

Hi'am A. Rube Visits the Legislature---Waste Basket for Farmers Measures



Winners In The Leader's Big Prize Contest

Ruth Korn\$20
 George Bednar 10
 Martha Ertman 5
 Alma Aarestad, 3

These are the four winners in the Leader contest which closed on December 15. The prizes have been sent to the winners and congratulations and Christmas greetings to all contestants.

Our only regret is that we could not send prizes to all the contestants, equal to the amount the farmers lose on misgrading of grain.

Among the hundreds of letters that were sent in are to be found many gems of thought that are worth printing. This we intend to do later on.

One letter was addressed to the "Puzzle Editor" instead of "Contest Editor." If it had been "Puzzled Editor" it would have very correctly described the Contest Editor while he was trying to pick out the winners.

Many of the answers were correct as to the problems but the letters were not judged exclusively on that point. Neatness, brevity of statement and original thought and compositions were the determining factors, after the problems were settled. The two most interesting questions—or rather questions which brought out the most interesting answers—were seven and eight. Number seven was as to what is a parasite. The Leader will publish some of these answers later.

Number eight was as to the number of papers in the state which advocated the abolition of the present system of dockage and misgrading of grain. Many of the answers to this question were disappointing. Disappointing because the writers were too limited in their knowledge of newspaperdom in the state. It is a known fact that a number of papers in this state are fighting the present robbery system of grading and docking grain. There were a number of papers engaged in this fight long before the Leader was started. The Leader is not the pioneer in the fight. It has simply joined in with the others. Because of its large circulation it may be in a position to accomplish as much as all of them put together.

Therefore we are anxious to cooperate with all these papers. We are glad to join them in this fight and we want them to know that we are with them.

We appreciate the difficulties the average small paper is up against and we know of the pressure that is often brought to bear on them. For that reason those which have the courage of their convictions are all the more appreciated.

We were, therefore, highly pleased with the answer of Miss Ruth Sanford of Grand Forks to question eight. She includes the following in her list:

"The Nonpartisan Leader, Iconoclast, Messenger, The Smith Papers, The LaMoure County Chronicle, Powers Lake Echo, Benedict Banner, Devils Lake Journal, Searchlight, Sargent County Teller, and the Staats-Anzeiger (German paper). Several other

Contest Editor Becomes Puzzled Trying To Decide Best Letters---Many Thoughtful and Interesting Answers To The Contest Problems.

writers included the Co-operators' Herald, which we are sure deserves a place in the list.

In order that readers may understand the answers we herewith reproduce the problems and the questions as they appeared in the contest statement:

Here Are the Problems.

A North Dakota farmer took a wagon load of wheat containing 52 bushels to an elevator where the wheat was graded No. 4 and docked 6 pounds.

Two days later he took another wagon load, 52 bushels, of the same wheat to another elevator and it was graded No. 2 and paid for at the price of No. 1, while it was docked only 2½ pounds.

Between the price received for the first load and the net price received for the second load, allowing for fluctuations of the market meanwhile, was a net actual difference of \$9.87.

Suppose the total wheat crop of North Dakota to be 110,000,000 bushels.

Suppose it was all to be put into wagons containing 52 bushels each.

Suppose that because of misgrading and dockage there is lost to the farmers that raised it \$9.87 on every second wagon load.

Here Are the Questions to Be Answered:

1. What would be the total amount of loss in dollars to the farmers of North Dakota in dockage and grading alone?

2. How many automobiles at \$460 each would that amount buy?

3. How many boys and girls would that amount send to college for four years at \$400 per year?

4. If it costs \$100 for a month's vacation for a farmer's wife and children how many such mothers would be able with this amount to enjoy a vacation of travel and recreation?

5. How many memberships in the Nonpartisan League would the amount pay for at \$6 each? How many at \$10 each?

6. If the farmers of North Dakota were to establish their own elevators would they not eliminate the loss they now sustain in dockage and in grading by privately owned elevators?

7. What is a parasite?

8. How many newspapers now published in the state of North Dakota have advocated the abolition of the present system of dockage and misgrading of grain? Why have not the others done so?

9. If the farmers, who comprise 75 per cent of the population, stick together, can they or can they not, change the laws of North Dakota so that they will retain for themselves and their families the money that is now taken from them by the present system of docking and misgrading of grain?

