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Justice Distorted.

The decision of the District Court in fining Vidian B. Vye of St. Paul and Ed. Cutting of Sleepy Eye, indicted on three counts for alleged extortion, in the sum of \$100 each for the first charge and in dismissing the others as part of agreement with the defendants' attorneys came as a complete surprise to all lovers of unadulterated justice. It must look to them like mockery and a caricature of a fair and impartial settlement.

The crime committed by the defendants, with all its unprovoked terrorism heaped upon an innocent populace is still fresh in the minds of the people and they are unable to understand this great leniency in disposing of the case. The Review has always been of the opinion that the activities of Vye and Cutting during the summer of 1918 were in open defiance of public decency and in violation of the statutes of the land and it shared with many others in this county the hope that the punishment for these crimes would be at least commensurate.

People are wont to look to the courts as a tribunal of steadfast morality in the defense of public interests, and they draw their conclusions from decisions such as the one in question, that show a marked discrepancy between the act committed and the punishment imposed. It may look to them as something like an indifference to vital public interests which should be safeguarded by every means before taking into account any other consideration, no matter how justified it might seem.

Even considering Mr. Vye's youth, the unusual circumstances and the peculiarity of his position as agent of a government office in war time and, therefore, granting a certain degree of mitigation in judging his acts it might have been expected from the standpoint of an unbiased observer who is acquainted with the extraordinary character of his behavior that the punishment meted out would have been kept in some proportion to the offense committed. As it is there seems to be no proportion whatever leaving no doubt but that many people, victims of Vye or not, will be greatly dissatisfied with the decision of the court, which they will regard as distorted justice.

The time is fast approaching when the supreme issue will be whether this is to be a government for all the people or to deteriorate into a class oligarchy. Political quick-change artists and panders to class prejudice should be given short shift and men should be elected, who will honestly represent the whole people and not the minority. Away with demagogues and class agitators.—*Brown County Journal.*

What we might add to the above in the line of "argument" would not sound half so good as what the voters will answer at the primary ballot box next June. We are satisfied to wait for their answer.

Brother Ward Impatient.

One year and four months have passed since the signing of the armistice and still no peace treaty signed, and no declaration of peace. As far as the records show, we are still at war with Germany. Why? Simply because the majority of the people of this country don't wish to sign any agreement which binds this nation or which makes it subservient to others.

Is there any reason why England should be given six votes in the League of Nations to America's one? They say the members of the Senate and others are responsible for the delay. There is one man who it seems is controlled by a clique and combine who is responsible for it all and it is needless for us to say who it is. The people know and they know the fallacy of the claim that "He kept us out of war."

Where is Vice-President Marshall, an able man? With the President evidently incapacitated to transact business, it would not rationally be expected that the Vice-President would have something to say. On the contrary, certain cliques and combines are running the Government and the only safety valve is the United States Senate and House of Representatives.—*Fairmont Independent.*

Better be careful, Brother Ward, or you'll be classed as a Russian Bolshevik, and I. W. W., and an undesirable citizen—and then Uncle Sam's bogie man is likely to get you!

Strange how many men become puerile through senility! Ex-Presy Cyrus Northrop of the State University heads the newly concocted rotten political ring, which has chosen the misleading

nom de plume of Sound Government Association. What this association will look like after the votes are counted next fall can better be imagined than described, especially if one considers the fact that labor and the farmers are going to stick together like glue during the coming political campaign.

Is Free Press Seditious?

We could hardly believe our spectacles, when we "lamped" the following in a recent issue of the *Mankato Free Press* under the heading: "What About This?":

"H. E. Wheaton, editor of the *Hokah Chief*, asks this question: "Say, Mr. League of Nations advocate, what about this? England has just sent an army of 200,000 men to Armenia to subdue the Turks and to turn the tide of bolshevism that is, headed down toward Persia, on its way to India. It was doped out by President Wilson's league scheme that the United States should be the guardian of Armenia, and had it not been for the senate 200,000 of our boys would now be over there fighting against the red hosts and sacrificing their lives on the plains of Islam. It is all right for England to do this work, for she gets something out of it. She has vast interests which must be protected and others she hopes to acquire, but for us with our policy of "no acquisition, no indemnity" we would be simply over there for our health—and we can get more healthful exercise nearer home."

And to think that but a brief period of time since "Joey" favored the visiting of all the known and unknown tortures upon people who expressed similar sentiments about the World war and our participation therein! Wonder if the *Free Press* considers itself as seditious for reprinting the above from the pen of Editor Wheaton?

