

### STATE OPERATION OF COAL MINES GREAT VICTORY

(Continued from Page One)  
mines it took over. Normal production was assured within a day or two.

On Saturday Governor Frazier announced the plan of state operation as follows:

"The primary object of state operation is to get the coal to the people of the state," said Governor Frazier. "I feel that everyone is willing to continue to pay the present prices for a few days, until we learn what it actually costs us to produce the coal."

#### No Profit Wanted

In the operation by the state neither the state nor the mine operators are to make any profit. Royalties of from 10 to 25 cents per ton will be paid the owners for coal taken from their mines. The price to the dealers will be governed by the actual cost of mining the coal, plus this royalty and whatever expense the state coal administration incurs in operating the mines. I anticipate there will be a reduction in retail prices in some localities. No cut will be made, however, until we have absolute figures on the cost of production."

### ANTON JOHNSON NOT GUILTY

Scobey Movie Man Acquitted of Statutory Charge By Jury Last Saturday.

Anton Johnson, the Scobey movie man who was arrested last spring on a statutory charge, the victim being his beautiful little seven year old daughter, was acquitted by a jury in the district court last Friday evening, November 14th. This case was very sensational, and the circumstances very peculiar. However, there seemed to have been sufficient doubt as to justify the jury in the verdict rendered.

The whole case, practically, depended upon the evidence of the little seven year old daughter, who testified very reluctantly and never seemed very sure of herself.

The main witness for the states, Mrs. Foss, who was keeping house for Johnson at the time the crime is alleged to have occurred, seems to have eluded the officers and did not put in an appearance in Plentywood until after the trial.

Sheriff Bennett went to Scobey to serve a subpoena on this Mrs. Foss but found that she had gone to Minot, N. D., at which place he telephoned the sheriff, but the Dakota sheriff was unable to locate her. Then Sheriff Bennett went to Minot himself and found that Mrs. Foss was at Douglas, N. D., visiting relatives and he went to that town, but there was a blizzard on and the wires were down and he could not get out into the country and was forced to leave the subpoena with an officer at that place for service as soon as possible. The papers were served but not in time for Mrs. Foss to get in Plentywood for the trial.

County Attorney Gunther and Assistant Geo. D. Cudhie appeared for the state and Attorney Alfred T. Vollum for the defendant, Anton Johnson.

Johnson's wife died last fall with the influenza and it was after the mother's death that the crime is supposed to have taken place. It is reported that Johnson has disposed of all of his holdings in this country and will return to Sweden, taking the little girls back with him, where he will leave them with relatives.

### MURDER CHARGE FILED AGAINST JOE BURSHIA

Poplar Standard: On a complaint made by the county attorney's office a charge of first degree murder was filed against Joe Burshia, of this city, on Wednesday of this week at Mondak. Burshia is charged with the murder of Art Williams in this city on the evening of October 31. He was taken before Justice of the Peace Charles Arrivee, at Mondak, for a preliminary hearing and remanded to the custody of the sheriff.

Since the shooting Burshia has been confined in the county jail at Mondak.

### SCOBEY PASTOR PEACE DISTURBER

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Whereupon the Mr. Johnson had the follower of the lowly Nazarene arrested and brought before a magistrate, in the person of Judge Olson.

His Honor set the hearing for last Monday and the pastor returned to his flock at Scobey for Sabbath services and returned to the county seat on Monday morning train when he appeared before the magistrate and asked for a continuance until next Monday, Nov. 24th, in order to have time to prepare for trial.

The case promises to be very interesting.

### COURT MAKES 18 NEW CITIZENS

Residents From All Over County Become Subjects of Uncle Sam.

Following are the list of 18 residents of Sheridan county who were made citizens of the United States and swore allegiance to the Stars and Stripes and made oath to support the Constitution of this realm, in Judge Comer's court this week:

William Ranson Lounsbury, Dooley; Charles Brumpton, Plentywood; Andress Bakken, Antelope; Ingeborg Paulsrud, Westby; Reider Leer, Reserve; Peter Daniel Nyquist, Outlook; Julius Tessman, Poplar; Mykala Thochy, Julian; Julius Jacob Beng, Whitetail; George Emmanuel La Combe, Whitetail; Carl Odegard, Whitetail; Idwal Jones, Whitetail; John Heier, Scobey; Olaf Pedersen, Scobey; Alphas Stephen Rubin, Whitetail; Otto Emil Andersen, Whitetail; Nils Bjorko, Scobey; Joseph Gruber, Redstone.

### MONTANA WEEKLY INDUSTRIAL REVIEW

Nov. 10.—Butte—Jibi property ready to ship. Vein opened up 1900 feet.

Helena—State land sales for past year bring 2 1-2 million dollars—average of \$15.71 per acre.

Valier—Both Great Northern and Milwaukee railroads may extend branches in Valier county.

Kinsey—Mackey Eberle Land and Stock company incorporated. Capitalized at \$60,000.

Billings—Gasoline making plant with daily output of 2,400 gallons to be erected here.

Great Falls—Bread prices increased from 2 1-2 to 3 cen per loaf.

