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ERIK BERT, Editor
HANS RASMUSSEN, Business Manager

Friday, January 20, 1933

The Struggle for Relief

Two years ago the news flashed across the wires that the farmers around England, Arkansas, 500 strong, had demonstrated in the streets of the town for relief. (We publish, under the first installment of the story,—"CAN YOU HEAR THEIR VOICES?" in this issue, the press report of this demonstration as it was given in the New York Times of Jan. 4, 1931.)

Since that time the misery of Arkansas has spread to the far reaches of the forty eight states. The reports of the delegates to the Farmers National Relief Conference showed that the crisis means for the farmers not only inability to pay interest and taxes, but inability to buy the most necessary groceries, flour, etc., and clothing.

The existence standards which are the lot of the most impoverished mean not only present privation but mean also the undermining of the health and physique of the youthful generations that are now coming into manhood and womanhood. The "flu" and pneumonia are reaping a horrible toll of the farm population. Rotten teeth, resulting from a hunger diet and furthered by absence of dental care mean for the generations now growing up chronic disease and illness in their adult life.

The farmer-delegates to the Farmers National Relief Conference demanded of Congress the appropriation of \$500,000,000 "for the relief of that section of the distressed farm population in need of immediate relief, regardless of race, creed, or color." This was the first demand in the statement to Congress because the delegates recognized as the most immediate need the raising of "all rural families to a minimum health and decent standard of living." Congress has refused to make one step in meeting this need of the impoverished farm masses. Instead it seeks to deceive them into supporting the famine "allotment" plan.

By militant action and demonstrations the farmers of Sheridan county, Montana, have won substantial relief out of the funds of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation loaned to the state of Montana. The appropriations that have already been made and distributed have revealed the need for much greater amounts if the farmers are to exist above starvation and disease levels. The farmers of the county are making these demands backed by the mass pressure of many more farmers than backed the first demands when the possibility of getting relief was not as well recognized as it is now.

The example of the farmers of Sheridan county has inspired those of Williams and Mountrail counties North Dakota, to organize for struggle for relief.

The struggle in Sheridan county has forced the Red Cross to ship in additional amounts of clothing, showing, as the England, Arkansas, demonstration of two years ago did, that the Red Cross will come across with as little relief as it can and with as much as the mass pressure of the farmers forces it to.

The struggle for immediate relief of the farm population has only begun. The development of the struggle for relief for the farm population will show, as the struggles for relief of the unemployed have shown, that the capitalist press has managed to keep the misery of the farmers hidden.

In Sheridan, Williams and Mountrail counties the struggle for relief has been initiated by the United Farmers League. It is the immediate task of the United Farmers League and of the readers of the Producers News to initiate this struggle in every farm community in the land.

Two measures are being used by the county and the state officials to prevent the development of the demand for relief. The politicians state that they cannot obtain aid from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation because they are up to their necks in debt. THIS IS ONLY A MISERABLE EXCUSE. Funds can be, and have been, obtained from the Corporation, without the pledging of security by the counties.

When the politicians are backed away from this excuse their next move is to "survey" the misery of the farm masses as a means of postponing relief to them. The need of the farm masses is undeniable. "Surveys" will not clothe our kids, or supply us with groceries.

The organization of the masses for relief must be developed immediately. This does not, and cannot, mean the substitution of this struggle for the struggle for the security of the farm family in its home and in the possession of its means for making a livelihood.

The struggle of the farm masses against evictions, forced sales and seizures must be widened to include the demands for relief. On the demands for relief the majority of impoverished farm families can be rallied.

The Producers News is our most effective weapon in this, as in any other struggle. Make use of this weapon by ordering bundles and getting subs for our fighting organ.

Finally, the most intense efforts must be made to build the United Farmers League in these struggles, because only by these means can the initiative for mass UNITED FRONT actions be developed.

ANOTHER CO-OP. FOR PRICE CUTS

Darigold Plant "Sliding Scale" Scheme Means Wage Slash Also

Bellingham, Wash., Jan. 5.—The Darigold Plant is circulating a petition among the farmers here calling upon them for support for the introduction of a "sliding wage scale." (The Darigold is a so-called Farmers Cooperative.)

