

STATUS OF LEAGUE PROGRAM TO DATE.

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|--|-------|----------------------|
| Workingmens' Compensation Bill | - - - | Killed |
| A Herd Law. | - - - | Killed |
| Erection of Terminal Elevator | - - - | Passed |
| Flour Mill | - - - | Spoiled by Amendment |
| Changing Date of Primary | - - - | Killed |
| Torrens Land Title System. | - - - | Killed |
| Hail Insurance | - - - | Passed |
| A Mine License Law. | - - - | Doubtful |
| State Inspection of Dockage and Grading | - - - | Doubtful |
| Calling for a Constitutional Convention. | - - - | Killed |
| Retention of the Rail Roads by the Government. | - - - | Killed |
| Exemption of Farm Improvements From Taxation. | - - - | Doubtful |

Substitute for Compensation and Herd Law Passed
Worse Than Useless.

THE FIGHT FOR A FREE PRESS IN MONTANA NOW RAGING WITH FEARFUL BITTERNESS

Bulletin Editors Brought to Trial.

A fight is being waged against the free expression of opinion on matters of public importance by the most powerful and reactionary forces on the American Continent. In Montana the Standard Oil Company, manifesting itself through the A. O. M. has declared war on the labor organizations, the labor press, the Nonpartisan League and its organs of publicity and all other men and women who are liberal minded and progressive. Its legislative body now seated at Helena has been busy passing laws and memorials directed toward this end and as the fight grows bitter so the number of victims increase. There is no distinction made whether the progressive be a university professor or a ditch digger, as Levine and others know.

The Fight on the Press.

The determination to strangle any newspaper or journal which will not bow to king copper has expressed itself in the most vicious attack upon the Butte Daily Bulletin. The Montana Nonpartisan survived the efforts of the gang to put it out of existence because of its tremendous circulation and its great backing, but the Butte Bulletin which is the official organ of the Metal Trades Council of Butte and is owned by many unions and private stockholders had no such backing, and it was felt by the active agents of reaction, John A. McIntosh, secretary of the Employers' Association and Will A. Campbell, secretary of the Loyalty League, that it should yield first, and if put out of business, would be a severe blow to the forces of progress.

The attack was skillfully engineered, and as usual the war was made the excuse under cover of which the Bulletin was ordered to suspend, because of the paper shortage. We need not argue about this, the facts are, that during election, countless reams of this valuable product were wasted and the provisions of the War Industries Board openly violated by the wholesale free distribution of campaign matter in the form of newspapers, but since this was done in the interests of copper, the state council of defense, so far as we know, uttered no protest.

Every effort was made to "get" the Bulletin, because the copper crowd understands that it is a tremendous power for good in the hands of the labor movement, and since it is the business of these labor haters to destroy the labor movement, they naturally loathed the idea that labor should own and control a press of their own.

Bulletin Staff Arrested.

We need not go through the whole history of the case, but shall confine ourselves to what has happened in the last few months. The attack on the Bulletin became so strong that the editor voiced the opinion of the labor movement, by stating in an editorial, that the Montana State Council of Defense was not a law-making body and need not therefore be obeyed, the inference being that it could suggest to the citizens what should be done, but that the imperative, "it is ordered" is the prerogative only of the courts and the legislature. The case against the Bulletin is the more flagrant when it is remembered that the Council of Defense during the whole of its existence never once attempted to curtail the profligate profiteering, the mob violence and the shameful activities of the political apaches, which disgraced this state during the war period, but did endeavor to curtail the activities of public demonstration by the forbidding of parades and the refusal to allow public meetings, without permit.

For the editorial in question W. F. Dunn, editor, Bruce Smith, business manager and Leo Daly, advertising manager were arrested and taken to the Lewis and Clark county jail. Every trick was tried to evade habeas corpus proceedings, and no chance left that the defendants might go before a Butte jury.

The Trial.

By some mental gymnastics a charge of sedition was filed against the defendants and the case brought to trial before Judge Lee M. Word at Helena. W. F. Dunn was first tried and from the beginning, the court over-ruled most of the objections put up by the defendant's council, B. K. Wheeler and Attorney Baldwin. The jury, we understand, voted five for acquittal and seven for a verdict of guilty and finally compromised on a fine of \$5,000.

We do not wish to pose as legal authority neither are we criticizing the court, but we fail to understand upon what basis a ver-

diet of sedition could be reached from the evidence submitted. If the people of this state are to be tried upon such charges and the intent, not taken into consideration, then the way is open for all sorts of private revenges to be satisfied.

It is claimed, of course, that the intent of the editorial was to hamper the United States in the prosecution of the war, and this, as we understand it, constitutes sedition, but if every public body, guilty of malfeasance and the direction of its powers in assisting privileged interest to extend their hold on the producers, is to be allowed to shelter behind this thing we are in the midst of chronic autocracy.

