

FARMER-LABOR VOICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FEDERATED FARMER-LABOR PARTY

Vol. XIII. No. 15.

CHICAGO, ILL., MAY 1, 1924

Price, 5 Cents

Washington State F.-L. Convention

The Executive Committee of the Washington Farmer-Labor Party has designated July 5th and 6th as the dates for holding its state convention in Seattle. It is expected that 600 delegates will attend this convention, and that the platform to be there adopted will lay a strong foundation for Farmer-Labor victory in the November elections.

The State of Washington is entitled to 33 delegates in the St. Paul convention of June 17th. There will be five delegates for each of the Congressional districts, and eight to represent the state at large. Plans have been made for selecting these delegates, and for raising funds to pay their expenses.

There is decided activity in the ranks of the Western progressive farmers, headed by William Bouck, National Chairman of the Federated Farmer-Labor Party. That organization will send delegates to the June 17th convention, to the limit of their membership entitlement.

The St. Paul convention is expected to be the starting point for the greatest victory of the people that this country has ever seen. It is expected that many weeks before time for filing under the direct primary law, there will be a Farmer-Labor candidate for every elective office in the state. And the indications are that the political parties of Capitalism will be swept off their feet—all the way from Wisconsin to the Port of Puget Sound.

JOEL SHOMAKER,
State Chairman, F.-L. P. of Washington.

DELEGATES TO ST. PAUL FARMER-LABOR PARTY CONVENTION FILE

The Montana Farmer-Labor Party will have its ballot filled up at the May 27th presidential election. The names of LaFollette and Frazier will head the ticket for president and vice-president, respectively. Next will follow four presidential electors. Then the delegates to the great national Farmer-Labor convention in St. Paul June 17. The names of the following well known men in the progressive movement of the state have been filed with the secretary of state:

Senator J. W. Anderson, Sidney.
P. J. Wallace, Great Falls.
Senator Jasper Haaland, of Liberty County.
Representative Clair Stoner (of Plentywood).
Ole Sanvik, of Blaine County.
S. B. Davidson, of Cascade County.
Representative Wm. Pilgeran, of Armington.
Chas. Gildea, of Silver Bow County.
Senator Chas. E. Taylor, of Sheridan County.

NEW YORK STATE CALLS FOR CONVENTION

Call has been issued for a New York State Convention, with purpose to form a State Farmer-Labor Party. This convention will be held in Schenectady, N. Y., Labor Temple, 269 State street, at 10 a. m., on Sunday, May 18th.

Nearly 2,000 of these invitations have been sent out from New York City and Buffalo, signed by W. J. Kelly, Secretary, Federated Farmer-Labor Party of New York City, and Frank Herzog, Secretary, Buffalo Labor Party.

(Continued on Page Three)

MAY DAY AND THE SACCO-VANZETTI CASE

(By The Federated Press)

Workers in dozens of countries when they celebrate May Day this year will remember two workers who are in American prisons facing death as the result of a plot of the United States department of justice to scare the country into red fits on May day 1919, five years ago.

The country was scared. To cover up the crime two workers were framed and today, four years after their arrest, are in danger of the electric chair. They are Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti.

Federal detective William Flynn and his agents rigged up a little bomb plot for May day 1919. All the big politicians got little bombs in the mail that morning, February 25, 1920. Roberto Elia was arrested because another May day was coming around. He was charged with having something to do with the bombs sent through the mails. His friend Andrea Salsedo who tried to hire a lawyer for him was arrested for his pains early in March. He was beaten and kicked. Both men were continually tortured.

On the morning of May 3 four years ago Salsedo's body shot from the window of the 13th floor of the Park Row building where the department of justice had its New York office and where Elia and Salsedo were imprisoned.

At the morgue Mrs. Salsedo was told, "He is yours now to do as you like with."

The authorities did not bother to hold an inquest.

But Salsedo had friends. Two of those friends were Sacco and Vanzetti. Vanzetti had come to New York just a few days before to get a lawyer for Salsedo and Elia.

When the two young Italian workmen heard of the murder they arranged protest meetings. On May 5 they were arrested and questioned for hours about their radical connections.

The department of justice was anxious to nip the protest against the killing of Salsedo. After being held for many hours, Sacco and Vanzetti were charged with killing a pay roll guard and robbing him of \$18,000. In due course they were convicted on perjured evidence.

But the Salsedo story, which the department wanted to choke has become knit with the story of the Sacco-Vanzetti frameup. For one worker who would have heard of the killing of Salsedo if Sacco and Vanzetti had been permitted to hold their protest meetings, today hundreds of thousands know the story of that murder, and of the official attempt to cover it up by executing two other workers.

The workers of the world will not only celebrate May day, but they will also demand freedom for Sacco and Vanzetti, who face death because of the May day plots of the federal department of justice five years ago.

Urge Secretary Davis Cancel Deportation Order

An appeal to set aside the deportation orders of thirteen so-called "alien ex-political prisoners," convicted during the war solely for expression of opinion, has been sent to the Secretary of Labor, in a petition signed at a meeting of the New York City Civic Club under the joint auspices of the American Civil Liberties Union and the General Defense Committee.

The appeal declared that the men thus slated for deportation are not "undesirable residents of the United States," and it characterized the proposed deportation as "adding another penalty to those they have already suffered for their moral convictions."

Canonsburg Farmer Laborites Meet

CANONSBURG, Pa., April 29.—(Special to the Farmer-Labor Voice.)—The Washington County Federated Farmer-Labor Party held its second convention here on Sunday, the 27th, when fifty-five delegates, representing approximately 20,000 workers, assembled in the Labor Temple.

And the wage earners of this county made another great stride forward in their fight for political freedom against the rule of the Pennsylvania coal and steel barons, whose political machine is in control of the county.

All For Unity.

Temporary Chairman Stose, elected by the delegates a few minutes previously, called the convention to order. After a speech by Secretary-Treasurer Strong, in which he spoke on the Farmer-Labor movement, the floor was thrown open to the delegates for five-minute speeches. While each expressed himself a little differently, all were unanimous in saying that it was time for the producers in the United States to throw away their petty differences and prejudices, join in one big independent, class political party of the workers and farmers, and on the political field challenge the employing class government to a finish fight.

A notable feature of the convention was the presence of three negro delegates, from the Colored Voters' League of Washington County. These delegates stated that the colored workers are willing to go along with any sincere movement that will change the insufferable conditions for the working class.

Fayette County Attends.

Several delegates were present from Fayette County, adjoining Washington County. They first expressed the belief that probably they were out of place in this convention. After being assured that a welcome was extended to all workers, they told of having been sent by their unions to get information and find out all about the Farmer-Labor movement. This again disproves the contention that the workers generally are not ready for independent political action. These workers' representatives came fifty miles in search of instruction and enlightenment as to how to organize the forces of workers and farmers against the powerful rule of organized capital.

Endorse June 17th.

The convention unanimously endorsed the June 17th convention at St. Paul. A resolution was adopted endorsing the formation of a State Farmer-Labor Party in Pennsylvania and calling upon those issuing call to Allentown convention, on May 12th, to not put off any longer the building of a real Farmer-Labor Party in the State of Pennsylvania. Resolution also endorsed recognition of Soviet Russia and nationalization of mines. Also a resolution was unanimously adopted condemning and protesting against the action of the Washington County judge who refused citizenship papers to Andy Harmon, a coal miner, because of his progressive political beliefs.

JAMES C. STRONG,
Houston, Pa.

