

"Government For And By The People With Majority Rule Under Any And All Circumstances."

VOLUME XI

DEVILS LAKE, NORTH DAKOTA,

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1922.

NUMBER 53

RESPONSIBILITY OF FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD FOR FARM SLUMP TO BE INVESTIGATED

The American Farm Bureau Federation has instructed President Howard to appoint a committee to investigate the responsibility of the Federal Reserve Board in the present low prices of farm products and general business stagnation. That President Howard will appoint the committee seems certain.

President Howard had some very strong ideas on the question himself. In his speech at the Minnesota State Fair last year, he called attention to the fact that while the Bank of England has no banker on its board of directors, there are nothing but bankers on the Federal Reserve Board.

Wallace Farmer, a paper of which Secretary of Agriculture Wallace is at least a part owner, in an issue appearing before his appointment, held the Reserve Bank directly responsible for the present business conditions in the United States. Northwest Farmstead has studied the question very carefully for a long time. It has disliked to believe that any body of men could deliberately and intentionally bring about such a condition as exists with reference to money in the United States. The evidence pointing to the Federal Reserve Board has seemed very definite, and it must be admitted that the explanations of the bank's officers have appeared to becloud the issue rather than to make it clear.

The Federal Reserve law is certainly a good one. Directed by the right kind of men, it would do the thing it was intended to accomplish, prevent panics and tend to reduce fluctuations in prices by providing an elastic currency, expanding and contracting with the volume of business. Administered wisely for this purpose, it carried us without financial difficulty through a tremendous war, in which we were able even to finance foreign countries.

It has, however, one defect. Operated by men who so desire, it may be made, by expanding and contracting the currency, to work backwards, and expand and contract business and values at the whim or in the interest of those who direct its policies.

Whether by this process business and values have been wantonly deflated to the profit of large holders of money and securities and to the great loss of farmers and business men and smaller banks, is, as Northwest Farmstead understands it, the question which the Farm Bureau committee will be asked to investigate.

Something has gone radically wrong with our financial system. It seems to be running backward. A good many folks think the Federal Reserve Board has thrown the wrong switch. We certainly ought to have an investigation by able, fearless and incorruptible men in whom we can have full confidence. Any other sort will leave the situation worse than it is now.

If present conditions are the result of deliberate and intentional action on the part of the Reserve Board they richly deserve the execration they are receiving. If not, they should be fully exonerated.—Northwest Farmstead.

CENTURY'S 21ST YEAR WETTEST WILDEST, DRYEST AND DOG-GONDEST EVER

The year nineteen and twenty-one was the hottest and wettest in the history of North Dakota and the Lake Region: The rainfall was 25.39 inches, or 5.23 inches above normal, and the mean temperature was 39.9 degrees, or 3.5 above normal for this region, according to figures given out by Mr. Hovde, of the local U. S. Weather Bureau.

The heaviest rainfall for twenty-four hours during the year was on August 25, when 4.53 inches fell in that length of time. The wet months were April, June, July, August, September, October and December and the dry months were January, February, March, May and November.

The highest temperature was registered on July 9th, when the mercury attained 97 degrees, and the coldest was on December 24th, when it went down to 24 degrees below zero.

Nor were the conditions in North Dakota—and Devils Lake—abnormal in a meteorological sense, only, for it will ease the consciences of all of us to think that the conjunction of planets had something to do with it. A bit of astrologer's lore will come in handy here to prove that "contending" were not altogether responsible for certain words, acts, eva-

Mill & El. Committee Named by Nestos

The following men have been selected by Gov. Nestos to make a special study of the State Mill and Elevator undertaking at Grand Forks: A. J. Gronna of Lakota, is named chairman of the special commission on account of his extensive property interests in the state, his business experience, his legislative experience and his long years of service in Washington on the agricultural affairs committee of the U. S. Senate. A. J. Dinnie of Grand Forks, who is widely known over the state as a contractor and successful business man; J. C. Leum of Mayville, a well known farmer and one of the men approved by the Society of Equity, Senator Church of York, who is one of the Nonpartisan League officials. Walter Reid of Ardena, who for many years has been interested in elevators and grain business, and is also one of the large land owners and operators in the state.

