

LIBERTY
IS NOT
HANDED DOWN
FROM ABOVE

Published Weekly
VOL. XII, No. 6

THE PRODUCERS NEWS

A PAPER OF THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE
PLENTYWOOD, MONTANA, FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1929

HISTORICAL LIBRARY
HELENA, MONT.
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF MONTANA,
HELENA,
THE PRODUCERS
NEWS GOES INTO
EVERY HOME IN
SHERIDAN COUNTY

Entered as Second Class Matter, October 18, 1912, at the Post
office at Plentywood, Montana. Under the Act of March 3, 1879

The Week

By SAM'L HILL

Such Tastes They Have
Company Co-operatives
Baled Like Hay
Sniffing a Nasty Sniff
The Tariff Funnies
Respect the Aged.

Why your Tommy Halls and your
Bully Businessmen rushed the Hoover
farm relief bill through and put it
over by a vote of 366 to 35 is all com-
ing out in the wash. And what a
washout! Instead of being an aid to
the co-operatives, as claimed, the co-
operatives have just awoke to the
fact that it puts them under com-
plete control of the great interests
which run the government. Under
the law the Farm Board has more
power over the farmers than the
Federal Reserve has over the banks.
It can take the Farmers Union and
shred it to pieces and start a new
one. It can kill and create and
make "farm" organizations to suit
its taste. And you know what tastes
the grain interests and captains of
industry have!

Ever hear of a "company union"?
When a big corporation such as the
textile mills in the South or Lowry's
transportation monopoly of St. Paul
want to FIGHT the labor union
organized by their employees they
start a "Company's union." It is
thoroughly emasculated and impot-
ent to serve the interest of labor.
The genuine labor union man has
as much chance for his rights in that
as a jackrabbit has with a coyote.
Exactly that is what is happening to
the farmers in this Hoover farm re-
lief. The farmer's co-operative which
he spent his time and money to
form and which represents his inter-
ests will be quietly shelved and the
Hoover Farm Board will hand him
his "company co-operative" all ready
to use. If ever farmers' necks were
near the noose—this is that time.

The only hope for escape is in the
Senate. There is no equalization fee
or debenture plan possible. That hope
is gone. But be thankful if the Sen-
ate can trim the claws of the beast
and lift the menace that hangs over
the head of every real farm market-
ing organization in the country. That
is why the Farmers Union, the Far-
mer Bureau Federation and the Na-
tional Co-operative Milk Producers
are in violent protest against the
debenture provisions of the bill. Un-
less the measure passed so gleefully
by the House is amended by the
Senate the farmer will find himself
as neatly trussed up as a bale of
hay, for this is what could happen.

The Farmers Union operating in
Minnesota, North Dakota and Mon-
tana might apply for its share of the
500 million dollars to finance it and
is a genuine co-operative in market-
ing grain. The Farm Board at Wash-
ington would pucker its brow and
inquire: "Is this a Real co-operative-
?" Then it would turn to the
statement of the Farmers Union of
Nebraska which denounces the North-
west Farmers' Union, and says it is
NOT a co-operative because it pays
no patronage dividends. It would
then up the articles of a Delaware
corporation called "The Farmers
Union Exchange," which has no par
value stock, has no farmers as in-
corporators and whose articles have
no reference to the principles of co-
operation. This odd concern seems
to control the Farmers Union with
its dues-paying members in the three
states. It seems to be the old profit-
grabbing machine masquerading be-
hind a screen of 26,000 dues-paying
suckers who think they are co-oper-
ating. So the Farm Board at Wash-
ington would sniff a nasty sniff and
say: "This will never do! We shall
give you a REAL co-operative or-
ganization if we have to draft Julius
Barnes and the whole Grain Ex-
change to do it!" Do not mistake!
The Farm Board has the power to
do that and more if the bill becomes
law, unchanged.