UNIONS AFFILIATE WITH FARMER-LABOR PARTY

In Montana, the Miles City Trades and Labor Assembly has voted to affiliate with the Farmer-Labor Party. The two locals of the United Mine Workers at... sent in their affiliation... notice throughout the state the... labor movement are jo... (Continued on

AGRICULTURAL FACTS AND FANCIES

(By JOSEPH MANLEY)

And now we have a lengthy report from the Secretary of Agriculture, bearing the optimistic title, "Farmers Adjust Operations to Meet Present Situation." Fine! Even a member of the capitalistic Cabinet admits that the farmers themselves are the ones to remedy their situation. So we venture to read it—and this illusion promptly vanishes.

The data contained is presumably based upon reports of the various county agents. It well illustrates the typical haphazard operation of modern American agriculture—and the incompetent official system which seeks to "regulate" that industry, for more efficient exploitation. The report professes to show how the farmer is adopting the plan of crop diversification; and how the wondrous profits to be derived from "side lines" of pigs, poultry, milk cows, etc., will set the farmer (as one county agent picturesquely puts it) "on the road to Easy Street."

The Farmer's Suspicions

But green in the memory of the farmer is recollection of the fact that in 1918 the United States Department of Agriculture issued a program recommending wheat-acreage by counties. And that this program—entirely unadapted to peace-time needs, under the capitalist system of agricultural exploitation—has never been officially retracted, nor recalled through the county agents who promulgated it. Yet these same county agents now discover that the farmer victims of their "more wheat" propaganda are in desperation adopting a different plan.

Fanciful Figures

The report details that in Kansas the wheat-growers in 22 counties are taking to "intensive dairying," and to extensive raising of poultry in 17 counties. That in Montana, "Sixteen of the reporting counties show a contraction of wheat-acreage, and only one county an expansion." That in Idaho, eight counties report contraction in wheat-acreage and expansion in but one. With similar contraction of wheat-acreage shown as reported in Washington, Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa and Illinois. The report concludes, quite impressively:

"As a whole, the survey shows a drift out of wheat into livestock, a trend away from beef cattle to dairy cattle, a big increase in poultry, in the production of feed crops, and a general movement toward diversification has not been common heretofore.

"Farm management experts in the Department of Agriculture say the survey indicates a decided turn toward livestock production in regions formerly considered one-crop areas." Generally speaking, the changes indicated are said to be those which the farmers should have made, in view of the economic situation."

The Real Situation.

But now let us look at this proposition from an entirely unofficial point of view:

The American wheat-grower sells his product in a world market, that is controlled by the green speculators and purchasers of phantom—at like the Chicago Board of Trade, for instance. Consequently, in this pre-arranged buyers' market the price of grain is kept so low that the peasant conditions of agricultural Europe are becoming the standard of the capitalistic world. And thus proceeds the proletarianizing of the American farmer.

It is not true, as stated by the Department of Agriculture, that "Cows and their milk are now turning the farming industry from a losing into a profitable business." Because, while milk is not yet extensively a commodity in the world market, nevertheless, the capitalistic trusts dominating the wheat market and the price of wheat, are little different from the capitalistic trust dominating the domestic milk market, along with the price of milk and milk products. *Farmer-Labor Voice*, in its issue of January 15th, carried a story detailing how the milk-producing farmers of Lake County, Indiana (close to Chicago), were forced to engage in a strike against the Chicago milk trust, which had cut the price \$2.75 to \$2.60 per hundred, commenting upon this struggle, pickets and upset wagons the *Chicago Journal* of its opinion that, "Until

AUTHORITIES ALARMED BY CATTLE EPIDEMIC

Precautions Being Taken To Prevent Spread Of Disease

Alarmed by new outbreaks of foot and mouth disease among range cattle in California, Montana is doubling her precautions to prevent its spread to this section of the country. A quarantine already established bars California livestock and provides for a 15-day observation of cattle from other states before they are allowed to enter. In addition the state veterinarian, Dr. W. J. Butler, has advised inspectors throughout the state to be on the alert to detect any manifestations of the dreaded disease among Montana cattle.

Although the plague is of a distinctly foreign nature and until the California outbreak, had not made its appearance in the United States for 15 years, Dr. Butler says he is duly alarmed as it is the most infectious disease known to man or beast, and can be transmitted upon the slightest contact.

As the name would indicate, the disease affects the foot and the mouth, which becomes infected, often causing death.

Humans may contract it, Dr. Butler says, though it is not particularly fatal to man and is most dreaded because of its highly contagious nature.

The present threatening epidemic in California was noted in Alameda County February 17, and later spread to three neighboring counties around San Francisco. Thousands of head of cattle were killed and a buffer quarantine placed around the affected area with the result that the disease was believed to be under control when it revealed itself a few days ago in another district to the south of San Francisco among range cattle in the Los Angeles and San Francisco stockyards.

(Roosevelt County Independent).

Special Subscription Offers

Farmer-Labor Voice is the only national farmer-labor publicity organ. To broaden its influence in support of the Farmer-Labor movement should be a first order of business with all progressive farmer and labor organizations, as well as individuals who are interested in advancing that political effort.

We are inaugurating a nation-wide drive to extend the subscription list of this working-class newspaper, and we ask for a boost from all friends of the *Farmer-Labor* movement.

It is the purpose of *Farmer-Labor Voice* to serve the common interests of the farmers and industrial workers everywhere. With already a large circulation among the farmers—notably in the Northwest—we now seek to strengthen the position of this paper in the other farming districts and among the wage-workers in the great industrial centers.

With each yearly subscription at \$1.00, we will include a free copy of the pamphlet "For A Labor Party" (by John Pepper), which explains in detail the formation and character of the *Farmer-Labor* Party.

In addition to this regular subscription rate, with its premium, we are offering a trial subscription of nine months for 50 cents. And to each solicitor sending in five of these 9-months trial subscriptions we will send the pamphlet "For A Labor Party," and also "The *Farmer-Labor* United Front" (by C. E. Ruthenberg, an exposition of the tactics which this political party should pursue on its road to power).

the peace was signed, murder was on the horizon."

Necessity for Unity

All of which indicates, that whether the farmer specializes in wheat or in milk, he will be ruthlessly exploited and reduced to the status of a wage-worker (proletarian) by the capitalist economic system which controls the world's food supply. And thus the farmer has been brought to realize the bond existing between himself and his fellow wage-workers in the city industries. During this strike period, the milk-producers sought affiliation with the Chicago Federation of Labor. But their effort was fruitless, because of that organization's brass-bound Gompers policy of craft unionism.

The fast-rising *Farmer-Labor* movement is an inevitable consequence of this universal exploitation process. And the movement will go on, with an ever-increasing strength, until the farmers and industrial workers gain control of their own products, through control of the government itself.

MAY DAY DEMONSTRATION FOR THE UNITED FRONT

A reporter for *Farmer-Labor Voice* attended the United Front May Day Demonstration and Concert, held in North Side Turner Hall, Chicago, on the evening of May 1st. He found a large and very enthusiastic crowd of workers in attendance. But Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, was not there. Nor were any of his official representatives heard from, during the lively meeting which followed.

