

The Nonpartisan Leader

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WHOLE NO. 22

WHAT IS COMING?

Asks the Devil's Lake Journal

Editorial in Devil's Lake Journal

The average North Dakota politician who now is bothered by the thought of what is coming down the road as a result of the organization of the Nonpartisan League. Privately the politicians, or at least most of them, are sweating large drops of their precious political blood. They are scared, plumb, cold, stark scared. They fear a whirlwind has been started in the state and cyclone cellars are appearing more inviting day by day.

No one, of course, knows just what the influence of the Nonpartisan League will be in the politics of North Dakota in 1916. It is an organization which today is said to possess a membership of between thirty and forty thousand farmers. Its affairs thus far have been handled with rare judgment and business sense. Somewhere in the affairs are brains of an unusual order. The question will be "Can those brains which founded the league control its course in action?"

The answer to that question is the answer to the biggest question in North Dakota state politics today. Organizations of this kind have a faculty of being misled, of becoming disorganized quickly, and of frittering away their strength on non-essentials. UNDOUBTEDLY TODAY HANNA AND McCUMBER AND McKENZIE HAVE THEIR AGENTS AT WORK IN THE COUNCILS OF THE NONPARTISAN LEAGUE ATTEMPTING TO CONTROL A POLITICAL FORCE WHICH THESE PRECIOUS REACTIONARIES HAVE FOUND DIFFICULT TO OPENLY FIGHT. WILL THE LEAGUE BE CAPTURED BY THE AGENTS OF THESE MEN, BROUGHT INTO THE CAMP OF HANNA OR McCUMBER, OR WILL IT ACTUALLY GO ON ABOUT ITS AVOWED BUSINESS OF MAKING A CLEAN SWEEP IN THE STATE?

We shall see. The Nonpartisan League is expected to hold a state meeting in March for the purpose of endorsing state officials who will put through a reform program at Bismark. The people of the state will await the action of the league with unusual interest.

Will You Answer Correctly?

That is the question—will the League be captured by the politicians and turned over to the enemies of all progress "or will it actually go on about its avowed business of making a clean sweep in the state?"

The answer to this question RESTS WITH YOU MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE.

So far, you have taken no active part. Most of you have been watching closely to see if the men at the head of this organization were on the square.

You have seen every pledge and promise so far fulfilled.

NOW IT IS YOUR TURN TO ACT.

Next Tuesday afternoon, February 22, at 2 o'clock, you make your first answer to that question.

If every member of the League is alive to this great opportunity—if you all gather at your voting place and then select for precinct delegate A MAN WHOM THE POLITICIANS AND MIDDLEMEN CAN NOT INFLUENCE—then you have answered "YES!" THE LEAGUE WILL GO ON ABOUT ITS AVOWED BUSINESS MAKING A CLEAN SWEEP IN THE STATE.

But, if you fail to act, or, if you permit the politician and the friends of the middlemen to control your precinct meetings and make their tools your delegates, then you have lost and nothing the Leader can do will win your cause.

BUT YOU WILL NOT LOSE—YOU CAN NOT—YOU ARE BOUND BY ALL THAT IS NEAR AND DEAR TO YOU TO WIN.

We await your answer in full confidence that every man will do his part.

Then will the League "go on about its avowed business of making a clean sweep in the state."