That is serious but of course there
is a comic relief. That comes in the
agricultural tariff. The Ways and
Means committee of the House is
composed mainly of humorists—it
must be! The draft of the bill to
give the farmer the protection of the
tariff is so full of jokes that it is
confidently expected that the Con-
gressional Record will come out with
an illustrated comic supplement to do
the job justice. They are afraid of
offending Canada—so they have step-
ped lightly on dairy and cattle im-
ports. They are anxious not to lose
trade with Argentina, so they have
gone easy on flax and hides. They
do not want to hurt Cuba or the
Philippines so the increase of tariff
on sugar and vegetable oils is the
mere shadow of a thought higher.
The boys, like Congressman Selvig
of Crookston, who have been making
the grandstand ring with their argu-
ments for tariff as the remedy are
looking particularly foolish just now.
Even Bully Businessmen look fool-
ish, but when he does it doesn't show
on him. Selvig says he will vote for
no such tariff bill. It is a good bluff
but when the Republican machine
calls his hand he will know more
about poker than he does. He will
do what he's told to do as will all
other 366. Bowing the knee to Baal
is not a modern invention.

This column feels endorsed. Sen-
ator Norris in making his report to
the senate on Andrew Mellon's right
to be secretary of the treasury quotes
President Hoover's address on re-
spect for law and asks him to do as
he said should be done, "practice
what we preach." He pointed to the
same case referred to weeks ago in
this column of A. T. Stewart, New
York merchant prince, barred by the
law of 1789 though named secretary
of the treasury by U. S. Grant. But
(Continued on page Eight)

DEBENTURE VOTED INTO FARM RELIEF BILL

National Surety Case In Court of Appeals

COUNTY TREASURY ROBBERY APPEAL MAY BE DECIDED SOON IN HIGH COURT

Circuit Court of Appeals Opinion May End Famous Case in
Ruling on County's Claim Against National Surety Com-
pany—Case to be Heard in San Francisco.

San Francisco, May 6.—With a decision from the federal court
of appeals here, the Sheridan county, Montana, treasury robbery
case may be definitely settled. More than two years and a half has
passed since more than \$100,000 of Sheridan county's tax money
disappeared into the night but the matter still may be listed under the
head of unfinished business.

The money has not been recovered; the thieves are still a liberty. A jury
in the United States district court at
Great Falls, Mont., last October gave
the county judgment against the Na-
tional Surety Company of New York
on the treasurer's bond for \$101,866.40
with interest and costs, a total of
\$118,696.46.

The night of Nov. 30, 1926, the last
taxing day for that year, muffled
voices that seemed to be calls for help
led the janitor of the Sheridan county
courthouse to the treasurer's vault.
The treasurer, Eng. Torstenson, and
his deputy, Miss Anna Hovet, were
locked inside. The janitor told them
how to disconnect the bolt and they
released themselves to tell Sheriff
Salisbury, who had been summoned
from his home, that the office had
been robbed.

A tall man and a short man, dressed
in overalls and sheepskin coats, the
lower parts of their faces covered by
red bandana handkerchiefs, they said,
came in just before 6 o'clock, pistols
in hand, while the treasurer was alone
and demanded the county money.

One, the treasurer said, climbed
over the grating above the counter.
Miss Hovet returned to the office
while the men were inside and she and
Torstenson were commanded to lie
down on the floor while the vault
was looted, then to step inside where
they were imprisoned.

Because deposits in the county
banks were already as large as their
bonds with the county, the treasurer
explained, he had kept all cash tax
payments in the vault, depositing the
checks only. For that reason, he said,
the amount of money in the vault was
unusually large. All of it was gone,
together with securities, totaling
more than \$106,000.

When the sheriff and deputy picked
up the trail of an automobile he de-
cided was used by the bandits, about
(Continued on Last Page)

New Plentywood Land Company Is Incorporated

Helena, May 6.—Articles of incor-
poration have been filed in the office
of the secretary of state by the Lewis
Lands, Inc., which will carry on a
general real estate business. The
capital stock is \$50,000 and the names
of the incorporators are Howard M.
Lewis, M. F. Lewis and M. Braden,
all of Plentywood, where offices will
be established.