But William F. Dunne was present, as the principal speaker—the same "Bill" Dunne who was expelled from Gompers' last A. F. of L. convention because of his alleged too "radical" ideas with regard to the workers' rank in society. And "Bill" Dunne paid his respects to "Sammy" Gompers—from the progressive point of view. Incidentally, he indicated that Mr. Gompers and his Federation were about the only things of a Labor character—and he didn't give them credit for much of a character under that classification—now unaware of the real significance of May 1st as International Labor Day. Dunne voiced opinion that chief among the arguments for setting May 1st as Labor Day, was the vernal quality of that season, as contra-distinguished from the autumnal "has-been" character of the old September date. Just as the month of May is the preparatory season for bringing forth the first fruits and flowers of Nature, so is that season symbolical of Labor's efforts to produce its fruits of victory. Today, even more than in times past, does this poetic allusion seem appropriate. And these fruits of the labor struggle will soon now be brought forth, prophesied speaker Dunne, "if we progressives have the sense, and the courage, and the spirit of self-sacrifice that is necessary."

In opening this meeting, Chairman Abern (Secretary of the Young Workers League) told of the Russian workers' victorious celebration of May Day in their country. And he expressed belief that with this glorious example before the eyes of the world's workers, a hope for international solidarity of the working class is fully justified.

Editor Shachtman, of the Young Worker, was of opinion that only a class *Farmer-Labor* Party can lay the permanent foundation for workers' control and abolition of child wage-slavery in this country.

A. Bittelman, of the Workers Party, also addressed the meeting, and other good speakers representing the Jewish, Russian, Italian and Polish language groups of progressive workers' organizations.

A fine concert, in connection with this educational meeting, was rendered by the Freiheit Singing Society and members of the Russian Grand Opera Company.

A CLUBBING RATE!

By an arrangement with The Western Progressive Farmer, we are now enabled to offer our readers a year's subscription to *Farmer-Labor Voice* and a year's subscription to the former named publication, at \$1.50 for the two newspapers. The regular rate for each is \$1.00 per year—and each is well worth several times that price, to the farmers and industrial workers who wish to have the latest news of the great progressive political movement that has recently been inaugurated for their benefit. The time to subscribe is NOW, while this rate is in effect.

Subscription Blank

Federated *Farmer-Labor* Party,
800 N. Clark St.,
Chicago, Ill.
JOSEPH MANLEY, National Secretary:

Enclosed find \$....., for which you will send to below address, *Farmer-Labor Voice*, for a period of..... months.

Name:

Address:

Town: State:

FARMER-LABOR INFORMATION

WORLD MARKET.

Dairy and Poultry News.

During April, the Department of Commerce issued the following report, headed: "What the Department of Commerce is Doing for the Dairy Industry; how it Serves the Poultry Industry."

A summing up of the services the U. S. Department of Commerce has been rendering the dairy and poultry industries and just how the use of the facilities of the Department may further the trade in the products of these industries will be of interest to those concerned. The foreign trade in these industries, both import and export, last year amounted to \$80,000,000 and in 1922 to \$61,000,000, and it is in expediting this business that the Department of Commerce is interested. Government representative, stationed in practically every country and from whom the Department receives reports on trade economic conditions, keep the Department advised of the condition of the dairy and poultry industries. It is for the timely dissemination of this information that the present service is undertaken. In addition to actual market information, other trade data, including tariffs, transportation, statistics of production and import and export trade of foreign countries, exporters, etc., are held available to American concerns by the Department. Surveys of conditions affecting the sale of specific products in foreign countries are conducted at the request of the trade.

Latvian Dairy Industry Developing Rapidly.

The dairy industry in Latvia, which was almost totally destroyed as result of the war and revolution, has shown remarkable recovery in the past two years, reports American Trade Commissioner C. J. Mayer, to the Department of Commerce.

In 1920 there were operated in Latvia 16 dairy societies; in 1921, 13; in 1922, 85, and at the end of 1923, about 500. In a similar ratio the exports of Latvian butter have increased. In 1921 exports amounted to about 15,000 kilograms (33,000 pounds); in 1922, to about 950,000 kilograms (2,000,000 pounds); and in 1923 to 2,898,619 kilograms (6,390,295 pounds).

The quality of first grade Latvian butter, consisting of the bulk of the country's butter exports, has so improved that it is considered only a little cheaper than high grade Danish butter.

Russian Eggs Again Enter the World Market.

Near the end of the last century Russia began to supply Europe with large quantities of eggs. A particular swing in the exportation of eggs took place during the period from 1913 to the outbreak of the war, during which time the value of the exports increased 95 per cent. During the war very small quantities of eggs were exported, while during the period 1916-1921 the exports stopped entirely. At the present time there appears to be a revival in the exportation of Russian eggs, although by far not in the same proportion as the exportation of other agricultural products, according to a report by American Trade Commissioner C. J. Mayer to the Department of Commerce. Detailed data have just been received from Moscow showing that the exports of eggs from Russia in the fiscal year October 1, 1922, to October 1, 1923, amounted to 60 million eggs, valued at 2 million gold rubles. The export of eggs can be considered only as being in a state of recovery, as in the past year the trade in eggs yielded but 64,134 gold rubles of net profit. The packing, freight and other expenses connected with this trade within Russia are too high, and must be cut down considerable. In a great many cases the eggs were not properly packed, so that many were broken before arriving at destination, which involved heavy losses.

The prospects for the exportation of eggs for next season are very favorable, London being the largest market for Russian eggs, with Germany also an important buyer. According to reliable estimates the number of hens in Russia at the present time is 82,000,000. As a hen lays on the average about 40 eggs a year, the total production of eggs in Russia will amount this year to about 3,280,000,000. It is estimated that of this number about 2,800,000,000 eggs will be consumed by Russia, thus leaving a surplus of 500,000,000 eggs available for exportation. The exportable surplus of eggs represents a value of 14,000,000,000 gold rubles.

NEW YORK STATE CALLS FOR CONVENTION

(Continued from Page One)

ty. Large delegations are expected to attend the convention from these points, as well as from the Schenectady local organizations and the various industrial centers of New York State.

"WELL-TO-DO" FARMERS NOW AWAKENING

There isn't a farmer in the Northwest today who is not anxious for a change in our political and economic conditions. There may be differences of opinion as to the means to be used in order to secure agricultural relief, but that some relief is absolutely essential is not doubted for a minute by any thinking farmer.

New Understanding.

This change in the psychology of the farmer is quite significant. Not so very long ago—as late as last year—farmers were to be found who became indignant when some of us talked about the necessity of doing something for the bankrupt and poverty-stricken farmer, to prevent the farming industry from going to the dogs. Such talk was greatly resented by the "well-to-do" farmers and almost considered an insult to the thrift, energy and honesty of the great American farming class. "Why don't these fellows who are all the time complaining about the bad conditions get up earlier in the morning, work a little harder, learn better farming methods, spend less money for automobiles and pay their debts? If all farmers did this, conditions would be all right." The main thing to do, we were told, was "to quit belly-aching and go to work."

There is not much of this kind of talk by farmers at the present time. The fellow who aired such ideas a year ago has in the meantime himself gotten a taste of what it means to keep on paying taxes, interest and store bills, in the face of a steadily diminishing income. There is now a doubt lurking in the mind of this "prosperous" farmer that the individual farmer is not altogether to blame because he cannot "put farming upon a paying basis." He is beginning to understand that the mortgage system and the present system of marketing farm products, as well as the profit system in general, are responsible for the state of bankruptcy facing farmers everywhere.

