

Non-Partisan League Strong

Movement Has Swept the State—It is Planned To Have a Great Convention and at that Convention History Will Be Made—Fargo Should Invite Farmers.

(Fargo Forum)

The Non-partisan league—what is it?

The question has been asked a good many times the past year. Who is back of it, what do they want and what they intend to do? are some of the many questions that have been asked regarding it. Some of these queries have been asked The Forum, and it must be confessed that until recently The Forum knew little about it.

Today, however, The Forum can answer the first question. The Non-partisan league is an uprising of the farmers of North Dakota ALMOST TO A MAN.

Perhaps that was not the aim of the men who originated the name and who launched the movement. Undoubtedly this movement has gone far beyond the wildest expectations of those who set it going.

But it has spread like wildfire and has swept the state of North Dakota. Today it is the dominant power in political affairs of the state. Don't make any mistake about that. The Non-partisan league is going to make a housecleaning in North Dakota politics or The Forum is greatly mistaken.

The Forum does not know who the leaders of this organization are, but it does know who the rank and file are and in them this paper has the utmost confidence and for them it has the greatest respect.

The rank and file of the Non-partisan league are the farmers of North Dakota. From the Red River valley to the far Missouri slope, from South Dakota to the Canadian boundary, like the minute men of the revolution they are ready for revolt. And they are in deadly earnest. They are out for a purpose and they do not propose to be sidetracked.

The farmers propose to form a great organization. In every county there is to be a county convention. That convention will be made up of delegates elected from hundreds of local organizations of the Non-partisan league. Each county convention and these delegates will be pledged to a certain program of action.

This state convention promises to be the most representative gathering of farmers ever held in the state of North Dakota.

These men will not be radicals, or socialists or anarchists as some people seem to believe. They will be the farmers of the state in convention assembled.

Any city in North Dakota ought to be proud to entertain such a gathering. It will be a gathering that is going to make history. It will map out a definite program, the object of which will be to make the farmer independent of the grain speculator; of the "loan shark" banker who flourishes in some of the newer sections of the state; of the meat trust that dominates the live stock industry and of the cheap, petty grafting politician who uses his office to build his own political fortunes instead of working in the interest of his constituents.

The Forum believes that great things may come out of this movement for the state of North Dakota and that the city of Fargo should extend to the farmers of the state a cordial invitation to come here for their convention, promising them not only a cordial welcome and the best entertainment the city affords, but also the hearty sympathy and the active co-operation of the citizens of Fargo, in this effort to secure the political and economic freedom of the citizens of the state.

Library Ball Thursday, Feb. 10

The members of the Beach Woman's Club will again be hostesses at a Library Ball to be given Feb. 10th. These annual events have been the most enjoyable given to the Beach public and the one this year promises to be the best ever given.

A Japanese scheme of decoration will be carried out, and when the doors are opened one may easily imagine he is entering the Flowery Kingdom.

The greater part of the expense of the library is met by the receipts of this ball, and you can show your appreciation of the library and of the work and ladies, by attending the dance and helping to carry on this public institution.

Missionary Convention at Fargo

Fargo, N. D. Jan. 26.—Twelve Hundred men of North Dakota and western Minnesota this week enrolled themselves and paid the fee to attend the Laymen's Missionary Convention now being held in the Masonic Temple.

The Convention opened with a great banquet Wednesday evening which was the greatest thing of its kind ever held in the Northwest. Registrations kept coming in so rapidly that on Monday before the Convention opened Wednesday arrangements had to be made for an overflow banquet which was held in the Knight's of Columbus Hall. Both banquets were very successful and the speakers were carried from out building to the other in automobiles. The theme for the addresses of the evening was "The Coming World Democracy," the speakers were, Fred B. Fisher, Herbert Johnson and Morris W. Ehmes.

Between 90 and 100 towns in North Dakota and Minnesota sent delegates to this convention, this being the highest number of towns outside the convention city represented at any convention of the series of 15 Boston Mass., holding the honor up to this time.

One of the great attractions was Gilbert, the Moving picture man, who sustained his reputation of being the greatest moving picture star of the country. All the other speakers measured up to the reputation which they had won in the East during the fall campaign.

It is safe to say that never before in the history of the Northwest has such a great convention been held either for a religious or secular purpose. The churches of this whole territory have received such an impetus as will put them in a position which it would have taken years to work to in the ordinary way.

A thin, sickly, little man entered one of the stores in one of our small towns recently and quietly seated himself on a convenient chair. One of the clerks approached and asked if he wished to purchase anything. "Oh, no," said the man, "I just dropped in for a few minutes."