The workers here see in this move a plan to first cut the wage, then cut the price to be paid to the farmers for their products, while at the same time the Co-op. will retain its same margin of profit.

This is convincing the workers here that this Co-op. is a smoke screen for private industry thru the organization of stock holding.

It is quite significant that the chairman of the Co-op. is a retiring member of the county board of commissioners who have cut the amount of relief at every opportunity until now the workers in Whatcom county are suffering from all the misery of a starvation program.

BETRAYAL OF WIS. FARMERS

(Continued from page One)

bid on the farm, and was therefore allowed to conduct the sale.

SHERIFF BETRAYS THE FARMERS

Following the settlement of the agreement, the sheriff cried the sale and received a bid of \$5, and the man stepped up to show his money. The sheriff asked if there were any more bids and received none. "Well," said he, "if there are no more bids, the Old Line Life Insurance company bids \$8,500, and I hereby declare the farm sold to the Old Line Life Insurance company as the highest bidder." This is an outright betrayal of the owner of the farm, as well as a betrayal of every farmer in the county. It only goes to show that the sheriff is an integral part of his rotten capitalist system, and faithful servants of the bosses, the rats that have gotten all our money, and now reach out with greedy fingers to take our homes, our means of livelihood and our very lives.

FHA PRESIDENT EXCUSES THE SHERIFF

Mr. Goldheimer, at the meeting following the sale, at which most of the farmers present attended introduced a resolution protesting this action by the sheriff as illegal. The resolution was accepted with enthusiasm by the farmers, as was also a proposal to prosecute the sheriff for taking illegal action in this sale. Mr. Goldheimer, however, far from censuring the sheriff for conniving in evicting this farmer, made excuses for him, telling the farmers that it wasn't the sheriff's fault, that he was only doing his duty. He said "Let's not blame the sheriff, men. He is a wonderful man."

As to the sheriff being a wonderful man, here are a few facts to show what kind of a man he really is. His name is Wm. Bradford. Everyone knows that he is under the influence of liquor a great deal of the time. He has often been in an inebriated condition while on duty. "Give Billy Bradford a drink and he'll be all right" is a common saying in this county. Of such stuff are our "guardians of the integrity of the law" made. The farmers in this county know the true purpose for which sheriffs are used. They know that they will be used against the farmers and workers here as well as they are in other states in this "land of the free." They will not be fooled by a few silly and fancy phrases by the head of the holiday association. They realize that just because the sheriff happens to be a friend to the Holiday Association president, that he is no less the enemy of the rank and file.

FARMERS STAND BY

The farmers are standing ready, in case the Old Line Life Insurance company attempts to evict the farmer whose home they got under such crooked circumstances. They are standing solidly in a strong, united front against all evictions.

THE ROLE OF THE UFL

At every sale that has taken place in this county during the past three months, the United Farmers League has taken an active part, not only in assuming leadership, in organization, but also doing practically all of the organization work in stopping sales. The United Farmers League was wholly responsible in stopping the first sale in the county. They took the leadership in action at the sale, and were wholly responsible for organizing the farmers who were out to stop this sale.

The sale on December 31 was the first sale of real estate held in this county since the organization of the FHA. Here again, members of the United Farmer League took the initiative in organizing the farmers to stop the sale.

Nebr. Holiday Leader Seeks Governor Job Thru Farm Movement

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFERED GROUP \$100,000 IF HE RAN FOR GOVERNOR ON HOLIDAY ASSN. TICKET

(BY WILBER HOWARD)

Dakota City, Nebr., Jan. 10.—I attended a meeting of the Farm Holiday Association on December 30 at Norfolk, Nebr., which proved to me that the leaders of this state organization have other interests than those of the farmers at heart.

Owing to some misunderstanding or other these who came for the meeting were divided into two groups. A lawyer-farmer, W. S. Renne of Washington county, who claimed to be organizing three counties in the Holiday movement, took the group I was with to one place. There were about forty farmers present. Another lawyer-farmer, Mr. Clark, was elected chairman and Renne was elected secretary. The other group met elsewhere after the afternoon when we met together.

ORGANIZED BUT BEING FORECLOSED

Renne made the opening talk. He told that he had three counties organized almost one hundred per cent and that the farmers were being closed out by the score. At this point somebody asked him why he could not stop these foreclosures and evictions if he had the counties so well organized. Renne replied that he didn't dare to call out the farmers because they didn't "have the guts."