Yes, we are learning day by day. The spirit of hopelessness that is manifest among tens of thousands of farmers is the forerunner of something better. While at the present time many farmers have no faith in any kind of political or economic remedy, signs are not wanting that the desperate agricultural conditions, despite the individual farmer's feeling in the matter, will compel the masses of farmers to think and act in their own interest. The hesitancy and doubt that we now witness in so many farmers will soon give way to a better understanding of how to solve the pressing problems confronting the food producers of this country.

June 17th the Beacon.

June 17th is a beacon light for many a farmer. I have occasion to talk to hundreds of farmers every week about the great Farmer-Labor convention to be held in St. Paul, and every reference to it elicits a great deal of interest. The fact is that they are desperately hungry to see something done at once to change agricultural conditions, but as yet they do not know what to do to bring about the much-needed relief, nor what kind of leadership to trust. The June 17th convention is going to be of tremendous service in setting their minds straight on these things. This is their hope, after being told of the importance of this gathering of farmers and workers from all over the United States.

The Farmer-Labor Voice is a very welcome guest in many farm homes. The farmers like the paper because it is snappy and tells the facts as they actually are. It is to be hoped that the Voice soon can be changed to a weekly and extend its circulation all over the country. In the midst of this crisis in agriculture the right kind of publicity is of paramount importance, and we should not rest until we have acquired it in unstinted measure.

ALFRED KNUTSON,
Mitchell, So. Dak.

UNIONS AFFILIATE WITH FARMER-LABOR PARTY

(Continued from Page One)

and workers' party. The more the henchmen of the two old parties try to keep the workers of the state from building up a powerful party of their own the greater becomes the zeal of the workers for a mass movement for independent political action.

FARM FORECLOSURES AND BANKRUPTCIES

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The United States Department of Agriculture has completed a special inquiry into the conditions of the farm population in the 15 corn and wheat producing states. The survey shows that more than 8½ per cent of the owner farmers in 15 corn and wheat producing states lost their farms with or without legal process between 1920 and the spring of 1923. Besides, more than 15 per cent of the owners were in fact temporarily insolvent but held on thru the leniency of their creditors.

The investigation shows that in this area, the upper Mississippi valley, 2,880 owner farmers lost their farms through foreclosures or bankruptcy; 3,000 lost their farms without legal process, and 10,400 farmers held on through the leniency of their creditors.

Of 26,000 tenant farmers in the area covered, 1,900, or more than 7 per cent, lost their property without legal formality; and 5,500, or more than 21 per cent, were spared such losses only thru the leniency of their creditors.

Applying the percentages of losses obtained in this inquiry, to the 1920 census figures for owners and tenants in the states covered, it is estimated that out of a total of 2,289,000 owner and tenant farmers more than 108,000 lost their farms or their property through foreclosure or bankruptcy; over 122,000 lost their property without legal proceedings, and nearly 373,000 retained their property merely through the leniency of creditors.

The loss of farms by owners was relatively more numerous in Montana, North Dakota, Colorado and South Dakota.

(The Llano Colonist.)

The World's Trade Union Movement

By A. LOZOVSKY.

General Secretary, Red International of Labor Unions.

In this book, published recently in Moscow and now made available to American readers, the leader of 13,000,000 trade unionists analyses and measures the relation of economic forces developed before, during the after the World War. Every existent political, economic and organizational force is described, with an explanation of the role of each in the post-war struggle between Reformism and Revolution.

112 pages, in stiff paper cover, with photo of author.

50 cents per copy.

Bundle orders of ten or more, 35 cents each.

Special rate on larger quantities.

Trade Union Educational League,
113 Washington Blvd.,
Chicago, Ill.

THE FARMER-LABOR UNITED FRONT

By C. E. PUTHENBERG.

Executive Secretary, Workers Party of America.

A statement of the United Front policy of the Workers Party of America. The Committee has authorized publication of this policy, in pamphlet form, to familiarize the farmers and industrial workers with the principles which guide the present policy of the Workers Party.

This pamphlet may be had from Literature Department, W. P. of A., 113 Washington Boulevard, Chicago, Ill.

Price, 10 cents per copy; in quantities, 7½ cents per copy.

This Is Issue Number 15

LOOK AT YOUR ADDRESS LABEL! If the number appearing on your address label is the same as above, your subscription expires with this issue. Watch your expiration number. RENEW your subscription before it expires. No other notice will be sent.

FARMER-LABOR VOICE

Published twice a month, by the Federated Farmer-Labor Party of America, Joseph Manley, National Secretary, 800 N. Clark St., Chicago, Ill. Subscriptions: \$1.00 a Year; 50c for 6 Months. Bundle Orders: At 2c per Copy.

JOSEPH MANLEY, Editor
Associate Editors:
TOM AYRES, South Dakota
ALFRED KNUTSON, North Dakota
CHAS. E. TAYLOR, Montana
JOHN C. KENNEDY, Washington
W. H. GREEN, Nebraska

Entered as Second-Class Matter, under the name "Farmer-Labor Voice," February 1, 1924, at the Post-Office of Chicago, Ill., under the Act of March 3, 1879.)



An Ancient Trick

The long-expected has happened—and the latest "News from Nowhere" is that "The people are weary of Teapot Dome."

Always when a "Congressional investigation" begins to get uncomfortably warm, in proximity with the "higher-ups" involved, then comes the cry that the people are tired of the affair and it must be stopped. And this is generally alleged to be necessary "for the good of society"—or "the government," or "civilization," or some-other abstraction even more difficult for popular definition.

In support of this proposition to stop the probe, the daily press quotes a well-known steel manufacturer, to the effect that "Teapot Dome is hurting business." And it is truly liable to hurt his business quite considerably—if it goes far enough. This particular manufacturer, who sold defective armor plate to the United States Government, does not explain just how a thorough publicity of fraud and graft in high places can injure business for the general public. The people are merely told that it does—and they are expected to take up the cry. They are led to believe that their own jobs—of whatever sort—will be unfavorably affected, in some remote connection. And the people are easily persuaded to fall for this line of "logic." Parrot-like, they repeat the lesson, that they are weary of Congressional probes and such things should be stopped. So the probes are stopped, "to appease public sentiment."

The method of arousing such public sentiment is quite simple. The cry is carried along by the kept press of capitalism, with its editorial writers, moralists and cartoonists; by the movie films; and by all the secret agents and open defenders of the present social system. With result that hostile public atmosphere is duly created. The populace accepts the cheap claptrap of "disloyalty to country." And the sincere champions of the people are discredited—while the thieves are permitted to escape with their loot.

This is the mass psychology, that special privilege interests are now busily engaged in arousing among the American people, by the same old tricks, performed in the same old way. It has worked, to perfection, many a time. Will it work, this time?

WANTS "CHEERFUL" STUFF

NEW YORK.—The Wall Street Journal mourns that the public press prints too much scandal and not enough "cheerful stuff." This mouthpiece for stock brokers says Teapot Dome is receiving a great deal more space than it deserves, and the newspapers are hiding their "bright stuff."

In determining their legislative friends, the Farmer-Labor Party voters should find out what the various candidates have done for the workers—not what they have said they would do.

In critical periods of labor movements, shallow-minded leaders may for a while float along—like scum on the face of the water. But they will soon disappear, to make room for leaders really representing the interests of the workers.

WALLACE TRICKS

Every member of the Coolidge millionaire cabinet seems to have his specialty in misleading the masses of this country. Upon the shoulders of Secretary of Agriculture Wallace has fallen the arduous task of misleading the poor farmers.