The *Hanska Herald* having joined forces with the other 1,000,000-percent loyal editors who take advantage of every opportunity to lambast New Ulm, asks in its last week's issue whether Prof. Ackermann isn't the man whom Uncle Sam gave a post-graduate course at Leavenworth, Kansas. No, Brother Bekken, Prof. Ackermann has been a continuous resident of this city for many years, and enjoys the respect and esteem of the great majority of our citizens for his fearless defense of our rights as guaranteed to us by the Constitution. He has forgotten more than most of those "two-by-two" would-be editors, who are maligning him, ever will know. It certainly is comical of all the dirty, contemptible lies that are circulated relative to upstanding American citizens.

Giving the Lie to the Journal.

In our issue of January 7, under the heading "Ellsworth and the Farmers," the following articles appeared on the editorial page:

"According to a front-page story of our esteemed contemporary, Franklin F. Ellsworth, at present congressman from this district, is to be the gubernatorial candidate of the Nonpartisan League in the Republican primaries. The story referred to is based upon "reliable information from inside the Townley camp," to quote from the contemporary's article.

How "reliable" this information is, we do not pretend to know, but will leave it to those who know the publisher best, to judge the truth or fiction thereof. What we do know, however, is, that the members of the Nonpartisan League in Brown county will not support Mr. Ellsworth in his gubernatorial aspirations, in view of the insults he heaped upon those residents of the county who happen to be of German descent or extraction, shortly before the United States entered the World war.

If there is any possibility of Mr. Ellsworth being the choice of the leaders of the Nonpartisan League for candidate for governor, this choice will not meet with favor among the great majority of League members. Without any attempt at dictating the policies or attitude of the League, it seems that a more acceptable candidate could be selected. But before becoming unduly excited about the matter, we shall await official word from League headquarters."

And in its issue of January 10 the *Brown County Journal* of this city had the following to say in answer to the above:

"Townley is still boss of the Nonpartisan league, and it matters not whom he names as his candidate for governor, Brown county members, who paid in their \$16 per, will be expected to walk up to the polls and cast their named vote."

Believing that it will prove of general interest to our readers to learn which was correct—the *Review* or the *Journal*—we quote the following rather lengthy editorial which appeared in the *Minnesota Leader* of January 17 under the heading, "Political Dope."

"In a recent issue of the *Minneapolis Journal* it was stated in one place that the Nonpartisan league had reached an agreement with Congressman Ellsworth by which he would be the League candidate for governor. In another place IN THE SAME ISSUE it was reported just as positively that the League would not endorse Ellsworth. The St. Paul Dispatch and other papers at various

times have asserted that Frankson would be the gubernatorial candidate of the League. Finally, the *Pioneer Press* came out with a big front-page yarn to the effect that President Townley had decided that the League would endorse Congressman Keller for governor! "All these maneuvers of the kept press of course are very funny. The purpose is to get League members divided into factions concerning various candidates before the League convention meets, which would make trouble in the convention and prevent that unanimity of action and solidarity which has always been the most striking characteristic of the organized farmers' movement and which has been one of the chief causes of its success. Another purpose of this kept press 'dope' is to lead League members, if possible, to believe that someone is picking candidates for them without their having a voice in it—that it is all a cut-and-dried affair.

"Now, the papers which are making asses of themselves by trotting out the 'only real genuine League candidate' for governor every other day or so and naming A DIFFERENT MAN each time, know very well, as every member of the League knows, that the League candidate has NOT been selected, or even DISCUSSED, and will not be selected or even discussed, UNTIL THE LEAGUE STATE CONVENTION MEETS.

"These papers know perfectly well that League members are to meet January 23 in their voting precincts, and that the primary purpose of these precinct caucuses is to name farmer delegates to the county convention that will endorse men as League candidates. Because this matter of candidates is entirely in the hands of the farmers, the Minnesota Leader has refrained from proposing or discussing any candidates and will continue to do so. Neither the Leader nor any one connected with the League staff will do or say anything to prevent the League candidates being the open and free choice of the farmers themselves in convention assembled. Section 3 of the League articles of association states plainly that "the members reserve to themselves ALL POLITICAL POWER." This means, among other things, POWER TO ENDORSE CANDIDATES.

"One would think that the kept press would profit by its experience of two years ago. Before the 1918 League state convention, the papers brought forward supposed League gubernatorial candidates by the wholesale, but none of them proved to be the man named by the convention. It will also be remembered that after the convention the press alleged that the convention had been "rigged"—that League leaders had controlled it, and that the candidates, who afterwards polled 150,000 votes, three times the League membership in the state, were not the choice of the near being the candidates, not only of the League, but of the whole state! The Leader, after the convention, published statements of EVERY FARMER DELEGATE, giving the lie to the press charge about alleged 'control' of the convention. THE SAME CHARGE WILL BE MADE AFTER THE LEAGUE CONVENTION THIS YEAR."