LOOKS GOOD FOR '22—CRISSINGER

Washington, Jan. 2.—Indications that the turn of the year is being "marked by a striking improvement in the business and economic outlook" of the country and the world generally were discussed tonight by Comptroller of the Currency Crissinger, in a forecast for 1922.

There can be no doubt, Mr. Crissinger said, that "both the political and economic index figures are registering improvement at this time when political and economic interests so intimately interact."

"Taking this wider view," he added, "I feel that we may be justified in regarding the outlook as altogether reassuring, and that the new year is coming to us with guarantees that justify the most optimistic forecasts."

In the political domain, Mr. Crissinger described as predominating favorable facts the limitation of arms conference and "the apparently insured settlement of the age-long controversy involving the relations of Ireland to the United Kingdom." Already, he declared, a betterment in the conditions in international exchange has taken place, adding that "no better index of widespread business conditions exist."

"In view of these accomplishments," he continued, "we may anticipate confidently that the year 1922 will take its place in history as one of the landmarks in the record of human progress. Men have turned their faces definitely in the right direction; they have set their feet in the paths to restore security and prosperity; they have fixed their minds on the higher and better things."

"Already we begin to find evidence of the far-reaching importance of these accomplishments."

Good Road Boosters At Bismarck Jan. 17

The second annual convention of the North Dakota State Good Roads association will be held at Bismarck Tuesday, Jan. 17, beginning at 10 a. m. It is expected that three sessions—morning, afternoon and evening—will be necessary to take care of all the business. Members of the legislative committee will meet Jan. 16 to perfect the final draft of the proposed constitutional amendment to be submitted to the people in the June primaries. In the evening the officers and directors of the association will meet to hear the legislative committee's report and transact other business.

Mrs. I. M. Rasmussen of Doyon was a shopper in the city Thursday.

ANNUAL MEET OF WORLD PUB. CO.

ELECT OFFICERS AND ATTEND TO BUSINESS GRIST—MAY SELL WORLD.

The annual meeting of stockholders of World Publishing Co. was held at the World office Tuesday afternoon and evening, at which the following members were chosen as a board of directors for the ensuing year:

John A. G. Dahlen, John R. Anderson, John McCauley, Otto Garske, Thos. H. Maloney, F. L. Harrison, Geo. D. Laird, M. A. Hoghaug and W. H. Brown.

Subsequently the board organized by re-electing Geo. D. Laird president and M. A. Hoghaug secretary-treasurer. W. H. Brown was elected vice president.

Resolutions were passed instructing the board of directors to make whatever disposition of the plant and business of the "World" that would seem best in their judgment. That the "World" will be sold or leased in the near future seems quite probable.

LaFollette Makes Serious Charges

Senator La Follette of Wisconsin, issued a statement last Wednesday, charging the coal, steel and lumber interests with an attempt to influence farm organization leaders to quit their efforts to secure better railway rate legislation.

In substantiation of his charges Mr. LaFollette made public what he described as "a brief report of the action of the conference" held here December 9, which he branded "as a conspiracy to betray not only the farmers but the consuming and the producing millions of the nation."

This report was made public by the senator without an explanation of its source, as follows: "On December 9 a secret meeting was held in Washington at which high officials of the railroads, the coal and steel and lumber interests, attempted to enlist the farmers in an agreement whereby all agitation by the farm interests for repeal of section 15-A and for the restoration of state control over interstate rates should cease."

"This conference was participated in by the special committee representing the railway executives, of which Mr. Atterbury of the Pennsylvania railroad, was chairman. It was held a previous conference in New York on December 9, 1921. There had been on September 21, of which J. R. Howard was made chairman. Those present at the Rasquet club meeting were W. W. Atterbury of the Pennsylvania railroad, Howard Elliott of the Northern Pacific, W. J. Harrahan of the C. & O., W. B. Storny of the Atchison R. S. Binkert, assistant to the chairman of the Association of Railway Executives in New York."