These farmers have no reason to come out when Mr. Renne calls them because he talks continually about "legality" and what farmers want is mass action.

He then told of the plans that had been made to get the Holiday movement into the political campaign for Parmenter, the state president. A committee consisting of Renne, Parmenter and I (think) Clark called on Governor Bryan and had been given the cold shoulder. This inspired them to find out the possibilities of running Parmenter for governor.

DEAL WITH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

They proceeded to the Chamber of Commerce to find out what support they would give to Parmenter running as Holiday president for governor. The Chamber of Commerce which represents the railroads, loan companies and insurance companies seemed interested but told the committee to wait until after lunch for the answer.

The answer was that the Chamber of Commerce would put one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) behind Parmenter's campaign if the committee would run him as Holiday association candidate for Governor.

The committee went back to Bryan, and told the governor about the offer of one hundred thousand dollars. Renne stated that the committee found Bryan ready to "eat out of our hand." Since Parmenter's chances of victory would be very poor without Bryan's open opposition the committee decided not to run Parmenter in '32 but to groom him for '34.

"FARMER-GOVERNOR" POLITICIAN

That this is the plan of the Holiday Association leaders is proved by the fact that Parmenter allowed Renne and Clark to adjourn the meeting by introducing him as the Holiday Association candidate for 1934 and as the farmer-governor of Nebraska in 1935.

This shows that the Parmenter group is doing its best to make a political football out of the farmers' movement; and of the Holiday Association.

Mr. Renne has his own political ambitions. He is priming himself for the job of attorney-general. The farmers in his parts probably understand that he has no interest in their welfare, but only in his own political ambitions. No wonder he has no success in stopping foreclosures and evictions.

Steve Mulner Will Remain; Neighbors Prevent Eviction

(Continued from page One)

made no payments on it, the court foreclosed on him. They ordered him to appear in court, but he remembered what they did to him the last time, and he refused. They came and got him. This happened in 1920.

SIGNED NO MORTGAGE

When the court asked Steve Mulner about the mortgage, he said, "I know nothing about it. I never signed any paper." He told the court this through an interpreter as he cannot speak very much English. Then the court told him that they had foreclosed on his farm, that it didn't belong to him.

As far as the writer himself has been able to ascertain, the president of the FHA has done actually no organizational work having to do with stopping sales. He has not notified the heads of the Town Units of the FHA, he has done nothing to organize action committees of the farmers in each town, has done nothing to teach the farmers how to resist sales when he is unable to attend them, and has insisted that when a sale is to be held, he Goldheimer, should be the man to handle it. He has insisted on investigating sales himself, and taken charge at every sale.

RESIST SALES

Besides being active in stopping foreclosures and other forced sales, the UFL has been very successful in organizing action committees of farmers to investigate all sales in their respective townships and to organize for resistance and for further struggles. This action committee idea has been greeted with enthusiasm by all farmers in whose vicinity they have been organized. We have nothing but praise for the way in which the action committees have been functioning.

In the meeting in the Court house following the sale both Harvey Witt and I spoke on the Farmers National Relief to which we had been delegates. We told of the treatment which had been accorded us when we were with the Hunger Marchers. We explained the work of the conference, what had been accomplished by it, and the setting up of the National Committee for Action.

After hearing our story of the murderous attack on the Sharecroppers of Alabama who had been represented at the conference the farmers at the meeting decided to send a telegram of protest to the Governor of Alabama in the name of the Clark, Marathon, and Wood county Farm Holiday Associations.

The other farmer wouldn't wait. He filed a lien against Steve's property, and Mr. Gaston, who is constable of Sumas, served papers on Steve. As soon as Steve found out what it was all about, he went in the house and got his shotgun and ran Gaston off the place. He was able to hold the county deputies off the place for two weeks but was finally captured and taken to the county seat and jailed.

In the meantime the farmers around here have realized the danger of losing their places and have been forming committees of action. They decided to come to the rescue of old Steve Mulner.

