

THE NONPARTISAN LEADER

Official Organ of the Nonpartisan League of North Dakota.

H. E. Behrens Editor and Manager

Application made for admission to the mails as second class matter.

Advertising rates on application.

Subscriptions, one year, in advance, \$1.50.

Address, Box 919, Fargo, North Dakota.

The Leader solicits advertisements of meritorious articles needed by farmers. Quack, fraudulent and irresponsible firms are not knowingly advertised, and we will take it as a favor if any readers will advise us promptly should they have occasion to doubt or question the reliability of any firm which patronizes our advertising columns.

Discriminating advertisers recognize The Nonpartisan Leader as the best medium in the state of North Dakota through which to reach the wide-awake and up-to-date farmers.

ALL MUST PULL TOGETHER.

DAVID Lubin, Delegate of the United States to the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome in 1912, tells this little story:

"In the early days of teaming in Arizona I once accompanied a 'prairie schooner,' run by sixteen mules, on its journey across the desert. At certain intervals the driver halted for a short rest. The mules traveled along at an even gait, and all was well as long as they were proceeding on, but the trouble arose in restarting after one of these stops. When the word of command was given the leaders would start forward and the wheelers pull back; at the next attempt, the wheelers would rush forward and the leaders remain stationery, whilst the other mules, in sympathy with one or other of the groups, neutralized the efforts of the teamster, until by some lucky chance, the disorganized efforts terminated in a harmonious 'pull together', when the 'prairie schooner' would again start on its way. 'These fool mules will soon be done for'; said the driver, waving his hand towards the animals, 'unless we can get them to pull together.'"

This story is worth remembering. It is worth keeping in mind at times when politicians and newspapers are trying to get the farmers to hop to the music of the party lash and form conflicting squads in the ranks of the various political parties.

The only way the farmers will ever get anywhere is for them to pull together.

WE LEND A HELPING HAND.

EXACTLY as we predicted last week, our esteemed contemporaries, the other newspapers of North Dakota came lumbering along from two to five days behind us with the biggest North Dakota news of a month, the Youmans suit against Governor Hanna and other State officials.

So far from bearing them the least ill will because they lifted this exclusive from our columns, we view their performance with philosophical tolerance. If a newspaper has not the facilities to gather the news itself it must of necessity fall back upon its more enterprising neighbors that have both the facilities and the energy to get it.

There are loud calls from our subscribers that the **Leader**, admittedly the best newspaper in the State and having very the largest circulation, shall become a daily.

This must be a pleasant suggestion to our contemporaries. At present we can furnish them with the news but once a week. As a daily we could refresh and revive their dreary columns at least six times as often. What a prospect this opens to the altruistic mind! What gloom might we not dispell throughout the newspaper offices of the State! What depths profound of editorial dullness might be enlivened if to the various sanctums came every day the one ray of light that now enters but once a week when the **Leader** is received!

Meantime, we shall continue to print the news and thus do what we can to make our contemporaries readable.

WHO ARE LAND HOGS?

THERE are in the state of North Dakota 44,736,477 acres of land. A report says that "a little more than half of North Dakota's cultivatable farm lands are thus far contained in improved farms. The balance consists of state lands and agricultural lands in private hands that are yet without improvements."

There are 1,000,000 acres of state lands in North Dakota.

Assuming that a "little more than half" means 23,736,477 acres that would leave as "state lands and agricultural lands in private hands" 21,000,000 acres.

Take from this last sum the 1,000,000 acres of state lands

and we have left in "private hands," 20,000,000 acres of "agricultural lands that are yet without improvements."

These "private hands" are the speculators. They don't improve land. They don't help develop a country. They pay very little of the country's taxes.

They simply hog the land and hold it.

They hold it for high prices. They let the actual farmer improve the country, pay the taxes and make this idle land valuable—then they sell it to somebody who is foolish enough to try and make money farming.

These speculators know that, under present conditions, there is very little to be made farming the land.

They know that the actual farmer will improve the lands and make the land valuable and so they adopt the policy of "watchful waiting."

SOME CONSTRUCTIVE WORK

THERE is vital need of some change in the state constitution of North Dakota. In its present form there is question of "doubt" as to whether a state-owned industry would be "constitutional" or not.

For example, if the next Legislature should pass a law providing that the state establish terminal facilities here in North Dakota, or any where else for that matter, the question of its constitutionality would no doubt raised. In that case it would be passed up to the Supreme Court. At present the Supreme Court is all-powerful on matters of that character. That body can defeat the will of the people if it so wills—and it usually wills. And even though the Supreme Court is an elective body, no chances should be taken on a matter so vital.

It would be discouraging and disheartening to work for and elect men in 1916 who would give the farmers some good, constructive legislation and then have the Supreme Court undo it all.

There is only one safe way to go at this matter. It is the duty of the farmers in this organization to begin right now to think and work along that line. That is to amend the state constitution.

We have in this state the initiative and referendum, and valuable weapons are these. By use of the initiative the voters of this state may cause to be placed upon the next election ballot an amendment to the constitution, providing that the state of North Dakota may own and operate such business enterprises as it sees fit, and then laws which the legislature may pass providing for such industries could not be knocked out because of unconstitutionality.

THAT BILLION DOLLAR CROP.

EARLIER in the season we heard very much about the "coming billion-dollar wheat crop."

They told us it would be a billion-dollar crop because there would be a billion bushels and the price would be a dollar a bushel—at least a dollar a bushel.

Well, nature and the farmer did their part; they produced the billion bushels all right. In fact the government on October first placed the nation's wheat crop at 1,002,029,000 bushels.

At the prevailing price on October first Uncle Sam placed the aggregate value at \$910,844,000.

According to that there has been a loss out of that billion of more than ninety million dollars—to be exact, 90,181,910.

If the total crop brings a total of \$910,844,000 that will reduce the price to a fraction less than 91 cents per bushel.

How many farmers are netting 91 cents per bushel? Whilst this is being written wheat at Minneapolis is hovering around the dollar mark. Out of that dollar or that dollar and two cents must come elevator charges, freight charges, insurance charges and commissionmen's charges.

That will reduce the price to the farmer below the cost-of-production point.

And that same wheat is selling in Liverpool and London for not less than \$1.65 per bushel. Thus the speculators, the transportation and terminal companies are making nearly as much as the farmer. At least they make a profit over the cost of service performed.

If the wheat prices had been one dollar a bushel, as the farmer expected then he would have received \$1,002,844,000 for his crop.

If the price had been \$1.50, as the profit mongers said it would probably be, then the farmer would have received \$1,503,039,500 for his crop. And that is the price he should have received.