Articles of incorporation of the
Mines Development company, a Wash-
ington corporation with headquarters
at Tacoma, have been filed with a
statement of intention to enter Mon-
tana. T. H. Thomas of Superior is
the Montana agent. The directors
are A. J. McKillop, C. D. Sasher and
Scott D. Henderson, all of Tacoma.

WESTBY YOUNG MAN DIES SUDDENLY

Clarence Johnson, nephew of Mr.
George Ohnstad and grandson of Car-
rie Ohnstad, died at the Ohnstad farm
home Wednesday morning of this
week.

Last Sunday the young man was in
Westby and appeared as well as
usual with the exception of complain-
ing of feeling cold. He returned to
his home and soon became quite ill.
Two physicians were called and they
diagnosed his case as very serious,
although hope was held for his re-
covery. His death came as a shock
to Westby and community and to
his parents and other relatives.

The young man's parents, who live
in Canada, were notified, but could
not reach the bedside of the unfor-
tunate young man before he had passed
away.

Funeral arrangements have not
been made at this time.

NORWEGIAN FILM TO BE SHOWN AT F-L TEMPLE

Among the features for next week
at the Farmer-Labor Temple will be
"Brudeferden i Hardanger" (A Bridal
Party in Hardanger), a Norwegian
film in 7 reels which will be shown
Saturday evening, May 18th. This is
filmed in the Norwegian wonderland
of beauty. English text. Also the
latest pictures from Norway will be
shown.

No doubt a large audience will be
present to witness the photo-play and
scenes from the old country.

SECOND ANNUAL ROUNDUP OF SHERIDAN SCHOOLS SATURDAY

Hundreds of Grade Pupils Will Contest for High Honors In
Scholastic and Athletic Fields in This City Tomorrow, May
11th. Event Promises to Surpass Huge Gathering of Last
Year.

The Second Annual Roundup of
Sheridan county schools will be held
in Plentywood tomorrow (Saturday)
in which pupils from every school in
Sheridan county will contest for high
honors in scholarship and athletic
events.

Since the first County Roundup,
which took place last year about this
time, the pupils have been looking
forward to this big event in the lives
of the grade students. For the past
several weeks, elimination contests
have been held, and the winners are
coming to Plentywood and endeavor-
ing to take back to their school the hon-
ors of the day.

Interest in the Annual Roundup,
however, does not lie with the child-
ren alone, the parents and patrons of
the different schools attend these
gatherings in huge numbers to enjoy
the occasion and help boost their
representatives to victory. While

last year the grounds were covered
and the school rooms filled to capac-
ity, a still greater number is looked
for this year if the weather condi-
tions permit.

This annual event is well worth at-
tending and every person that can pos-
sibly attend should be present to en-
courage the children to do their best
and also help make the day a greater
success. All children should find
some means of conveyance for the
occasion, and it would be splendid if
those who know that the neighbor-
hood children have no way of coming to
this big event for the kiddies would bring
them along with their families.

The public speaking and athletic
contests draw the largest numbers
and they are well worth attending
and many surprises are in store for
the patrons because of the talent dis-
played by the young folks, who have
not yet entered high school.

Poplar Man Writes Concerning Wolf Point Bridge Road Project

The Wolf Point Bridge road con-
troversy still waxes warm in Roose-
velt county and Northeastern Mon-
tana.

The Roosevelt county committee on
road writes the following letter to the
Producers News, telling the facts in
detail:

Poplar, Mont.
May 4, 1929.