The sale was set for December 24, 1932. The day of the sale dawned cold and rainy, but that didn't stop the farmers. They came out 300 strong from all parts of Whatcom county to stop the sale which was to take place at 10 o'clock. Somehow the officials seemed to know better than to show up, so there was no sale.

A committee went to see the sheriff to make him go through with the sale, but he was sick. The committee then went to the county attorney and demanded he cancel the sale. He said he would throw it out of court, providing the two men could come to an agreement. Well, Steve and the other farmer talked it over and they settled for \$30. The other farmer saw the solidarity of the other farmers and so he accepted the money. Steve sold one of his cows and a few chickens to pay the debt. So Steve lives in his farm again and the neighbors don't bother him any more.

After the sale was settled the farmers met in a hall and drew up a resolution to present to the county commissioners demanding no more sheriff's sales. A collection of \$6.35 was taken up to help the work along. All the farmers present pledged to continue to protest all sales and voted to support a state farmers relief conference.

POSTPONEMENT OF WIS. SALE

(Continued from page One)

of the Clark County FHA had known about this case for some time. He had notified the sheriff that the FHA would not permit the moving of this man in the middle of the winter. The sheriff then appointed Mr. Goldheimer to look for another place for Mr. Tesmer, and take care of the details of moving him, so that the sheriff would not have to bother to come up and evict him.

Mr. Goldheimer accepted the task.

Now, we of the United Farmers League regard such action as rank strike breaking on the part of the Holiday leadership, in as much as the FHA has been organized and has reached its present strength in this county mainly because it has told the farmers that it stood primarily for the saving of the American farm, and keeping the American farmer on it.

....When these facts came out at the farm of Mr. Tesmer, there was talk of tar and feathers for Mr. Goldheimer. His policy of insisting that he is the only one in the county possessing the proper authority and knowledge for stopping a sale is losing for him the confidence of the farmers in this county. It is only natural that they should feel this way.

We of this county have been betrayed by so many fake farm organizations, so many fake farm leaders and so many fake politicians that we distrust any man who shows the least tendency to restrict any form of democracy in our organization. The farmers are not content to follow leaders unquestionably any more. They are exhibiting the very healthy tendency of insisting on having a finger in the pie themselves. They are beginning to see that if they want a thing well done they must do it themselves. When all the farmers in this county learn this one little fact, then they will be ready to unite to take back that which is theirs by right.

FARMERS AND DELEGATES TO COUNTY SEAT

Farmers elected two men as delegates to go to the county seat with Mr. Goldheimer the following day to settle once and for all the fact that this farmer stays on his farm regardless of the sheriff and his laws. The delegates were John Hettis and Lester Wilhite. They interviewed the district attorney, and were severely censured by that officer for interfering with "due process of law," and accused of being unfair to the "poor" Farm Sales and Holding Company who had legal right to their property. The district attorney flatly refused to do anything to delay the eviction of the farmer.

SHERIFF WARNED

The sheriff was then warned by the delegates and the officers of the FHA not to start any shooting when attempting a forced sale or eviction. It developed that he had received orders from the district attorney to evict Mr. Tesmer from his farm at all costs.

JUDGE PROMISES NO MORE FORECLOSURES, EVICTIONS

Finally the Circuit Judge, Mr. Crosby was interviewed. After a long talk with the delegates, he consented to call off the sheriff, promised that there would be no more forced sales, or mortgage proceedings or eviction proceedings going through his court until the Democrats had an opportunity to show what they will or will not do for the farmers.

This concession was not gotten from the circuit judge because of the kindness of his heart. It was gotten because the people of this county showed unmistakably that they would not stand for this wholesale robbery any longer. On the last day of December, 1932, the farmers in this county staged a demonstration in which they took possession of the courthouse and held a mass meeting in the court room. Even the town chairmen are beginning to line up behind this movement. This is the signal for all petty politicians to ride into power on the wings of hot air and radical phrases. Let the people beware. Fakirs in politics in this movement is one of the surest indications that the organizations will be shortlived. Guard against this danger by sending the fighters of the rank and file into office. In the organization itself, guard against any attempt at autocracy by snuffing it out at the very beginning. Don't ever let it get a start, because then it will be too late.

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Doings of the Advance Guard

Getting relief to the farmers is another thing the United Farmers League is taking up and getting results. Millions of dollars were appropriated by the federal government and turned over to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Are you getting any of it?