After half an hour had passed the manager of the store, becoming curious, approached him and asked what could be done for him. "Why nothing that I know of," said the man, "you see I have nervous prostration and the doctor told me to stay in a quiet place. Nothing that you do not advertise I thought this would be fine." Let me tell you it was anything but quiet there for five minutes. The poor little man found himself in the street wishing that he had landed on a feather bed. But the next week the store surprised itself with a big display ad in the home paper.

Firemen Hold Annual Meeting

The Beach Fire Department held their annual meeting last Tuesday Evening at the offices of the Golden Valley State Bank for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year and also transacting other business which came before the department of the city.

Although the night was very stormy there were 22 of the 26 members of the department present, which shows that they are much interested and proud to belong to this, one of the best volunteer departments in the state.

Mr. Rosenberg in a few well chosen words expressed the sentiment of the company when he made the motion to retain Mr. Fuller as chief of the department for another year, as was shown when he was chosen by a unanimous vote. The other officers were also reelected namely: C. C. Darrington, Asst. Chief; Theo. Schewitzer, Sec'y.; J. J. Englehart, Treas.

Chief Fuller, Robert Kastien and James Wright were also at this time chosen as delegates to attend the Fireman's State Convention which will be held in Fargo some time next June.

Louis Huber was voted into the company as a new member at this meeting. Light refreshments, coffee and sandwiches were served after the eating and the members as usual enjoyed a very pleasant evening.

DISASTROUS FIRE AT MINOT.

Minot Jan. 14.—Fire at an early hour this morning completely destroyed the three story building and basement known as the Roell-Blakey Block on Main street inflicting a property loss of \$107,000, rendered a number of allies and roomers in the building homeless, and destroyed two big businesses, one smaller business, studio and two professional men's office, besides doing a considerable amount of damage to adjoining property.

The principle losses were sustained by Roell and Blakey, owners of the building who estimate their loss on the structure at \$40,000 with \$18,000 insurance; the Roell Hardware company \$25,000, with \$15,000, insurance; and the Scarlett Office Supply company, \$12,000, about half covered by insurance; the Magic City Heating and Plumbing company, \$2,000, partly covered by insurance; the Waverly hotel \$3,000, included in general insurance; the Lindstrom Furniture company damaged by water and smoke, \$5,000, included in general insurance; the Lindstrom Furniture company, \$2,500, covered by general insurance; Mrs. Catherine Baker, studio, \$2,700, no insurance; Dr. Whelen, \$5,000 partly insured; Dr. J. C. McCannel \$2,000 with \$500 insurance. The other tenants of the building lost practically all their household goods and clothing except what they wore when they fled from the fire. This loss is estimated at \$10,000.

The fire originated near the furnace in what was known as the Blakey side of the building. The Orst alarm was turned in at 4:30 and from that time until 9 o'clock, when it was brought under control, the firemen fought the flames in a temperature of twenty below zero. Seven streams of water were played on the building and on the adjoining buildings of more than five hours.—Ward County Independent.

The Valley City Normal School Women's League has been organized, the principal object being to place the girls of the institution in closer touch with the women of the city.

Equity Exchange to be Increased

Fargo, N. D., Jan. 26.—The proposal to increase the capital stock of the Equity Co-operative exchange from \$100,000 to \$500,000 was approved at the business session of the association held in the Knights of Columbus hall last night. Action on this will be taken at a special session to be held May 15, next. A dividend of 8 per cent was declared.

Old Officers Re-elected.
The old officers of the exchange were elected—J. M. Anderson, president; Magnus Johnson, vice president and G. A. Thiel, secretary and treasurer. The following directors were elected for three years—J. C. Leum of Mayville; Louis Noltimeier of Valley City, and Nels Magnuson of Sours.

Big Attendance at Meeting.
A big attendance marked the meeting. Addresses were given by men prominent in the Equity movement. Attorney James Manahan of Minnesota, who battled the Equity forces to victory in their fight with the state of North Dakota, here last

New Information Against Joker

Minot Optic Reporter: A new information has been filed against Arnold Hileman, the young man who saturated a drunken man with wood alcohol and then set him on fire in a spirit of smartaleckness, which resulted in the disastrous fire that destroyed the Roell-Blakey block a few days ago and left a score of people destitute because everything they had, including their clothing, was destroyed. The new information is filed under a section of the criminal statute which provides punishment for the destruction of the property of another. He was bound over to the district court on the latter charge.