Helena—New company buys electric block for \$80,000, also improved residence property.

Lima—New Security National Bank building to be erected at once.

Poplar—Prospects for oil and gas favorable.

Butte has new song shop. Most up to date west of New York City.

Ore carrying silver as high as 100 ounces to the ton has just been uncovered in the Silver Belt mine in the Neihart district in Montana.

North Butte Mining company has made a strike in its East Side property. Rich sulphide and native copper have been cut in the south cross-cut from the Sarsfield shaft on the 900 foot level.

Pompeys Pillar—Newton railroad siding to be extended one mile.

Wolf Point—Flax mill begins operations. Stock food to be manufactured as by-product.

Montana plans network of roads to connect all important towns for next year.

Whitefish to have new school. Work to be rushed.

Butte—New building for State school of Mines going up. Hardin—60 blocks new paving proposed.

Libby—New \$100,000 bridge to be built over Kootenai river.

Helena—Contract awarded for construction of mosque by Algeria Temple of the Shrine.

Despite three years drouth and calamity stories, Montana land and land values are rapidly soaring in public estimation and the greatest agricultural activity in history of state is presaged for next year.

Choteau—New High School going up.

Billings to have big cannery with capacity of 60,000 cans.

### DISTRICT COURT MILL GRINDING

(Continued from Page One)

The case now on trial is the State vs. W. J. Tobin, for malicious destruction of property; Alfred T. Vollum for the defense, case before the jury.

The criminal calendar will probably occupy the attention of the court all of next week, although several of those charged with gambling and blind pigging have pleaded guilty and have taken stiff fines.

### VICTIM OF MOBBERS ACCUSES MINISTER

John Meints of Sioux Falls, S. D., Asks \$100,000 Damages.

Mankato, Minn.—"They took me out on the prairie and stripped my clothes off. Then they tarred and feathered me. Standing there in the moonlight, looking into the muzzle of a shotgun, I felt the sting of a lash on my naked back. I counted the blows—one, two, three, four. I could stand it no longer; I turned to the man who was flogging me. 'For God's sake, don't' I cried. I stopped. The man's mask had slipped down on his face and I was able to recognize him. He was Rev. H. W. Bedford, pastor of the Methodist church in Luverne."

That was the testimony of John Meints of Sioux Falls, S. D., formerly of Luverne, Minn., in United States district court in Mankato last week. Meints is suing 32 prominent business men of Luverne for \$100,000 damages in consequence of his deportation into South Dakota, followed by a tar-and-feather outrage on the interstate line August 19, 1918.

The dramatic moment in Meints' testimony came after he had told how a mob of 100 persons had taken him into an automobile for deportation.

Seized by "Bandits" At a remote point on the South Dakota line, Meints says his kidnappers were "held up" by four armed masked men. He was taken from the automobile by the "bandits," whom he soon recognized as Luverne business men, and tarred and feathered.

Previously, Meints had been deported into Iowa, after it was found that he had contributed \$50 to aid in the establishment of the Rock County Leader, a weekly newspaper organized by the farmers to support Nonpartisan league candidates in the 1918 primary and general election.

The second Meints outrage brought to a climax the persecution of Nonpartisan league farmers under the cloak of loyalty in Rock county. The weekly newspaper had been nailed up and the editor forced to flee from the state. Over a dozen Nonpartisan league farmers were forced to sign statements repudiating the Nonpartisan league as a disloyal organization with the alternative of being deported from the state.

Almost without exception the defendants testified that they had deported Meints for the purpose of "protecting" him from some mythical mob. They denied any knowledge of the tar-and-feather party.

Not one of the defendants said he had notified the sheriff or other police authorities.

James Horne, monument dealer of Luverne, made the admission, however, that all "protective" activities ceased in Rock county as soon as two agents of the United States department of justice appeared in Luverne to conduct an investigation.

### COMERTOWN FARMER SHIPS TO EQUITY

H. R. Phinney of Comertown arrived home last Monday from the So. St. Paul market, where he had disposed of a mixed car load of stock for himself and neighbors.

Mr. Phinney relates he sold his stock through the Equity Exchange and assures us that he was more than satisfied with the treatment he received from them.

All his hogs averaging 100 lbs. or over sold for \$14.80, top price being \$14.85. Yearling heifers weighing 800 lbs. brought 9c or \$72.00. An ox and Holstein steer brought 10c. All accommodations were first class.

A Want Ad in the Producers News brings results.

### FORD WINS FIRST ROUND IN TAX QUESTION SUIT

(Continued from Page One)

7 per cent gives value of \$24,638,177. This is not included.

(Note—Montana Power company owns all of stock of Great Falls Power company, over one-half of bonds issued by Great Falls Power company, all stock of Thompson Falls Power company and all of bonds of Thompson Falls Power company.)

Attorney General Ford, who also is a member of the state board of equalization, protested against assessing the power company at less than half the value of their property as shown by their own reports. The board laughed at him.

But Ford took the matter into the courts and the supreme court in a decision given out last Friday ordered the state board of equalization to show cause why the assessments of the power company should not be doubled.

