

THE REBEL
 READ BY 10,000 ACTUAL
 FARMERS EACH WEEK.
 Organ Local League of America.
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The NON-PARTISAN LEAGUE

Word comes from St. Paul, Minn., that the Non-Partisan League, that captured North Dakota last election, will now become national in scope. The North Dakota leaders on February 25 organized the National Non-Partisan League and already have hundreds of organizers at work in adjoining states.

The Rebel understands that organizers will shortly come to Texas, like this spring. This being a matter of serious interest to Socialists the Rebel has decided to make a close investigation of the League plans and make report of its findings to its readers from time to time.

Below will be found the first installment giving a general idea of the tendencies and activities of the League. In later issues will be found extended analysis and comment on the situation that will be created through the invasion of the Southern states by this remarkable farmers' organization.

HOW THE N. P. LEAGUE LINES UP WITH LABOR.

(To The Rebel.)
 Bismarck, N.D.—The Carr anti-I. W. W. bill, so-called, directed at all laboring men, organized or not, met a sad fate when it was referred to the state affairs committee. This is a puzzle to the old gang politicians who keep trying to split up the farmers by introducing bills that antagonize laboring men which must flock here every year to live in harvest and threshing. They can't get a dividend & by the farmers will not legislate against these men who have caused them more or less trouble. The secret is the farmers come to see in it not the little fellow harvesting them. They are concerned now in getting the big fellow off their backs.

Pay Day Bill Passed.
 The railroad brotherhoods had their lining yesterday when the senate passed Senator Mostad's semi-monthly payday bill. An effort was made some days ago to kill the bill in committee but the league senators fought and put it across. It will have no difficulty in passing the house.

Another bill supported by the Non-Partisan League and whose fate hung in the balance for a couple of days was Senator Mostad's full crew bill. The vote was tied with one absent and not voting. Linn, Gov. Krueger, president of the senate, came to the rescue and saved the bill from indefinite postponement. Next day a motion was made to reconsider the vote. A roll call was demanded and the vote stood 24 to 24 again, and once more Krueger saved the bill. In the meantime half a dozen prominent railroad officials had been lobbying against

it, had been lobbying against the house is safe. (It must be understood that owing to non-adjourning senators of the senate party the League is not yet in full control of the senate as it is of the House.)

Loan Law Passed.
 House bill 116, a mechanics' lien law, passed both house and will become a law. House bill 69, the nine-hour work day for women and children, is in the hands of the committee on labor and will be recommended to pass.

House bill 65, the anti-injunction bill, went down in defeat in the reactionary senate.

NORTH DAKOTA FARMERS' REVOLT.

(From Literary Digest, Jan. 20, 1917.)

A new power is rising in the West and is cousin to the Populist party and the Farmers' Alliance of other days, remarks the Buffalo Enquirer on the inauguration of Governor Francis J. Packer, of North Dakota, who was elected by the Farmers' Non-Partisan Political League, a party that "stands for State elevators, State flour-mills, State peckingshousers, State bill insurance, and a State rural-credit system." This journal and others wonder what the harvest will be—whether the "unusual total failure, or an unprecedented success of the State business." The Boston Herald says that as "political barons" Oklahoma, California and Nebraska will have to step into the background for a time and allow North Dakota to bask in the spotlight." A Bismarck (N. D.) correspondent of the New York World calls attention to the fact that Governor Francis ten months ago was unknown outside his own precinct, and before that time had farmed ever since he was graduated from the University of North Dakota, seventeen years ago. The Farmers' Non-Partisan party, at its late election, we are reminded, captured every elective State office except one, and elected three justices of the Supreme court, who have indorsed the program of the league. As for the sale of the soil, this informant notes, control every branch of the state government except the senate, where the conservatives outnumber them by three votes, while eight-fifths of the members of the lower house of the legislature are committed to the league's program.

The World's correspondent goes on to say that the league is a "secret organization" and only "actual titles of the soil are only a matter of membership. It has 60,000 members in North Dakota and is spreading to South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and Montana. The revolt which has called many a Cincinnatus from the plow," we are advised, is "primarily a protest against the juggling of grain-prices and the speculation in food-prices by the chambers of commerce," and the

purpose of the league is to "put the speculative markets out of business through cooperation of the state and the farmers in the distribution of land-products." As to ways and means, we are told that the farmer-legislators plan a constitutional convention to raise the debt limit of the state from \$200,000 to an amount that will allow the accomplishment of their aims.