Of late Mr. Wallace has been working non-union hours in a desperate pre-election effort to bluff especially the wheat farmers into the ridiculous notion that their conditions are on the upgrade. The latest lullaby sung by Wallace to the farmers of the wheat belt is that "some improvement in the wheat situation this year is indicated by apparent increase in consumption and by smaller winter wheat acreages in most of the leading producing countries."

Here we have a raw case of blinking the facts and fooling the farmers deliberately. The facts of the present agricultural crisis, particularly insofar as the wheat farmers are concerned, are these: The principal wheat-consuming countries will have a greater unused surplus crop on hand this year than last year. In 1923, Europe increased its wheat crop by 240,000,000 bushels. Outside of the United States the reduction of winter wheat has reached the tremendously insignificant height of 1 per cent.

More than that. Many countries are using rye interchangeably with wheat and have large crops of rye on hand which they will consume before they will make new purchases of wheat. The curse of our wheat farmers is that they are blessed with a fertile soil. Present indications point to a greater 1924 yieldage per acre which will more than overcome the deduction of wheat supply that might be entailed by the smaller acreage.

Wallace's propaganda will not help the farmers. No matter how roseate they be, lies, false impressions, and fake figures will not help the wheat and other farmers. In the past five years the farmers' and ranchers' livestock has decreased \$3,914,887,000 in value. At the same time their land depreciated more than thirteen billion dollars in value. The farmers' economic and political ills are too fundamental and too ingrained in the very capitalist system itself to be ended or even relieved by Wallace and his tricks.—The Daily Worker.

JUSTICE—IN "BLINDERS"

Justice is blind, all right.

The Federal Trade Commission undertook a "Congressional investigation" of the American Tobacco Company and its "competitor," the big P. Lorillard Company—charged with conspiring together in the matter of price fixing.

These tobacco monopoly "competitors" declined to produce for inspection by the Federal Trade Commission their books of accounting—but they patriotically offered to produce certain books that were alleged to be sufficient to disprove the charge of conspiracy. And the Supreme Court of the United States decided that the investigators should be content to accept "such records as the defendants deemed relevant." In other words, the alleged criminals should be permitted to decide just what sort of evidence they might care to have used against them.

And thus is monopoly regulated, "for the benefit of the people."

Washington, D. C., is waking up. A hearse driver has been fined for exceeding the speed limit in that somnolent city's streets.

A Princeton scientist says that the earth is ten million years old. If this is true, then we think it is "old enough to know better."

We hear that our government is preparing a new design for its \$10,000 bills—and we wonder what the old design was like.

Politicians seldom discover—until it is too late—that honesty is the best policy.

Farmer-Labor Voice is an alarm clock, to rouse the slumbering farmer-labor forces.

"Progressives" without the courage of their convictions, are of even less value to the progressive labor movement than individuals without any such convictions.

"Trust that man in nothing, who has not a conscience in everything."—Stearne.

SPRING STYLES IN PRESIDENTS

That is the jocular caption of an "optimistically humorous article appearing in a recent *Collier's Weekly*. Then quoting headlines in various capitalist papers of the Northwest, it shows that both "Cal" Coolidge and "Hi" Johnson seem to have "won in North Dakota"—on paper. And in explanation of this rather bewildering inconsistency of statement, the article goes on to say: "But don't let either of these head-lines bother you. All they mean is that the shop-keepers of Fargo, and Bismarck and Grand Forks are showing their early Spring styles in Presidents."

And the text or the story following freely states a little fact of a sort that is not usually given publicity in the capitalist-controlled press. It says that this year the North Dakota farmers "took a whirl at Cal and Hi," and in their primaries "they voted for a couple of fellows, neither of whom they have the slightest idea of supporting at the polls."

The amount of truth contained in the article, thruout, is really astonishing—considering the capitalistic character of that publication.

After a nonsensical explanation of the paradoxical political situation now existing in the Northwest, the account goes on to say that the only person who took seriously North Dakota's spring showings of Presidential timber was Hiram Johnson—who is not himself taken at all seriously by the farmer voters, but is generally considered as one of the funniest of legislative fools. And, "Hiram got his biggest laugh," says *Collier's*, "When he told what he was doing down in Washington to help the farmers."

Dismissed as unworthy of serious consideration are the potential chances of such North Dakota Republican leaders as Governor Nestos, Frazier, McCumber and Hanna; along with the various Democratic "white hopes"—whose always weak State political party is said to have now quite withered away, under the scourge of "coalition."

As a finality, is quoted this statement of Governor Preus, of Minnesota: "If the election were held today, with LaFollette running on a Third Party ticket, he would sweep every State between the Great Lakes and the Pacific Coast."

We haven't much regard for the line of "dope," political or otherwise, that is administered to the American people thru the columns of *Collier's Weekly*. But when a bright reflection of truthful morality appears, in this or any other painted literary lady of the present social system, then this truth—denuded of its misleading paint—is worthy of acceptance by the Farmer-Labor press and its readers.

UNIVERSITY LETS THE CAT OUT OF BAG

Exposing the connecting link between educational institutions and chambers of commerce the University of Illinois in its publicity releases has not only acknowledged its own servitude, but has proclaimed that the former business association has now evolved into a "civic" association which has spread its talons into every phase of public life.

The University of Illinois, undertaking an "experiment" of which it fondly boasts, has instituted a "school for secretaries" in which eighteen college men and women are being trained to become future secretaries. In its press release, the university says:

"The experiment, which began in February, is the result of the unusual interest taken in a chamber of commerce work by Dr. Charles M. Thompson, dean of the college of commerce and business administration at Illinois. He is a former vice-president and is now a director of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. It is doubtful if any other man has addressed as many chamber of commerce audiences in Illinois as has the dean. From the wealth of information he has collected about chamber of commerce work during his long experience he talks to his class each Tuesday. While he is absent for more talks to chambers of commerce on Thursdays, secretaries come to the campus to tell about the line of the work in which they are specialists and to hold conferences with the students.

Never in the history of the American Labor Movement have the auguries been more favorable for a successful drive to organize and educate the worker masses.

"GASOLINE BILLY" —AND THE BANKS

PIERRE, So. Dak. (Special to Farmer-Labor Voice.)—That Governor McMaster's easy victory in the primaries is not to be repeated in the fall elections seems likely from the nature of the activities of people who are interested in good state government more than in the present Governor's desire to enjoy easy life in the soft atmosphere of Washington.

Within the last few days petitions have been placed in circulation asking the Governor to call a special session of the State Legislature, to pass a law protecting depositors in the 96 failed state banks now in the hands of the banking department. The plan is to raise the rate of assessment on the banks from 25 cents on the hundred dollars of deposits, up to a point high enough to reimburse the depositors in the failed banks.

It is realized that the people who have money tied up in the failed banks can never hope to get back all of their money, under the present bank system, and that whatever is saved will be from ten to twenty years in coming. Also that in the meantime the lawyers and receivers will enjoy a fat living at the expense of the losers.

It is necessary to raise the rate of assessment, in order to make the guarantee fund sufficient to protect people who have money in banks which have not already failed. There are some sixty thousand people who have money impounded in the failed banks, and they are likely to be active in demanding that the Governor call the Legislature in special session to do something about the banking situation.

In addition to the bank demand, there are other matters that are calling for attention. An investigation of the Rural Credits Department, the Highway Department, the State Treasury, and the Asylum for the Feeble Minded at Redfield, where normal people have been kept for years without legal commitment—all these require investigation.