It is a regrettable fact that the lawmakers never contemplated a crime committed under such silly conditions and inspired by such silly impulses as that which produced the fire in this city. It will be difficult for the officers to prove malice in the arson charge which has been lodged against Hileman, which would be necessary to secure conviction under that charge. And in order to make punishment as certain as possible, they are taking a double grip on the matter. If the arson charge could get past the technicality, a jury would certainly render justice and common sense and find him guilty.

A. E. SWAN CANDIDATE FOR STATE OFFICE.

Beach N. D., Jan. 28.—A. E. Swan, county treasurer of Golden Valley will be a candidate for the office of Commissioner of Insurance. Mr. Swan was elected to the office of treasurer of Billings county before Billings county was divided and after the division received the appointment to the same office. At the last election he was elected on the Farmer's ticket, with a large majority.

He is a graduate of the Minneapolis high school and a graduate of the university of Minnesota, also having attended the Northwest university.

Mr. Swan came to this state several years ago and was among the first to settle in Golden Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wall have returned to the city after an extensive visit in the Twin Cities and other eastern points they report much colder weather in Minnesota than we have had in this section of North Dakota.

States Attorney C. L. Waldron spent several days in Bismarck the first of the week on matters of business.

Hail Ins. Rates Given Boost

Dickinson Press.—The farmers of southwest North Dakota comprising 13 counties, will be up in arms against the old line companies when they learn that hail insurance rates for 1916 have been boosted from 8 1-2 to 10 per cent on every \$100 of insurance carried. A meeting of the general agents was held in New York when it was agreed to make this advance.

The rates for the states east of the Missouri river are 6 1-2 per cent, the same as they have been for some time and for the coming season the rates in the northwestern portion of North Dakota, heretofore 7 1-2 per cent are reduced to correspond with rates in the eastern and central portion.

It is claimed that at least a two-years' average is necessary on which to base a claim for reduction, and the fact that hail business in the northwestern portion of the state for years past has shown a profit is the reason for the reduction of 1 per cent in that territory.

Stark county probably showed a small profit for the companies in 1915, but the previous year's business was quite disastrous. If 1916 proves a good year for the companies, a reduction is promised for 1917. General agents of companies who were in Dickinson the past week, stated that Bowman, Slope and Golden Valley counties showed a bad record for 1915 and it was partly due to the unfavorable hail loss condition in these counties that caused the advance in rates for 1916 in all the southwestern territory.

An important change for the coming year is a bureau which will make hail adjustments for all of the companies. In this way it is expected that a large saving in expense will be shown and there will not be a chance for a farmer to get a big adjustment when in reality he is only entitled to a small one. Such things have happened in the past but the companies, while willing to pay all actual losses covered by insurance, do not propose to make any donations in the future.

Local agents are not feeling very good over the advance that the old line companies are likely to lose considerable business to the state insurance department during the coming season.

The state rates 30c per acre for a maximum of \$8. For the past year the state paid 75 per cent, or \$6 per acre for the maximum protection, and it is claimed by W. C. Taylor, state commissioner of insurance, that when more farmers take this insurance the state will be able to pay nearly or quite the face value of the policy.

BEACH SECOND TEAM LOSE TO WIBAUX

The Beach High School second team journeyed to Wibaux last Friday the 22nd and met defeat, at the hands of the Wibaux High second team by a score of 24 to 13. Our boys played an excellent game and this was their first game in public.

The Wibaux High School gave a reception after the game and our boys were shown an excellent time.

A number of Beachites accompanied the team to Wibaux.

Hunter Patrick acted as referee and a square deal was given to both sides.

Wibaux	Beach	
Bell	RF	Blackburn
Terrell	LF	Finkle
Chappel	C	Stockwell
Rockwell	LG	Steiner
Organ	RG	Ward

Postmaster John Baer left yesterday for Grand Forks, where he will be in attendance at the winter meeting of the North Dakota Press Association, to be held today and tomorrow.

A Farmers Institute Book

Farmers' Institute Annual No. 12 has just been issued by the North Dakota Farmers' Institute, Agricultural College, North Dakota. It can be secured by sending 4 cents to cover postage. The Annual is well illustrated and contains the following articles:

Marketing the Hog Crop.
Home Grown Corn.
Extirmination of Ground Squirrels
Gophers and Prairie Dogs in North Dakota.
The Farmer's Vegetable Garden.
The North Dakota Farmstead.
Alfalfa Production.
The Making of Concrete.
Sowing and Harvesting Flax.
Silos and Silage.
Sanitation on the Farm.
Efficiency and the Kitchen.

Bridge at Mandan Across Missouri

Mandan, N. D., Jan. 26.—Geo. J. Keniston of Beach, worker on the National Parks Highway association, who was here last summer in connection with the raising of funds for the bridge at Medora, in an interview given The St. Paul Pioneer Press-Dispatch, asserts that action towards the erection of a \$250,000 bridge over the Missouri between Mandan and Bismarck will now be taken.