This money was intended to be distributed among the hungry people in order to keep them from raising hell and probably breaking into stores and help themselves.

Many people do not know that this money is available. They sit quietly at home and starve. They don't know that in order to get in on this relief they must organize and demand it. The politicians are not going to hand out this money willingly, no matter how much you need it. Saving the country by starving the people is the attitude they are taking.

If you want to get in on this relief you must holler for it. The Producers News is telling what farmers are doing in that line. Get our paper to the farmers and make them all read it.

DOINGS OF LAST WEEK

John O'Neill, Billings, Mont., sends stamps for balance on sub.
"Will try and catch a sub now and then" John says.
Aug. Wanhala, Kimball, Minn., sends us three more subs.
Mrs. O. Raunsel, Cooke, Mont., renews for another year.
Pat Kavanaugh, Carlton, Minn., renews for six months.
S. Mutanan, Hurley, Wis., sends one more sub.
R. A. Wooten, Bladen, Ohio subscribes.
Sino Hill, Gackle, N. D., wants a receipt book so he can take subscriptions.
Fred A. Wagner, Ray, N. D., extends his sub another dollars' worth.
Harry Lux, Julesburg, Colo., orders a bundle of papers and sub cards.
Frank Walters, Sioux City, Iowa sends another dollar for bundle.
Fred Anderson, Billings, Mont., wants 25 copies of back numbers.
Frank Murtland, Bemidji, Minn., sends dollar for bundle of ten cent week.
Hungarian Daily, Cleveland, O. subscribes.
Frank Brown, San Jose, Calif., wants ten copies of the paper.
John Gould, New Plymouth, Idaho, sends dollar for four 25 cent subs.

SOLD DOZEN—GOING AFTER MORE

Casey M. Baskaljon, Eatonville, Wash., orders a bundle of ten until further notice: "Have sold a dozen or so sub cards and expect to sell more next week or two," he says.
Jake O. Salo, Rochester, Wash., renews for another six months.
C. Hyvarinen, Christholm, Minn., sends us a renewal.

SCARCE AS HENS TEETH

A. Schlemmer, Chicago City, Minn., sends a renewal and two new subs. "Cash is almost as scarce as hen's teeth," he says.
Lee Cary, Manahga, Minn., sent stamps for a bundle of papers.
Roy Miller, Frederick, S. Dak., sends us one renewal for a year.

Aug. Jacobson, New York Mills, Minn., sends us a sub and order for a bundle.
Stanley Christensen, of Powers Lake, N. Dak., renews for another year.
Anton Gladish, Catawba, Wis., sends dollar for another six month sub.
Dr. V. V. Logan, Livingston, Mont., subscribes for a year.
Alfred Tiola, Makinen, Minn., sends one sub.
Osmo Hjern, Ashby, Mass., pays for a bundle.
Isaac Johnson, Owen, Wis., subscribes and sends one more sub.
Robert Kirmo, Frederick, S. D., sends us three more subs.

WANT TO GET OUT AND HELP

Mrs. Mattie Carpenter, Oakland, Calif., sends for sample copies. "I want to get out and help to organize the farmers and establish a workers and farmers government. The farmers ought to be easy to organize now as they are all broke, but they might be too hungry to think" she writes.
F. C. Wilson, Ocean Park, Calif. orders a bundle of 15 papers for the next three weeks.
Erik Sweet, Bonetrail, N. Dak., brings in two subs.
Wm. Biemler, Sandusky, Ohio, subscribes for six months.
A. F. Jones, Okemah, Okla., sends dollar for sample copies to be mailed to farmers.
L. A. Bjorndahl, of Arlington, Wash. sends two dollars and wants a bundle of papers for that sum.
Fred Winther, Dagmar, Mont., renews for another year.
Albert Lewis, Hayward, Calif., sends for copies of different dates.
Alex Erickson, San Francisco, Calif., subscribes for six months.
M. Haskell, Johnston, N. Y., wants sample copies.
F. L. Edwards, Hettinger, N. D. sends us two subs.
Anton Vogler, Renton, Wash., renews his sub.
Edwin Pfutzenreuter, Hecla, N. Dak., renews his subscription and pays for card.

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