For the past several years the State government has been run by a little ring of politicians who have perpetuated themselves in power, through deposits of public money in the banks. They have run the government in secret. They give out no public information. They have been able to stifle every investigation that has been suggested. At the last session of the Legislature an attempt was made to investigate the departments, but that was defeated. Nobody knows what has really been going on. It has lately been stated on authority of the State Treasurer that there are a million and a half of dollars in State funds tied up in failed banks.

It is also stated that the security for some of these funds was given by Senator Norbeck's Surety Company of Redfield, now in the hands of a receiver. During the campaign it was charged that Senator Norbeck's notes aggregating nearly a hundred thousand dollars were found in the vaults of failed banks that were enjoying the benefit of State funds. Senator Norbeck replied that these notes were given "in the regular course of business." Which nobody doubts. The *Huronite* made the statement and Norbeck demanded a retraction of charges in this connection. But none has been made, and Norbeck has dropped the matter.

It is not believed that Governor McMaster will call a special session of the Legislature. He hopes to get through the campaign without allowing any more scandal to be unearthed. If, however, a large delegation, armed with a huge petition, should visit him at Pierre and make a personal demand upon him, it is recognized that he would be placed in a position which might cost him his election to the Senate in case he refused to call the special session. Some such thing may happen. People are badly disgusted and angered with the way the State has been run. And they are about ready to make imperative demands upon the Governor.

"The old incentives to work have broken down, for the bees have begun to think that it is not worth while to make honey for their owners. Whatever the workers choose to demand in the way of economic justice, they can secure. Nothing stands in their way except the moderation of their own demands."—Bertrand Russell

THE CONSPIRACY OF THE BANKERS

Here is a little dope put out by the Bankers Magazine in June, 1892. Read carefully:

"We must proceed with caution and guard well every move made, for the lower orders of the people are already showing signs of restless commotion. Prudence will, therefore, dictate a policy of apparently yielding to the popular will, until all our plans are so far consummated that we can declare our designs without fear of any organized resistance."

"The Farmers Alliance and the Knights of Labor organization in the United States should be carefully watched by our trusted men, and we must take immediate steps to control these organizations in our interests and disrupt them."

"At the coming Omaha convention to be held July 4th, our men must attend and direct its movements, or else there will be set on foot such antagonism to our designs as may require force to overcome."

"This, at the present time would be premature. We are not yet ready for such a crisis. Capital must protect itself in every possible manner through combination and legislation."

"The courts must be called to our aid, debts must be collected, bonds and mortgages foreclosed as rapidly as possible."

"When through a process of law, the common people have lost their homes, they will be more tractable and easily governed through the influence of the strong arm of government applied by a central power of imperial wealth under the control of leading financiers. A people without homes will not quarrel with their rulers!"

"History repeats itself in regular cycles. This truth is well known among our principal men now engaged in forming an imperialism of capital to govern the world. While they are doing this the people must be kept in condition of political antagonism."

"The question of tariff reform must be urged through the organization known as the Democratic party, and the question of protection with reciprocity must be forced to view through the Republican party."

"By thus dividing the voters we can get them to expend their energies in fighting over questions of no importance to us. Thus, by discreet action we can secure all that has been so generously planned and successfully accomplished."

SOME WASHINGTON "PROSPERITY" NOTES

A stock-raiser in Okanogan County, Washington, sold in the Kansas City market three four-year old farm horses, and the price he received was \$2.40 for each horse.

He killed seven other horses and used their carcasses for bait to poison coyotes—and averaged \$7.00 from each horse, by sale of the coyote hides and scalps.

Moral: Raise more stock—for coyote bait!

A farmer in Harrington County raised 17,000 bushels of wheat this year. But he feared that his banker would complain—and probably raise trouble—if he spent \$20.00 from his crop receipts to attend the Farmer-Labor convention. So he stayed home.

Another farmer harvested 19,000 bushels of wheat—and after selling it, he had to borrow \$1,500 to pay the deficit on labor cost and taxes. That was all his year's work cost him.

An apple-raiser at Denison shipped 9,000 boxes of apples to market—and his total returns for same amounted to \$5.47. Those who didn't raise the apples, got the rest of their selling price.

Another apple-raiser, at Prosser, sold 10,000 boxes of the very best quality—all the rest on ten acres being left unpicked—and he received as return \$10.00

(This farmer should appeal to the United States Supreme Court for decision as to whether he sold these apples at \$1.00 per acre or ten boxes for a cent.)

"The industrial war of Capitalism has this peculiarity, that its battles are won less by enlisting than by discharging its industrial recruits. The generals—or capitalists—vie with one another as to who can dispense with the greatest number of his soldiers."
—Marr.

HOW THE OIL GAME IS PLAYED IN OKLAHOMA

Late one night, after the milling crowds had drifted out of the Egbert Hotel lobby, I asked Fred Holt to tell me the story of oil and Oklahoma politics. He said:

"I don't believe we can have an honest, clean administration in this state—not for years to come, at least. No rich man can be elected governor, because the farmers and wage workers are too class conscious to vote for him; and no poor man can get by because the big oil interests won't let him. I don't know whether every man has a price or not, but I do know that the oil-interests will find what a man's price is, and pay it, or if a man could be elected who couldn't be bought and wouldn't bend to their will, he would be put out of business. Gunmen are cheap in Oklahoma. There is just one office that the oil producers must control, and that is the Oil Conservation Department of the Corporation Commission."

"There is an everlasting war on between the independent oil operators, who line up with the Dutch-Shell and the Standard Oil Co., each fighting with every weapon they can use for the control of this seemingly unimportant department. The Independents-Dutch Shell are in control now, but the Standard Oil is always watching for a chance to oust them."

"Oklahoma has more wildcat oil territory than any other state, and wildcatting is one of the most fascinating gambling games on earth."

"The Oil Conservation Department keeps close tab on all developments in wildcat territory; that's its business. A group of wildcat gamblers get together, sink a test well in unproven territory, and strike oil. The Conservation Department issues a gloomy report, which, because it is a state department, would seem authentic. It says that the strike is only a pocket, or that the salt water will make the production unprofitable, or that any other of a number of things is wrong with the territory."

"The newspapers all lament the sad news and every one with a lease in that territory rushes to dump it, and the representatives of the oil producers are in the department to tip off their friends to grab everything in sight. When the small fry are out another well is sunk, more oil is found, and the Conservation Department issues a glowing report, and the newspapers herald it all over the country."

"The prices of leases soar and oil stock for the development of the field is sold to suckers in the East in great bunches. The oil operators who are on the inside clean up hundreds of thousands of dollars at one swipe—all because the Oil Conservation Department was mistaken in its report on the first test well."

"That's the way Oklahoma's oil millionaires have made most of their millions, and I don't believe any governor is strong enough to buck them and get by with it."

(Kate O'Hare, in *The Vanguard*.)

It is doubtful if all the mechanical "labor-saving" inventions has lightened the day's toil of a single individual worker.

A philanthropist is one of those "fair-minded" people who believe in giving back to the workers a little of what has been stolen from them. Rockefeller is a "great" philanthropist; Carnegie was another.

Ignorant contentment with poverty is the mill-stone that drags on the neck of labor.

"It is round the standards of duty, not those of self-interest, that men must fight to win the Rights of Man."—Mazzini.

The best work never was and never will be done for money payment.

"Learn what is true, in order to do what is right."—Huxley.

"The dictum that truth always triumphs over persecution is one of those pleasant falsehoods which all experience refutes. History teems with instances of truth down by persecution. If not suppressed forever, it may be thrown back for centuries."
—John Stuart Mill.