"The iron and steel industries were represented by J. A. Campbell of the Youngstown sheet & Tube company of Youngstown, O., and C. E. Bement of Lansing, Mich., representing the Novo Engine company."

W. J. Drummond, chairman of the board of governors of the International Farm Congress admits the meetings were held, but says they were not secret, and that Mr. LaFollette's charges are groundless.

POPULAR CANDO COUPLE MARRIED AT PAGE

The marriage of Miss Mabel Fasterson and Prof. Waldemar N. Anderson, both of Cando, took place on Christmas day at the home of the bride's brother at Page.

Only intimate friends were present at the wedding, out of town guests being: Miss Nellie Hubbet of Bismarck; Miss Virginia Luckey of Minot; Mrs. Chas. Freed of Starkweather; Arnold Fosteson of Bismarck; and Francis Fosteson of Cando.

Mr. Anderson is instructor in the manual training department of the Cando schools, the bride having been employed as bookkeeper by the Cando Utilities Co. They are splendid young people and the "World" joins in wishing them "bon voyage."

No wonder a hen gets discouraged. She can never find things where she lays them.—New York American.

U. S. DIST. COURT AT DEVILS LAKE

FRAUD AND EMBAZZLEMENT CASES TO BE TRIED IN JANUARY.

Over 1,000 cases, civil and criminal, the majority criminal, are to be disposed of in the various terms of court to be held in January in North Dakota according to District Attorney Hildreth. Federal district court terms which have been postponed from time to time owing to the difficulty in securing a judge will open January 20 in Minot. Following terms in Devils Lake and Bismarck, the Fargo session will open coincidentally with an important grand jury sitting February 1, Colonel Hildreth announced. Judge Woodrough of Omaha will preside. The Fargo term will likely last a month.

The criminal cases comprise post-office embezzlements, white slave, automobile thefts, liquor violations and bank frauds. Important criminal cases scheduled for the Devils Lake term are those of H. D. Mitchell of Oklahoma City, held for oil stock promotion; David Uglund and H. H. Bergh, bank clerks, accused of frauds and embezzlements.

BOISE PENROSE OF PA. IS DEAD

SENATOR AND PARTY LEADER OF G. O. P. OLD GUARD PASSED AWAY.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Boise Penrose, senior senator from Pennsylvania, died suddenly at his hotel apartment here tonight from pulmonary thrombosis. He had been ill since Tuesday, first with a severe cold, but on Thursday his condition became more serious. He made little progress toward recovery from that time. The senate will reconvene Tuesday at noon, and immediately adjourn out of respect.

United States Senator Boies Penrose of Pennsylvania, one of the most interesting personalities in the upper house, which he entered in 1897 as the successor to the late Senator J. Donald Cameron, was one of the wealthiest bachelors in the Senate.

An "Old Guard" Republican, he was a member of four important Senate committees, namely, the Finance Committee, of which he was chairman; Banking and Currency, Immigration and Naval Affairs.

Chief lieutenant of Senator Matthew Stanley Quay, whose representative he had been in the Pennsylvania legislature for many years, Penrose did not at first take a very prominent part in Republican party councils at Washington. Until his death, however, he never lost prestige as the leader of his party in his own state.

Blunt at all times but with a reputation that could be trusted in a political deal, Senator Penrose made fast friends and irreconcilable enemies. The latter often charged him with representing the "interests."

The coal miners want more money. The operators want more money. The dealers want more money. What will the consumers who want coal have to have? Correct.—Detroit News.

New Salem airy Circuit of 17 Men Is a Big Winner

Seventeen men constitute the New Salem Circuit organized to breed dairy cows as a community enterprise. They together bought a carload of purebred dairy cattle, through a committee of one man, in 1906. No individual took more than two head. In 1921 they owned 251 purebred females. They bought 10 silos together, one for each of 10 men, and got the full advantage of a wholesale rate. They bought wooden silos—a carload in the knock down—and then let a single contract to a New Salem concrete construction man for the 10 foundations. Later they bought eight milking machines as a single contract. They have a mutual fire insurance company which has been in operation for 20 years. It has paid all losses promptly, has been offered by members who have collected only a moderate fee for their services, and in consequence it has given the members cheap insurance. Their threshing is done in nine-men rings a dnthe silage cutting in five-men rings, the machines being mutually owned, manned and operated.