If the assessments are raised on the power company, it will mean about \$450,000 a year to the state, and will show that in the past years they have escaped several millions in taxes.

### "BROTHER VAN'S" CONDITION SERIOUS

Wolf Point Herald: Rev. R. I. Stone this week received news regarding the condition of Rev. Van Orsdel, who a few weeks ago suffered a stroke of apoplexy. "Brother Van," as he is generally known, is at present at a hospital at Great Falls.

News of his condition is contained in a letter from Rev. J. A. Martin, of Great Falls which in part reads as follows:

"Your letter just received relative to the health of Brother Van. I have just come from his room and he may be very slightly improved. His mind is quite clear about some things but not in others. He knows his old time friends and is so glad to hear from them and to see them just for a few minutes, however.

"I don't see how he will ever be up again, although we can never tell. They had him up in a chair yesterday for forty minutes. Of course he is perfectly helpless. Has to have help in every move that he makes. It is really a pitiable thing to see him. He has failed a great deal."

The farmer who complains of monopoly rule and then gives his support to papers maintaining this autocracy might be likened to a mule kicking himself to death. But then a mule wouldn't do any such thing.

### SENATE VOTES DOWN PACT; SESSION ENDS

(Continued from Page One)

ber, North Dakota, voted with the democrats in its support.

Republican Leader Lodge declared today's voting constituted a final decision on the peace treaty unless President Wilson circumvented the senate rules by withdrawing it and then submitting it again to the senate. In other quarters there was some difference of opinion but the general sentiment seemed to be that there was only a slender chance that the treaty would come up at the beginning of the next session of congress, beginning next month.

The effect of the senate's failure to ratify the treaty will be the continuation of various war-time laws and regulations at least until the new session opens. Among these is the war-time prohibition act.

#### To Be Reintroduced

The resolution presented tonight to declare a state of peace will come up at the beginning of the new session and is expected to start another stubborn fight. The administration is understood to be opposed to such a method of legally ending the war and in the background is a constitutional question as to whether congress can do so by a resolution not requiring the President's signature.

It was suggested tonight among democratic senators that President Wilson might be asked during the recess to feel out the other powers as to their attitude on reservations with the idea of bringing the treaty to some sort of a ratification after congress re-assembles.

### JIM PURVES FARM SOLD TO LAKE PRESTON PARTY

Thursday afternoon, Nov. 13, W. G. Reiter, Froid real estate dealer, sold the Jim Purves half section farm just at the edge of the town of Froid to Hans Christofferson of Lake Preston, S. D., for a consideration of \$8,000. Mr. Christofferson is a brother of Mrs. Jens Jacobsen of this place and will move here with his family in the early spring. Aside from his new purchase Mr. Christofferson owns another half section a short distance from Froid.

### CLERK OF COURT CHAPMAN APPOINTS TWO DEPUTES

(Continued from Page One)

Clerk of the District Court Albert Chapman, recently appointed to succeed Oscar Girard, resigned, has appointed as deputies, Harry Johnson and Lee Jolly.

The prediction that Paul Paske would be the deputy Clerk of the District Court made on the street at the time of the Chapman appointment did not come true—somebody changed his mind it seems.

When the appointment was made, Pete Tange, one of the applicants for appointment, pledged himself, if elected, to get along with one deputy, but Mr. Tange was not appointed.

The extra unnecessary deputy, who has a meal ticket because the law allows it, not because he is necessary, will draw a salary of \$137.50 per month or \$1650 for the year. The taxpayers have lots of money and will never miss a little item like this.

### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN SESSION

The County Commissioners met in adjourned regular session Thursday, all of the commissioners being present.

Deferred business from the previous meeting was transacted and the appointment of two deputies in the office of the Clerk of Court was confirmed.

Commissioner Tyler protested the appointment of two deputies in the office of Clerk of Court, contending that only one deputy was needed to transact the business in Sheridan county, but the majority of the board with their usual disregard for expense appointed two men to do the work that one man can easily do.

Uplifting the savage, or as it is sometimes called in diplomatic circles, the white man's burden, is interpreted by Bernard Shaw, the English humorist, to be teaching the savage to wear pants so that he will have pockets we can pick.

The Producers News—\$2 a year.

## Grand View Hotel

PHILLIP BOURASSA, Proprietor

Rooms with bath \$1.50  
Rooms with Water \$1.  
New Sample rooms in connection. Electric Lighted. Steam Heated

Plentywood, Rear of Orpheum Theater, Montana



The Ford car can well be called the "peoples car," because there are more than 3,000,000 of them in daily operation. That is about four to one to the nearest follower in the motor car industry. This would not be so if the Ford car had not for sixteen years proven its superiority in service, in durability, and in the low cost for operation and maintenance; this would not be so if the Ford car was not so easy to understand, so simple in construction that anybody and everybody can safely drive it. It is everybody's necessity because it doubles the value of time, and is the quick, convenient, comfortable, and economical method of transportation. We solicit your order. We have the full line, Touring Car, Runabout, Coupe, Sedan, Truck. We assure you the best possible in repair work with the genuine Ford Parts.

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