The Farm Crisis

(By HAROLD M. WARE.)

Wheat Farming:

When you hit the grain country you get the feeling of impending changes. The rows of imposing silent farmers' elevators along the transcontinental railroads seem like grim monuments to an heroic but futile struggle of the past. The prairie towns are stagnant, waiting for that promised "prosperity, just around the corner"—which never showed up. Many banks have closed their doors. Merchants are standing idly before their shops, bored with inactivity and worried over prospects. The "Main Street" trolleys are discontinued, and the "Movie Palace" is boarded up. The local papers are filled with tax-sale and mortgage foreclosure notices. In North Dakota one farmer said to me, "At least 80 per cent of the farmers are busted. Why, one of our papers had seventy-five foreclosure notices in its last issue—and there have been ten thousand in North Dakota since last year—mostly in the last six months." I met a banker who had just come in from the country, and asked him how things were going. He said, "I just went out to get a payment on a crop-mortgage I hold on some corn. The farmer said—pointing to the fields: 'There it is; take the whole damned thing; it won't pay me to pick it.' He had left that corn out in the shock, all winter. I know it won't pay his labor—but he seems to forget that I lent him money." The farmer had not forgotten; he had merely decided to quit working for nothing. The small-town banker—like hundreds of others—is being swept along in the general tide of bankruptcy.

Profits To Grain-gamblers.

From the Canadian line, on through the Dakotas, Nebraska and Kansas, you have "the bread-basket of America." Whole communities are devoted to the production of breadstuffs. Thus it is possible for the "sod-busters" to operate many acres per man. The average farm is of 400 to 500 acres, operated by the workers of the one family—except during harvest season. But here the individual farmer is more at the mercy of the organized industrial exploiters. Because of his large operations, the carrying charges are greater than those of his Eastern neighbors on farms. His rates of interest are higher. In harvest time he must compete with industrial centers, for harvest labor. Thousands of the unemployed city-workers "follow the harvest," and drift back to the cities in the fall. The nature of this farmer's crop production necessitates periods of unemployment after planting, for the farmer and his family. He must mortgage his crop, in order to borrow money with which to meet his large harvest expenses. Droughts or other unfavorable weather conditions mean partial or complete loss of the year's work—for these farmers specialize in one crop. Finally, when he sells, the grain-gamblers get his crops, for less than the cost of production. Because, in spite of his years of struggle and attempts to organize, they have always kept one jump ahead of him. This process constitutes a long-standing grievance of the farmer. Beginning with unfair weighing and grading, high freight rates and storage charges, the process ends at harvest time with market manipulations—driving them always to the year's "low" price. Today, wheat is below a dollar on the Chicago market. That means, the farmer gets less than 75 cents per bushel at the farm—just 50 per cent of the average cost of production.

Always in Debt.

The grain-farmer must buy almost all his farm and household supplies. He has no eggs, milk, fruit, vegetables, pork, etc., to trade to the store-keepers as do the Eastern farmers. In general, he runs on credit until the next harvest—and then starts all over again. But each year finds him striking a smaller balance on the right side of his ledger. If he sells his farm today he will get less than his mortgage amounts to, with second mortgage, notes, back taxes, interest and store accounts. Farmers who have just handled four thousand bushels of wheat, now find themselves begging for store credit.

Of course, the banks know this—but they don't know what to do about it. Both farmers and bankers know that "more credit" is not the solution. Suppose the bank is willing to loan the farmer enough money to plant and harvest another crop. The farmer is not a fool, and he knows that the entire proceeds of next year's crop, at present prices, would all go to the banker—for the unpaid taxes and interest are piling up, all the time. Last year he had some concrete lessons in what to expect. When the threshing-machines got busy last fall, some of the bankers invested in auto trucks. They backed up to the bagger and took the whole crop—leaving only enough for the "sod-buster" to pay his extra harvest help. And things began to crystallize in the farmer's mind. He realized that not only was he bankrupt but he was worse off than the farm-laborer, who has a legal lien on the crop which comes even ahead of mortgage. He began to see that the six years' political struggle, through the Non-Partisan League, to reform the system—and its grain-gam-

SEE STRUGGLING GERMANY AND TRIUMPHANT RUSSIA

"Russia and Germany: A Tale of Two Republics," is the title of the great new film showing Germany in the throes of a life and death struggle, with Soviet Russia calmly advancing along the road of peace and reconstruction.

In Russia the torn streets are being re-built, new buildings are being erected constantly, the children dance at play, and the work of the Russian people is performed without the constant menace of unemployment or the injustice of economic exploitation and oppression. They are coming to know how full and fair this life can be when there is no capitalist master-class.

But in Germany there is only trouble for the people. Troops of government soldiers, in steel helmets and armed for murder, parade the streets and oppress the "Proletarian Hundreds" which the workers have formed. The workers' forces retreat, sullenly and reluctantly. Revolution is in the air. Because the misery which reigns in Germany today is unbearable. Against the beautiful setting of the old German cities—once the pride of a lusty nation—a scourge of hunger and disease is devastating the population of that country, and the little children are dying of this scourge. Daily the spirit of revolution grows ever stronger, and tremendous forces are preparing to grapple with each other.

All this, and more, can be seen in the new film, which unfolds the historical progress of a new world in the making. The picture is being shown, throughout the country, by the Committee for International Workers' Aid, and the proceeds go for the benefit of German Workers' Relief.

CRUCIFIXION OF THE GERMAN CHILDREN

It is reported that nearly four million of Germany's school children are in desperate need of food. Diseases which were rare occurrences in Germany before 1914 are now quite common among the school children, due to the lack of milk and of green vegetables. And the children are suffering from many skin troubles, resulting from this lack of nourishment and the insanitary conditions surrounding them. A great many are afflicted with vermin, because they have no proper facilities for bathing and no changes of underclothing. Most of the public baths in Berlin are now closed. They were used by the workers, and not by the wealthy class. And the German government does not care if its workers and their children go unwashed. The workers are rebelling: let them die! Tuberculosis is increasing in Germany, and particularly among the young children.

The Committee for International Workers' Aid—the American Branch of the Internationale Arbeiter Hilfs Komitee—appeals to the workers of America to exert themselves in behalf of these suffering children of the German workers. **ONLY THE WORKER OF THE WORLD WILL HELP THESE WORKER'S CHILDREN.**

Send contributions to the office of the Committee, which is located at 19 S. Lincoln St., Chicago, Ills.

blers and bankers—had gotten him nowhere. He was broke! If he was going to hold onto the land that he had homesteaded—and sweated for, for a generation—he must quit trying to reform the old rules and proceed to make new ones. So he went to the Legislature and proposed two bills: North Dakota House Bill No. 164, giving the farmer a labor lien on his own crop; and North Dakota House Bill No. 358, giving the farmer a moratorium for two years. He knew this would ruin the bankers—but he also knew that these measures would keep him on the land.

Disillusion Complete.

However, the farmer had still another lesson to learn. The new bills were driven into obscurity by his own Non-partisan League representatives. One North Dakota farmer thus expressed his disillusion: "The League is dead; it won't go any further. See what some of those pious manure-wallopers did to those two bills? They hate to admit that they're slaves."

(The next installment of this article by "Hal" Ware, will cover the subject of Cotton Farming—principally Southern; and a summarization of all the various types of farming that have been dealt with. Following thereafter, will be articles on proposed and prospective remedies for the farmers' present critical situation. ED.)