The answer which took first prize follows:

Marion, N. Dak.
 The question and problems of the contest.

1. The total amount of loss in dollars and cents to the farmers of North Dakota resulting from dockage and misgrading alone would amount to \$10,439,423.07692.

2. With this \$10,439,423.07 and nine-thirteenths of a cent you could buy 22,694 automobiles at \$460 each and have \$183.08 left over.

3. When it takes \$1,600 to send a boy or girl to college it would send 6,524 boys and girls to college for four years with \$1,023.08 left over.

4. When it costs \$100 for a farmer's wife and three children for a month's vacation it would give 104,394 mothers and children a vacation of travel and recreation, with \$23.08 left over.

5. The number of memberships in the Nonpartisan League at \$6 each would amount to 1,739,903, with \$5.08 left over. The number of members of the League at \$10 each would be 1,043,942 members, with \$3.08 left over.

6. If the farmers of North Dakota were to establish their own elevators they would eliminate the loss they now sustain in dockage and grading by privately owned elevators, because if the farmers would have their own elevators the unjust grading would naturally come back to the farmers again.

7. Parasites are people that live on the farmers, or people such as the salesmen or bankers who depend entirely upon the farmers to make their living.

8. There is only one newspaper now published in the state of North Dakota that has advocated the abolition of the present system of dockage and misgrading of grain. And this newspaper is the Nonpartisan Leader.

The other newspapers do not advocate the abolition of the present system of dockage and misgrading of grain, because they favor privately owned elevators, including lawyers, salesmen and bankers, more than the farmers.

9. If the farmers who comprise 75 per cent of the population stick together, they could change the laws of North Dakota so that they will retain for themselves and their families the money that is now taken from them by the present system of dockage and misgrading of grain.

Ruth Korn.
 The answers to the problems will be omitted from the remaining letters, as they are in substance the same as the one quoted. Such parts as refer to the subsequent questions will follow.

The next letter is from a little boy at Anamoose.

6. If the farmers of North Dakota would establish their own grain elevators and would work together they could not help but eliminate the loss they now sustain by privately owned

elevators in dockage and misgrading of their grain, but they also would have to have honest and competent buyers at each elevator and also the whole business would have to be handled on a strictly honest basis.

7. A parasite is a hanger-on, a menace to success or business, or a plant or animal that lives on another. The Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, the Chicago Board of Trade, the packing trust, the International harvester trust, the Armour grain company, the Standard Oil Trust, and many other such corporations and trusts are parasites to the farmer, as they live on the farmer and are a menace to his success and earnings. Whatever the farmer loses through them, they gain.

8. The only newspaper I know of published in the state of North Dakota that has advocated the abolition of the present system of dockage and misgrading of grain is the Nonpartisan Leader. The other newspapers have not done so because they are not controlled by the farmer and do not work for the farmer to such an extent. Many of them work against him. The Nonpartisan Leader is the only paper published in the state that fights for the farmer's rights.

9. If the farmers who comprise 75 per cent of the population will stick together they can change the laws of North Dakota to a very great extent, so they can retain for themselves and families the money that is now taken from them by the present system of dockage and misgrading of their grain and in many other ways also. Not, I believe, until the farmers stick together and elect their own farmer representatives in the legislature and Congress, also other high and important officers, will they retain for themselves their rights and rightful favors.

Anamoose, N. D. George Bednar,

A LETTER FROM THE WINNER

Marion, N. D., Dec. 24, 1915.

Dear Contest Editor: I was indeed surprised to receive the \$20 as the winner of the first prize of your Christmas contest. Please accept my hearty and sincere thanks for the same.

I intend to go to school this coming summer and expect to use the \$20 for educational purposes. We have a consolidated school at Marion and I drive one of the school routes which is nine miles one way.

I was born and raised on a farm in North Dakota and have lived here ever since. I am now taking up the fourth year High School at Marion, but have not yet definitely decided what I am going to do. During my summer and winter vacation I help at home on the farm.

The Nonpartisan Leader, which we have not been taking but a short time, is read with great interest at our home and all are very anxious to receive it every time it comes.

Thanking you again and again for the prize, I am sincerely yours,—Ruth Korn.