A Bismarck correspondent of the New York Tribune says it is difficult for a stranger to understand the "utter subjection" of this great Commonwealth to state interests which preceded the farmers' revolution, effective with New Year's. He calls attention to the fact that the "insults" are resident in St. Paul and Minneapolis and belong to Minnesota. They are amenable to North Dakota legislation, so that in North Dakota the case has always been one of "sublimation or revolt." The present revolt came with the suddenness of one of those "bristlers" which occasionally tear through the state. The Farmers' Non-Partisan League was founded less than two years ago and split into its first political campaign before it was a year old. Its victory in the late election, this correspondent says, has "swept more astounding" when it is remembered that North Dakota is the state of "magnificent distances," and he adds:

"Eighty-five per cent of the inhabitants live scattered on farms and must be reached by personal canvass for the most part. That, in fact, is just the way they were reached. Two geniuses named A. C. Townley and P. B. Wood, both farmers without former political experience, organized the campaign. They borrowed money with which to buy automobiles to carry them about from farm to farm. To each farmer they visited they showed in black and white the revolutionary program. They called for a league calling for state-owned grain-elevators, flour mills, and peckingshousers, for state bill insurance and state-operated rural credit system. They asked him if he favor it, and getting an affirmative answer, they said: 'Nine dollars, please.' And they got it. The first hundred farmers they canvassed joined the league, involving the fee, to a moment. After that the harvest of members averaged a little above 50 per cent of a possible crop."

As the "membership drive" expanded Townley and Wood gave over active canvassing to assistant organizers and remained at home, and vice president of the league. Toward the last of the canvass the league was employing one hundred organizers and one hundred automobiles during the winter of 1915-1916. It conducted five to six hundred meetings in every part of the state, and by last February it had obtained 30,000 members and had organized three-quarters of the state. On Washington's birthday, 1916, a meeting was called in each of the 2,000 voting-precincts of the state simultaneously. The attendance was phenomenal, in many cases 100 per cent, and in not one below 90 per cent. At

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THE REBEL

HALLETSVILLE, TEXAS, SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1917.

THE GREAT APPEAL GREAT TO US ONLY BECAUSE WE A RE OF OUR KNEES—LET US ARISE.

THE USUERS PROSPEROUS.

The chief blockader of America, the trust of trusts, the money trust, has enjoyed a great era of prosperity, to judge from the following: Washington dispatch whether anybody else has or has not:

Washington, D. C., Feb. 24.—According to the report of the comptroller of currency, the national banks of the United States have enjoyed greater prosperity during the past year than in any previous year. The gross income of all banks exceeds that of the previous year by three billion dollars.

The 30,000 banks of America for the simple function of keeping the books between the people of the nation, already in 1915 cleared more net profits than all the \$400,000 wheat and cotton farmers made GROSS in the same year. This is not counting the fact that on the wheat and cotton farms everybody worked, men, women and children—swat blood, worked from early until late while the bankers come down at 4 and go home at 4. BUY IN 1916 THE NATIONAL BANKS DID EVEN BETTER THAN THAT!

Don't you think that it is about time the people were taking back to themselves the control of money and credit that they have turned over to these blockaders?

Let the people own the banking and currency system, otherwise the banks will continue to own the people.

WE'LL HAVE TO BURN THE BONDS.

Lincoln said shortly after the end of the civil war: "It is a rotten thing that war corporations have been enthroned, and I see in the near future a crisis approaching that causes me to tremble for the safety of my country." He was right.

And now The Rebel say that at the close of the European war the corporations will have given way to even greater kings—the Money Politicians that has fastened the bursting point in this carnival of blood and will have mortgages on the peoples of the earth for a thousand generations to come—provided the people do not set a match to those mortgage bonds.

The Rebel thinks that the bonds will be burned all right and then the workers will come into their own.

With our backs to the wall, we shall fight the plutocracy for the possession of America with every atom of our energy, down to the last drop of our blood if need be.

Every man is a king, we shall use every means at hand to abolish slavery. You heard us.