Gentlemen:

Since our visit relative to the feder-
al project No. 233A we have discover-
ed facts which materially change the
situation. We are in receipt of a let-
ter from the federal bureau of roads
to the effect that the bureau has ap-
proved the bridge project but that the
plans for the highway to Wolf Point
had not been approved. The Indian
department has suggested that the
entire controversy be referred to Mr.
(Continued on page Four)

MAYOR STORKAN TAKES OVER REIN OF CITY GOVERNMENT

New City Officials Appointed and Big Row Results Over Fire
Department Chief Selection. Oscar Collins Appointed
Chief of Police With Bob Robke Day Police and Water and
Street Commissioner. A. C. Erickson New City Attorney.
Dogs Receive Attention of Council.

The new City Council, as elected
several weeks ago, met in office last
Monday evening, with Mayor J. C.
Storkan presiding, and Frank Guenther,
Phil Ziebarth, Elmer Gooder, and
Chris Lindorff as aldermen, being the
same Council as before the election
with the exception of Mayor Storkan.

From the outset, Mayor Storkan
made it plain that his regime was
going to be one of strict economy and
all payrolls were sliced, including his
own services which will be donated, as
well as the services of the aldermen,
who have heretofore been drawing a
small stipend each meeting.

The following officers names were
then submitted by Mayor Storkan to
the Council for their approval:

A. C. Erickson—City Attorney.
J. G. Debing—City Clerk.
Wm. Erickson—City Treasurer.
Oscar Collins—Chief of Police.
Bob Robke—Day Policeman.
Jake Reiger—Found Master.
Chief of Fire Department—Carl
West.

The mayor then asked that his
appointments be ratified by the Alder-
men as a body, Phil Ziebarth making
a motion to that effect, which the
rest of the Aldermen refused to sec-
ond. Upon interogation as to what
was wrong with the appointments
(Continued on Last Page)

MRS. C. E. WESTPHAL DIES AT PORT CLINTON

Mrs. C. E. Westphal, mother of
August Westphal, of the Raymond-
Outlook country, died Thursday of
this week at Port Clinton, Ohio.

Mrs. Westphal was well known in
the Raymond-Outlook country, having
lived with her sons, Amos, Adolph
Charley and August, coming here in
1910. At the time of her death, she
was living with her sons Adolph and
Charley at Port Clinton.

The deceased was 78 years of age
at the time of her passing and had
been in poor health for the past sev-
eral years.

Mr. and Mrs. August Westphal
left today (Friday) to attend the
funeral.

C. C. Johnston Attends Meet- ing of Title Men at Miles City

Miles City, May 6.—Matters of par-
ticular interest to abstract and title
men were discussed here in the offices
of W. B. Clarke, president of the Mon-
tana Titlemen's Association, when C.
L. Kemp of Salt Lake City, identified
with the Intermountain Title &
Guaranty company, was present for
the conferences.

Present and attending the meeting
were C. C. Johnston of Plentywood,
R. L. Welliver of Circle, J. D. Walsh
of Glendive, Ed. Fredlund of Chinook,
J. R. Sauer of Kalispell, C. W. Dy-
kens of Lewistown, R. N. Lodge of
Townsend and Al Bohlander of Bill-
ings.

LOCAL MARKETS

Friday, May 10, 1929

Darth Northern wheat	77
Winter Wheat	73
Amber Durum	66
Flax, per bushel	2.06
Rye, per bu.	59
Barley, per bu.	32
Oats, per bu.	28
Potatoes, per bu.	75
Creamery butter, per lb.	55
Dairy butter, per lb.	50 & 45
Eggs, per doz.	20

CROPS BOUNTY PLAN WINS IN SENATE—FINAL VOTE IS 47 TO 44

Democrats, Republican Independents Override Hoover's
Wishes. Walsh and Wheeler are With Majority. Thirteen
Republicans Vote Against the Administration Motion to
Eliminate Debenture Provision.

Washington, May 8.—The senate overrode the wishes of Presi-
dent Hoover today and voted to retain the export debenture plan
in the farm relief bill. A combination of Democrats and Republi-
can independents defeated a move by administration leaders to
eliminate the plan put into the bill by the senate agriculture com-
mittee. The bill itself still is to be voted upon. The vote was 47 to
44.

