
18 eggs in December, 18 in January
and 12 in February, a total of 48 for
the three winter months, which is the
record for the flock. Her nearest
competitor is an Ancona hen with
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