Wallace Predicts Victory For State

George Wallace, tax commissioner has returned from an extended absence in Washington, D. C. Mr. Wallace appeared before the United States supreme court in the capital stock tax case, which had been taken to that body for decision.

"I have great confidence that the decision of the supreme court will be in favor of the state in its tax case against the railroads and so predict," said Mr. Wallace on his return. Mr. Wallace appeared in this case on December 16.

Among other matters claiming his attention while in Washington was an exhaustive search instituted by him in the matter of corporation income tax returns made to the revenue department, where he compiled a complete list of corporation returns in North Dakota. These will be available later for comparison with returns made to state tax officials.

Mr. Wallace was also named as one of a committee of five representing the tax officials of all the states to confer with the National Bankers' association and draft a law providing for the taxing of national banks throughout the United States. A conference was duly held and the bill was drafted, being introduced in the house of representatives by Representative McFadden of Pennsylvania.

The silk stocking was invented in the sixteenth century, but not all of it was discovered until recently. —New York American.

It is a striking coincidence that "American" ends in "I can." — Greenville Piedmont.

The Latest Thing in Blocs

SECOND TRAGEDY AT BERTHOLD

THE HAGEN FAMILY VICTIMS AGAIN IN R. R. CROSSING SMASH-UP.

For the second time Berthold has witnessed the tragedy of life destroyed by accident at the west railroad crossing in that city. The accident took place on the day before Christmas when a bus containing O. A. Hagen, his wife, an eleven year old son, Robert, and an adopted daughter, Eleanor, nine years of age, was struck by the west bound Williston local. The horses escaped injury but the cab was entirely demolished, and the occupants thrown to both sides of the track. The boy had a leg broken and Eleanor had an arm and leg severed by the wheels of the train. Mrs. Hagen suffered a fracture of the pelvic bone and will not leave the hospital for several months according to physicians. She was otherwise seriously bruised. Mr. Hagen escaped with the lightest injuries of all but his bruises have not permitted him to leave the hospital as yet.

A light engine going east was attached to a coach which was standing in the yards and the injured were rushed to Minot and taken to the St. Joseph's hospital. Eleanor died from her injuries the next day.

On December 17, six years ago, two sons of Mr. Hagen were killed in an accident at the same crossing when Great Northern train No. 9 ran into a school bus killing the driver, Walter Ahern, and six of the children in the bus. The little girl Eleanor was adopted by the Hagen family after the loss of these two boys. Her parents are dead but she has an aunt, Mrs. S. Richardson, at Ryder.

Mrs. Hagen is one of the pioneer settlers of the Berthold community. He is secretary-treasurer of the Berthold Federal Farm Loan association and one of its most live and progressive members.

Starting 1922 With Plenty of Hootch

Sunday night, Jan. 1st, some individual or "community of interests" busted into the basement under the Devils Lake Drug Co. and carried off a quantity of alcohol—between 12 or 15 gallons, we are told. Entrance seems to have been gained through the coal chute under the Barrickman barber shop into the freight hall, where the back door into the basement was broken open.

The evidence in such a case is usually easy to trace, but in this instance it hasn't "broken loose" anywhere. It may have been appropriated by persons who wanted it for mechanical use, or external application only.

Wallace Predicts Victory For State

George Wallace, tax commissioner has returned from an extended absence in Washington, D. C. Mr. Wallace appeared before the United States supreme court in the capital stock tax case, which had been taken to that body for decision.

"I have great confidence that the decision of the supreme court will be in favor of the state in its tax case against the railroads and so predict," said Mr. Wallace on his return. Mr. Wallace appeared in this case on December 16.