The frantic efforts of the *Brown County Journal*, along with other prattling mouthpieces of polluted politics throughout the Northwest, to discredit the Nonpartisan League and ridicule those farmers, who are League members, are sufficient to make a laughing hyena weep.

And when these very farmers discontinue the papers that malign them, a terrific wail of "boycott" is heard. The League farmers are supposed to keep right on subscribing for and otherwise supporting those newspapers that do not miss a single opportunity to call them Socialists, pro-Germans, un-American, Bolsheviks, I. W. W. sympathizers and other choice slanderous epithets of similar import.

Also merchants who refuse to advertise in these farmer-deriding papers, because they are in sympathy with the farmer and his views, are accused of "boycotting" the publishers and are likewise called pro-Germans, un-American, etc., etc.

How long will the farmers and merchants stand for this uncalled-for and wholly unwarranted abuse?

The *Free Press* cannot join Franklin E. Ellsworth in his desperate flirtation with Townleyism. This paper does not believe in socialism and free love—and furthermore it will not lend its assistance to any movement that might place the North Star state under the baleful political domination of a man like Townley. Minnesota deserves far better treatment.—*Mankato Free Press.*

A Seditious Document

If the Graham Seditious Bill, now pending in Congress, should become a law, the Declaration of Independence would have to be cut out of our school books. It would be a crime to teach the Declaration of Independence in any history class, or to read it in any public gathering, or to publish it in any newspaper, or to send it through the mails.

The second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence contains the following:

"... That, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these

ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundations on such principles and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. * * * But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. * * *"

Under the sedition bills that Big Biz is trying to jam through Congress not only would the Declaration of Independence be seditious but many of the speeches of George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry would have to be clipped from our school books and removed from our Public libraries as disloyal and seditious.

Senator Walsh, Democrat, claims to be absolutely ignorant upon the question of whether the President wrote the last statement attributed to him, or whether it is the product of some "cheap politician." We sincerely sympathize with Senator Walsh, for any man especially a member of the American House of Lords, who considers present-day politicians as "cheap," is sadly failing to keep pace with the time.

You hear the peanut politicians, large and small, on every hand, argue that the delay in signing the Peace Treaty and the un-American League of Nations Covenant is causing the United States great harm. This statement is, however, not borne out by the facts, as even the British pound sterling has dropped more than a good old U. S. dollar in value, and foreign exchange, generally, is slipping to the bottom, while the eagles on every dollar we possess screams forth his victorious call louder and louder every day. Of course, this may hurt the money-bags, who have loaned Great Britain and other European governments oodles of coin, but we should worry! If the British pound sterling keeps on dropping in value, it may reach the low level of the German mark and the Austrian krone, but the American dollar will reign supreme in the money market of the world.

Now that Viscount Grey, former British Ambassador at Washington, has stated, in a leading newspaper article, that the American reservations of the Peace Treaty are justified from an American point of view, Congress can go ahead and adopt these reservations without needing to fear the Lion's roar. It is a significant fact that since Johnny Bull bluffed us into turning the big former Germany liners over to him, our administration has been exceedingly cautious, lest it might rile the Lion and cause him to ruffle his mighty mane. There is no further need for caution in view of the condescension of Viscount Grey to the United States—to have its little fling anent Peace Treaty reservations.

THE AMERICAN HOUSE OF LORDS.

(From the *Mesabe, Ore.*)

Just suppose for one minute, at least, that the Nonpartisan league had spent \$1,000,000 in electing one of its members to the United States senate—and got away with it?

Can't you guess what would have happened?

The Republican newspapers would have fairly "burned up the country—

In their "just" righteousness.

Yet a Republican high in the councils of the party is guilty of doing that identical thing, and even after the showdown he has the supreme audacity to dig his toes in and stand for a fight for his high place.

Trumann (get that name) H. Newberry, a leading citizen of the commonwealth of Michigan, Republican, was elected to the United States senate over Henry Ford, the automobile manufacturer. The Republican gang admit the expenditure of a quarter of a million dollars in the undertaking—but it was worth it, they claim, and the end justified the means because Henry Ford is positively dangerous.

No bones were made of the campaign tactics employed by the Republicans and the matter was referred to the senate for investigation, but the senate is the sole judge of the qualifications of its members and Newberry was given his seat.