Napoleon III of France started his country into the bloody path of militarism and "to divert attention from crimes and abuses at home," so history tells us of him and many other rulers. It is not that the game of the American plutocracy?

The earth was flung out in space for Mrs. King, Sweden, Wagner and a few others? Was it?

The "Iron Heel" Railroads Thos. J. Mooney.

Thomas J. Mooney, convicted of complicity in dynamiting of the preparation parade in San Francisco, was sentenced on February 24 to be hanged. The motion for a new trial was overruled by Judge Griffin. In a letter to Mooney, his attorney, Bourke Cockran of New York City, said as follows:

I have reached the deliberate conclusion that the appalling judicial crime committed against you will never be allowed to reach its perpetrators to plan it.

I think it can be shown clearly to all reasonable men that we are in the presence of another Dreyfus case, the only difference being that the object of the French perversion of legal procedure is the perpetration of the very crimes which courts are organized to prevent, was exclusion (by force and threats of force) of Jews from the Army; while the object of your prosecution for a crime repugnant to every element of your nature, is to drive laborers from organizing, by killing a man who has had the temerity to urge some of his fellow men to form unions for their own protection.

If we can succeed in making this clear to the public mind, I have no doubt that the popular conscience of America will prove itself capable and as loyal to override the plans of the men who are conspiring to compass the destruction of your life, as the conscience of France showed itself in the case of Dreyfus.

Depressed as I was when I wrote a sense of helplessness that I could do nothing to avert a calamity which threatened whole fabric of Civilization for not merely your life, but the whole power of Civilization is protection of life, which the agencies of Civilization are here conspiring to destroy. I probably failed to appreciate the force of your suggestion when it was made yesterday.

But now I am convinced that the justice which appears to be before the California courts will be found to have taken refuge in the booms of the men and women who constitute the masses of our population, and their decision will be against the officials who have forewarned their oaths to satisfy the malice and cupidity of corporation employers.

So be of good cheer. Your conviction may yet prove to be the source of such judicial reforms will prevent forever the repetition of the catastrophe which has had you for its object; but which has not yet succeeded (and please

Congress adjourned without doing a "Bastille" thing about the modern robber barons known as the Food Trust. Too busy dipping pork and pie and preparing pork. The time is ripe to send representatives of the working class to take the place of these plutocratic pigs.

The day is here for the Great Change. Better get ready for it.

T. A. HICKY, Editor.
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(God it never will succeed) in making you its victim.

Bourke Cockran.

The San Francisco Labor Council adopted on February 18 the following resolutions:

Whereas, In the recent trial of Tom Mooney, a member in good standing in the International Motion Picture Union for the past thirteen years, he was convicted and is in imminent danger of being railroaded to the gallows on a trumped-up charge, and on the most biased and contradictory testimony; and

Whereas, It has been proved that the testimony of Kate Smith, Crowley and McDonald used to convict Warren K. Billings, is a flat contradiction to the evidence of Orman, and to convict Mooney; and

Whereas, Twenty-one alibi witnesses, numerous photographs, and time clocks have established an unshakable fact; and

Whereas, The verdict is at total variance with the evidence produced, and is the result of the prosecution's past six months' activity in the public press in misrepresentation of facts and appeal to the most severe prejudices of the public; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, The San Francisco Labor Council, affirm our belief in the innocence of Thomas J. Mooney and his co-defendants, and pledge them our aid in their efforts to secure justice; and be it further:

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the labor and daily press.

The Central Labor Council of Alameda County adopted resolutions on February 12 condemning the verdict and declaring:

Whereas, This is the second conviction in the so-called bomb cases without apparent sufficient evidence, and in view of the fact that the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce recently announced they would raise a million dollars to maintain law and order, and so far no visible use has been made of that fund except against the forces of labor, which naturally leads the working people to believe that the law is organized campaign to disrupt the organization of labor on this coast and make it impossible for working people to band themselves together for the purpose of self-protection and better conditions; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That in view of the foregoing statement, we look upon these convictions as an attempt to disrupt labor as the cost, thereby threatening the entire labor movement of this continent.

(No San Francisco daily has published the resolutions.)

If the Socialist party can not carry out its fundamental idea of getting the mass of the workers into a class-conscious political party, some other party with similar aims but different name will do it.

Even if the American plutocracy made us all faster slaves, we'd be slaves still.