A case in point would read something like this: A public body appointed to do a certain task, violates the terms of its creation by openly favoring a great corporation to the detriment of the rest of the people. The body in question threatens that whoever criticizes it or refuses to obey its mandates becomes immediately guilty of assisting the enemy in defeating the United States, troops, when as a matter of fact, the critic is actually serving the United States, by attacking one of its worst enemies. In like manner a criticism may come from an enemy agent with the object of encouraging the enemy people, to believe that discontent and disorder prevails in the country of which he speaks. Thus in the first case the intent is to assist the government, on the second to hamper it. Not by any stretch of imagination can the second be said of the Bulletin, its patriotic effort all through the war is evidence enough for any reasonable person.

The Real Reason.

The real reason for the instigation of this attack however, is shown with startling clarity by the editor of the Helena Independent who is also a member of the State Council of Defense and the secretary of the Montana Loyalty League. He says:

"Dunn is a trouble maker in Montana. He starts something in Butte, demands exorbitant pay for miners, sets the scale of wages for the entire state on a way. When the miners get a raise of one dollar other trades expect it whether the employers and the industries can afford to pay it or not. His disturbances in Butte are not confined to Silver Bow county—they result in this man setting the pace for all other troubles in Montana. If he gains a dollar for miners in Butte, the workers in that city demand a proportionate increase and every local union in the state, regardless of earnings, demands a proportionate increase. Some of the smaller towns, such as Helena cannot pay the Butte scale, and as a result Dunn's trouble making program has a statewide effect.

"I consider Dunn the most dangerous man in Montana because of his radicalism. I consider that it is my duty as a member of the State Council of defense to help prosecute him when he breaks the law."

By which it appears, Mr. Campbell still believes that an order of the State Council of Defense is a law, a thing which any student of Democracy knows to be untrue. Mr. Campbell evidently thinks a union man striving to overtake the cost of living should be prosecuted as a dangerous individual, but is remarkably reticent over the plunderers who fatten by forcing up the cost of food.

It is seen then, that the matter in dispute is really the old, old battle between master and worker.

A Subtle Attack.

The Loyalty League and the

Employers' Association who hoped to gain complete control by destroying the independent press, have arranged the thing with a good deal of skill. They know that the Butte Bulletin must exist by virtue of the workers support. They know they have used every means possible, to keep advertisers from using advertising space the paper offers, and the court proceedings were started, it is said, with the end in view of destroying the Bulletin's finances, so that it would be compelled to cease publication.

The legal proceedings, the cost of defense, the possible fine and the fervently hoped imprisonment of the managers of the Bulletin, they expect to accomplish this result. Or was this all, coincident with the trial of Dunn, there was introduced into the senate a bill for the establishing of a state board of charity, which forbade the solicitation of funds without the consent of this board. The object being of course to pounce upon those who are today canvassing the unions and individual citizens to finance the Dunn trial. The bill did not pass, but if it had, the Bulletin would have been in desperate straits.

Free Press Cannot Be Killed

The hopes of the reactionary copper crowd are in vain. The sentence of Dunn brought with it a spontaneous uprising of indignant men and women, who pledge themselves to his support. The Bulletin will continue and extend its circulation for although many of its champions disagree in toto, with its policy, they are not prepared to allow the suppression of one of our few independent papers.

SECURITY LEAGUE JUST PLAIN FAKERS

(By J. E. Nesbit)

It appears from disclosures in the workings of the "Security League" that the cloak was not cut large enough in the preamble to cover the various shady games the Security League performed. It would seem they were working piecemeal at so much per. The curtain pulled aside let the light in on the dark recesses of the inside works. It was like turning the flash light on hell, many familiar faces were in evidence. Some we could recognize, they had their silk fans with them, not being used to the hot rays of the Sun. However, enough of the "Old Gang" were there to satisfy us as to the caliber of the assembly. They were primed, and cocked ready for decisive action at the behest of patriotic war profiteers, who furnish the grease for their machine. However, their aim was bad, the chief gunner had a bum squint, the shots went wild tearing up the turf from under the feet of the common people. It stirred up a hornet's nest—Give 'em time, the hornets like the people will soon forget, and return to the nest. It was one of the many "League, and Councils of Defense" that sprung up like mushrooms from the spawn of special privilege and masqueraded in the name of patriotism "to help win the war." Their chief aim and purpose was to win a few dollars—to intimidate, and lead congressmen from the straight path of duty—to protect certain interests from the public gaze while they milked the war bud get. To defend their own financial pursuits, and schemes regardless of our country's defense. The nefarious practices discovered likens them unto the wily fox—Reach and Grab while the public is on the brink of hysteria, tangled up with threatened perils of the Air, Land and Sea—Help yourself boys. "Nobody looking, but the Owl, and he sets blinking in the Sun. Like some folks we know, they cannot navigate in the light."

THE LEAGUE AND THE LAND QUESTION.

The League position is that land used by the owners should remain in their hands so long as they render service to the community by keeping the land in use. But as soon as a land monopoly appears, that is, a few men are enabled to hold it useless and exclude others from its use, it must be turned back to all the people, who can and will make it productive and contributory to the health and comfort of society.

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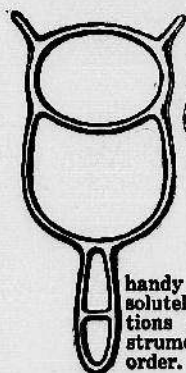
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