Neither Burleigh county and Bismarck nor Morton county and Mandan could stand the expense of this bridge and funds will be raised in all towns along the Red Trail from New York to Spokane.

The Pioneer Press of Sunday says: With the completion of the bridge at Medora, N. D., across the Little Missouri river, the next efforts of the National Parks Transcontinental Highway association promoters in this part of the country are to be devoted to a \$250,000 campaign for a bridge across the Missouri river between Bismarck and Mandan, N. D.

This is the last unbridged crossing on the entire highway, from New York city through Rochester, Buffalo, Cleveland, South Bend, Chicago, Milwaukee, LaCrosse and St. Paul to Seattle by way of St. Cloud, Moorhead, Fargo, Glendive, Livingston, Butte, Missoula and Spokane.

"The country from Fallon, Mont. to Fargo has borne the expense of building the \$21,000 bridge at Medora," said George M. Keinston, of Beach, N. D., a traveling representative of the highway association, who was in St. Paul last week.

"The assessable valuation of the county in which Medora is located would have borne only part of the cost. Several counties worked together and the bridge is the result."

The Montana, North Dakota and Minnesota sections of the highway organization held their annual meeting Wednesday at Bismarck.

AMATEUR SLEUTHS ARE UNDER ARREST

Minot, N. D., Jan. 24.—R. M. Austin and W. H. Springer were arrested last night on charges of vagrancy. They have been posing as detectives and among the things found on them were an old-fashioned fourteen-inch horse pistol which is loaded with ball and powder and fired with the use of percussion caps, a pair of handcuffs, a flashlight and star marked "detective." There have been a number of people approached recently in the city and the individuals have shown a star and intimated that they were policemen. This led to the search for an amateur detective.

The Ladies Guild of the Episcopal church will meet at the home of Mrs. C. J. Nelson, Wednesday, Feb. 2, 1916.

White City Opens Big Flour Mill

Hettinger County Wheat to Be Made Into Flour by Equity Milling and Power Company

One of the principal and newest assets to the business life of one of our most popular cities of the Slope country is the \$60,000 flour mill owned and operated by the Equity Milling and Power Company of Mott, North Dakota. J. P. Larson, one of the best grain men in this section of the state is manager. J. M. Johnson is head miller. With two hustling grain men like those mentioned above at the head of the management, success and prosperity are assured.

The mill is located on the south side of Cannon Ball river, on the Milwaukee railroad site. Chas. Jackson one of the best millwrights in Minnesota supervised the work. Mr. Jackson who has erected some very large mills and inspected many more made this remark, "The Mott mill is one of the best in the west and there is no better equipped mill in the northwest territory."

The public opening of the mill took place last Tuesday, January 25, both afternoon and evening. A light luncheon was served during the opening.

The company handles several grades of flour the most popular one being the "Marquis Cannon Ball and the Equity." The flour is now on sale at local stores and will be sold in carload lots. It is a home institution and means much to Mott and Mott citizens. And our sister city is to be congratulated upon having procured such an important and profitable plant.

The spirit of co-operation in North Dakota is making a very evident showing by the fact that 116 more co-operative elevators were added during the season. Some of these are new horses, but the majority were obtained by absorption and purchases by organized farmers of independent and old line elevators.

NON-PARTISAN LEAGUE MEETING TO BE HELD IN BEACH.

A Non-partisan League Meeting will be held in Beach on Tuesday Feb. 8th. Speakers who are familiar with the farming and political conditions in North Dakota today will speak and in view of the large membership of the organization in this county and others tributary a rousing meeting is assured. Every man and woman in this community taking an interest in the welfare of the state should attend and hear matters of utmost importance to them discussed by men who know whereof they speak.

See next week's issue of the Chronicle for further particulars.

Secretary Tax Commission in Beach.

C. P. Kositzky, secretary of the state tax commission spent yesterday and today in Beach transacting official business. Mr. Kositzky's work here consisted of assessing the Heat Light & Power Company, and also viewing the land sales for ward getting a better idea of a justifiable basis of assessment for the coming year.

In conversation with Mr. Kositzky the writer learned that he will be a candidate for State Auditor at the spring primary election and that he is very much in favor of efficient public service and appears very willing to run on his record.

Thirty thousand dollars worth of grain was destroyed by fire that raged the Farmers' Independent Elevator company elevator at Streeter. The total loss was \$35,000. The fire started in the engine room from an explosion of gas. The company will rebuild or purchase an elevator.