Among other matters claiming his attention while in Washington was an exhaustive search instituted by him in the matter of corporation income tax returns made to the revenue department, where he compiled a complete list of corporation returns in North Dakota. These will be available later for comparison with returns made to state tax officials.

Mr. Wallace was also named as one of a committee of five representing the tax officials of all the states to confer with the National Bankers' association and draft a law providing for the taxing of national banks throughout the United States. A conference was duly held and the bill was drafted, being introduced in the house of representatives by Representative McFadden of Pennsylvania.

The silk stocking was invented in the sixteenth century, but not all of it was discovered until recently. —New York American.

It is a striking coincidence that "American" ends in "I can." — Greenville Piedmont.

The members of the farm bloc protest that they are not the only bloc, but that the woods are full of them. They point to the beer bloc, the tariff bloc, the sales-tax bloc, the railroad bloc, the labor bloc and enough other blocs to build quite a monument of fact and argument. If blocs are such iniquitous things the farm bloc feels that the catcalls and turnips of applause should be more evenly distributed.

How, then, came it that the farm bloc achieved such universal notoriety in political discussion and got mentioned in everybody's curses or prayers, as the case might be, while other blocs went quietly on their way unheeded? The one big and sufficient reason lay in the urgency of the occasion. Agriculture was suddenly deflated while many other industries continued in their over-inflated after-war condition. This ridiculously unbalanced economic situation soon began to have its effect on every phase of the nation's business.

Trade halted. The farmer, disliking prices or unable to buy, ceased his customary heavy purchases. Then everybody suddenly woke up to a realization of the fact that when the farmer's buying power is affected it's a sad day for all of us. The time-worn phrases about agriculture being a fundamental industry came back into use with fresh, more concrete meaning. Everybody was peddling the wisdom that there could be no national prosperity so long as agriculture was devitalized.

Then came a demand for immediate legislative remedies. "Something must be done for the farmer" was the Macedonian cry from every state in the Union. "Give him more credit. Extend his outstanding loans. Provide him with better transportation and distribution facilities. Reduce freight rates on farm products. Find markets for cotton, wool, wheat and hay. Advance credit to foreign nations so that they will be able to buy our farm products. Put more ginger into the land banks. Raise the limit of their loans. The muzzles on the packers and grain brokers. Clap on an emergency tariff. Revise the War Finance Corporation. Restrict the filled-milk industry. Make the woolen mills declare what they put into their fabrics. Give the farmer a credit system that really fits his needs. Let him have all the co-operative marketing associations he wants. And do anything else necessary to make the farmer happy and prosperous."

These were only a few of the propositions urged upon Congress. There were scores of others—some of them sound, but more of them unsound, impracticable or impossible. Farm bills in Congress were thicker than blackberries. The agricultural committees of the House and Senate were literally buried under them, and couldn't possibly separate the wheat from the chaff without help. And there was no relief in sight, for more bills were being presented daily. Again necessity was the mother of invention. The farm bloc came into existence as an emergency means for handling some of the legislative means for handling some of the legislative features of this great and most unusual agricultural emergency. In other words, it was a perfectly legitimate offspring of the economic crisis in which it was born.

An attempt was made to ring down the curtain on them, but they prevented the adjournment of Congress and helped to enact a considerable part of the proposed national agricultural program. Of course it made the stage manager a bit sore to have his arrangements interfered with, but the scene proved to be a highly interesting one and the irregularity was overlooked.

Then there are the openness and public character of the meetings of the agricultural bloc. Its members do not work in secret, and thus spare the public any unnecessary worries. But in open meetings, with outsiders present, they discuss and announce their program and then proceed in a most matter-of-fact way to carry it out. Other congressional blocs have not always inflicted their plans upon the public in advance. But the farm bloc continued to discuss its plans and aspirations as well as its troubles in the most public manner.

As usual in connection with new legislation there has been much loose, scattering, irresponsible talk, and also a great deal of exaggeration. We should understand clearly in the first place that Congress has not been run over and flattened out by an agricultural machine. There are other measures before Congress besides those which concern chiefly the farmer. The whole legislative program has not been indefinitely postponed in

(Continued on Page 8)