Congregationalists Plan to Construct New Church Here

The Plentywood Masonic and East-
ern Star lodges have purchased the
Congregational church building and
grounds from that religious organiza-
tion and will remodel it into lodge
rooms for those fraternal orders at
the present site.

The building committee of the Con-
gregational church is now busy com-
pleting plans for a new edifice to be
built on the grounds lying between
the present Congregational parsonage
and the Leo Ziebler residence in the
north Plentywood residential district.
The new church home will be con-
structed at an estimated cost of \$10,-
000, and will contain sufficient room
for the increasing number of members
and also make more room for recep-
tion purposes.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MET THURSDAY NITE

The Plentywood Volunteer Fire De-
partment met at the City Hall Thurs-
day night.

The purpose of the meeting was to
discuss the policy of Mayor Storkan
towards the Fire Department and
Fire Chief Hein. The entire mem-
bership was present.

Mayor Storkan, in pursuing his
policy of economy has proposed to
reduce the fire chief's pay from \$15
per month to something over \$8.00
and abolish pay of the members of
\$1.00 each per run.

The matter was taken up by the
boys and it was disclosed that though
the department was in the red on the
books, as a matter of fact, if the
department was properly credited it
would not be. It appears that the
department owns the city hall for
which it does not get rent, and that
it loaned \$800 to other city funds a
few years ago for which it is entitled
to credit.

A committee was appointed to wait
upon and explain the true conditions
to the Mayor and take the matter up
in detail with the Council at the next
meeting with the hope of satisfactorily
settling the controversy which has
been raging all the week as the re-
sult of Mayor Storkan's proposal at
the Council meeting of Monday night.

BANKERS' CONVENTION AT FROID MAY 23RD

Froid.—Group Four of the Montana
Bankers Association, comprising Phil-
lips, Daniels, Sheridan, Valley and
Roosevelt counties will hold its annu-
al convention in Froid May 23.

S. B. Wallander met with the as-
sociation officers at Wolf Point Sat-
urday at which time a program was out-
lined and general plans made for the
meeting which promises to be an in-
structive and pleasant event for the
bankers of northeastern Montana.

The annual military ball, sponsored
by Co. "I," will also be held that
evening.

PLENTYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES THIRTY IN 1929 CLASS

Largest Class Ever Graduated In History of Local High
Schools. Senior Class Exercises Sunday, May 12 and
Thursday May 23. R. E. Albright of Dillon Will Deliver
Address at Commencement Exercises.

The graduating class of the Plenty-
wood schools include ten boys and
twenty girls for the school year just
closing. This is two more than the
class of 1928 which was up to this
year the largest group to graduate
from the local schools.

Many boys and girls prominent in
all branches of school activities will
finish their High School work and
will be missed in the search for tal-
ent next year. They have established
a good record in their four year en-
deavors and the community can well
feel proud of them. Plentywood is
in truth a Community High School
since less than half of this year's
class is from Plentywood proper.
Those who come to the local High
School from other Sheridan County
communities have done exceedingly
well in their activities here and we
are glad to have them with us.

The Senior Class exercises will be
held on Sunday, May 12, and on
Thursday evening, May 23. The Bac-
calaureate Services will be held next
Sunday morning at 11:00 o'clock at
the Orpheum Theater. Rev. Earl A.
Clifford will deliver the sermon
again this year as it was impossible
for the other pastors to officiate due
to conflicting dates and other urgent
matters.

The Commencement Exercises will
be held in the evening of Thursday,
May 23rd, at the local theater. Pro-
fessor R. E. Albright of the Dillon
State Normal College will deliver the
address to the Class of 1929. Mr. Al-
bright is reported to be a fine and an
interesting speaker and is always
asked to return to those communities
where he has visited.