Now comes a Michigan grand jury and not only brings criminal indictments against Newberry, but some 150 of his henchmen, including a number of ministers of the gospel—men who took Newberry money and went out and polluted the election laws and the decency of Michigan for the sake of buying a seat in the American house of lords.

Newberry, under indictment for conspiracy, fraud, bribery and perjury, is at present in the senate where he is in close communion with the old guard, the Lodges and other of that ilk, and it can be accepted in advance that the Republicans will do their very utmost to save the Michigan man and to continue the popularity of vote-buying by Republican senators in that state.

We have the same gang working in Minnesota, and it is not the Nonpartisan league, either.

LABOR FEDERATION ENTERS CAMPAIGN

RALLYING SUMMONS IS ISSUED BY SPECIAL COMMITTEE AT WASHINGTON.

FREE INSTITUTIONS OF COUNTRY ARE MENACED, SAYS PRONOUNCEMENT.

Organized labor on Monday of this week made public the details of the fight which it will make in the 1920 congressional campaign to insure the election of men, regardless of their political affiliations, who are truly "representatives of American ideals of liberty." The pronouncement which was issued by a special committee of 26 members reads in part:

"The inherent rights and principles of our people are threatened. "The free institutions of our country are menaced.

"The ideals of democracy are in danger.

"The Congress of the United States has failed to do its duty. It has failed to meet the emergency. It has given encouragement and support to autocratic and reactionary policies. Its dominating thought has been the repression of labor.

"Every effort to secure remedial and constructive legislation has been strangled. Every appeal for redress has met with subtle and open hostility. The halls of Congress have been used by labor's enemies to foster and spread a vicious propaganda against the efforts of the toilers to exercise their normal and lawful activities for the protection and promotion of their interests and welfare. Labor has appealed for relief in vain.

Urged to Defend "Ideals."

"The hour has arrived when those who believe in the maintenance of democratic institutions must marshal their forces in defense of their rights and ideals.

Repression Is Charged.

"No favorable legislative action upon the recommendations contained in the American Federation of Labor reconstruction program or those expressed at the December conference, has been taken by Congress; instead many congressmen have endeavored to enact legislation providing for compulsory labor despite the patriotism and sacrifice of the masses of labor of America during the World war. Under the guise of anti-sedition laws, the effort has been made to repress free association, free speech and free press.

"Scorned by Congress, ridiculed and misrepresented by many members of both Houses, the American labor movement finds it necessary to vigorously apply its long and well established non-partisan political policy.

"It is the duty of trade unionists, their friends and sympathizers and all lovers of freedom, justice and democratic ideals and institutions to unite to defeat those seeking public office who are indifferent or hostile to the people's interests and the rights of labor.

Labor Called to Rally.

"Wherever candidates for re-election have been friendly to labor's interests, they should be loyally supported. Wherever candidates are hostile or indifferent to labor's interest, they should be defeated and the nomination and election of true and tried trade unionists or assured friends should be secured."

Old Knute Nelson, our senile United States Senator, suggests the elimination of sporting pages from the daily press as a means of conserving print paper. We agree with him, provided Congress will not deprive us of the Congressional Record, which is a sufficient substitute for the sporting page of the average daily newspaper.

All the news from Europe gives evidence of increasing alarm over the money and banking situation. Alarm there gives rise to excitement here. Our treasury department is actually refusing to make large gold payments, as individuals have a right to demand when they submit gold certificates.

In a short time a great international conference of bankers and government agents will be held to find a way out of disaster. All the governments issued vast amounts of paper money and bonds. The total is put at 600 billion dollars. In all countries private interests profiteered and piled up vast amounts of bonds and watered stock justified at the time by the war profits. The owning classes now must find a peace-time income to carry all this capitalization or there must be a smash.

Banks and other fiduciary institutions, as well as the large capitalists, are loaded with this paper, which has no value when it has no income. Conceivably the greater income needed might be squeezed out of the working classes, but this policy pursued up to the present has produced great unrest—much more than the people here are allowed to know. Milk's 24 cents a quart in London and men get serious when they see their families starving.

A news dispatch from Washington, D. C., of last Thursday says that a big drop in the prices of necessities is only a few weeks away. This is what government officials there have doped out. We are living in hopes, but, nevertheless, admit that seeing is believing.



Coats, Suits Dresses For Easter

It's not very far off; the fourth of April, Hundreds of women are now purchasing what they intend to wear on that occasion.

Why not do Likewise? Our large stocks are well equipped to supply you with the necessities you require.

The largest surprise of all is the lowness of their prices and their high quality.

The Bee Hive

J. A. OCHS & SONS, Prop.
The Busiest Store in Town.