A WHEAT FARMER STATES OTHER SIDE

Within the last two years thousands of American grain-farmers have suffered financial death; and other thousands are in the final throes of that ending. It is estimated that two millions of people have left the farms for the cities—thus augmenting the unemployment crisis. This exodus from the farms is the most remarkable economic phenomenon of the present time. It would seem that statesmen should take notice and seek to change such abnormal and dangerous tendencies. But the only evidence that our statesmen know of these things, is their freely offered advice to diversify crops and co-operate in marketing.

Forced To Specialize.

This is an age of farm specialization. And the wheat farmer is such by force, because his soil is best adapted for wheat culture. A soil survey would prove that the wheat-growers are making the best of existing conditions, and that such loosely given advice is out of place. If generally followed, what must happen to those farmers who, because of peculiar soil conditions, are forced to specialize their crops?

The wheat farmers of Eastern Washington have a co-operative warehouse and elevator at most primary points; and yet there are no visible benefits derived. The schedule of grades and discounts is followed by the agents of the cooperative. The final receivers take full advantage of these traps, and at the end of the season the co-operative finds that it has done business at a loss—or not much above.

Defeated Efforts.

The farmers of North Dakota realized that they could not cope with their exploiters unless they had the power of the State behind them. By the power of the State they proceeded to build a central elevator and mill; they organized a central bank and branches; they co-operated successfully in State hail, fire and tornado insurance.

The organized industrial and financial interests were mobilized to combat this effort of the farmers. And these enemies of the people were successful in side-tracking the movement. Yet the interests thus combating co-operation are now loudest in the cry for that process.

Joke Of The Ages.

In the face of these experiences, this "co-operation" solution of the farmers' problems seems to them but a hollow mockery—an adding of insult to injury. But if the farmer would work less and think more—not diversify his political power, but co-operate at the ballot-box, then he would not have such a slave's portion. When the pyramids of Egypt were new, the farmer was an object of ridicule. Pictures ridiculing his efforts are found in the ancient tombs of that land. Note the following, for "Social Life of Ancient Egypt," by Flinders Petrie:

"It accords with the ancient contempt for the countrymen—the subject of many artistic sketches in tomb scenes. At the present time, the official class—down to the petty clerk—look upon the fellah (countryman, farmer) as only fit to be plundered; any injustice or wrong does not matter—he is only a fellah."

It is some relief and consolation for the farmer today to find that he is not treated any more harshly than his Egyptian prototype. Those Egyptians whose tombs are decorated with pictures ridiculing the farmer, no doubt were "highly civilized" exploiters who in yelling "Diversify" had seen the humor of the thing.

H. T. Ahrens,
Mandovi, Wash.

BE A STAFF-CORRESPONDENT.

It is the desire of Farmer-Labor Voice to speak directly from the hearts of the farmers and industrial workers, in their own language and from their own point of view. And to aid this purpose, we are asking our readers everywhere to send in news items with reference to the Farmer-Labor movement in their immediate vicinity—about the growth of farmer-labor sentiment for unity of action, and as to organization meetings held or in prospect.

If YOU have not yet contributed to the columns of Farmer-Labor Voice, do not longer refrain. And if you have, then COME AGAIN!

ALL ABOARD FOR ST. PAUL

ST. PAUL, Minn.—Interest in the National Farmer-Labor Convention to be held here on June 17th, is rapidly increasing as the time for the meeting approaches, according to information given out from the office of the Arrangements Committee.

From all sections of the country, letters of endorsement and credentials are being received. Many state parties have written signifying their intention of being represented at the convention. In other states, conventions are being called for the purpose of organizing Farmer-Labor parties, and sending delegates to St. Paul on June 17th.

The Farmer-Labor Party of Colorado, which up until now has been affiliated with the old National Farmer-Labor group, headed by John Fitzpatrick and J. G. Brown of Chicago, writes in, stating that after due consideration by their organization, they have decided to send a full delegation to St. Paul on June 17th. They state, "Having due regard for the opinions of the National Farmer-Labor Party, to which we owe allegiance, we, nevertheless, see fit to attend in a body at the St. Paul convention."

C. P. P. A. Criticized

There is a general view expressed in hundreds of letters being received by the committee that the Conference for Progressive Political Action, and their organ, "Labor," are seriously injuring the cause of the workers and farmers by refusing to break with the two old parties and assist in building a great mass Farmer-Labor Party. In many letters this takes the form of direct condemnation, accusing them of being the tools of the financial interests; in others the hope is expressed that they will realize the wonderful possibilities of building a new movement this year and unite with the successful Farmer-Labor parties of the Northwest in making the June 17th convention a great demonstration against capitalist domination. This latter view is well expressed by Frank E. Johnesse, chairman of the Progressive Party of Idaho, who says, "We are with you heart and soul in the cause. Idaho will be there with a full delegation. We sincerely trust that the sixteen railroad organizations will decide to endorse our platform and candidates, and come out for its support. With these organizations in line we feel optimistic enough to believe that we stand a very good show of electing our candidate for president this fall." J. W. Houchin, chairman of the Farmer-Labor Party of Oklahoma, expresses a similar sentiment when he says, "We will certainly have delegates to your convention. The C. P. P. A. leaders have done themselves no good by their attack on your convention."

New State Parties

The circulation of the call for the June 17th convention, as well as the "Help Build a Mass Farmer-Labor Party" leaflet circulated by the arrangements committee, has started a national agitation for the building of state and city Farmer-Labor parties. Letters announcing the calling of state conventions for the purpose of building state parties and sending delegates to the St. Paul gathering have been received from Illinois, New York, California, Rhode Island, Ohio and Oklahoma.

Credentials are now being received daily from local unions, co-operatives and farmers groups. Altho the last of the calls will not be in the mails until the end of this week, and the convention still being six weeks away, thirty-six credentials have been received in the office of the national committee. The states represented by these credentials are Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New York, Rhode Island, Texas and Wisconsin.

ILLINOIS MINERS FOR JUNE 17TH

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—The Illinois Miner, official organ of District 12, United Mine Workers, predicts a successful convention of between 5,000 and 10,000 delegates at St. Paul, on June 17, where the national Farmer-Labor movement will meet to name presidential and vice-presidential candidates.

"The prospects for launching a successful Farmer-Labor party at the June 17 convention at St. Paul grows brighter," says the Illinois Miner in a page one editorial.

"Despite the warnings of the heads of various labor international, the prospects are that five and ten thousand delegates will

YET ANOTHER C. P. P. A. MEETING

(For the benefit of the readers of Farmer-Labor Voice, who may have never heard of these Montana State "celebrities," Dixon and Romney, it might be said that they are both more or less celebrated for their reactionary tendencies—and for little else.—Ed.)

The Conference for Progressive Political Action, numbering 29, met in Helena last week. On account of the divergent political beliefs represented it was expected that there would be a lively time. Some of those present were Democratic politicians for many years, while others are known to be strong adherents of "our governor," says the Great Falls "Town Topics".

A Sleek Bunch

Most of those who attended looked a good deal different from the workers they were supposed to represent. They were sleek, well-groomed gentlemen who did not seem to have been worried by the boring noise of an alarm clock for many years. They stayed at such places as the Placer and did not look different from the members of the Rotary club and other stragglers to overalls who infest the lobby of that well-known hostelry.

"Endorse" La Follette

It was currently reported that a majority were for endorsing McAdoo, but the fact that the workers and farmers had placed LaFollette in nomination on the same day they met caused them to revise their plans. They endorsed LaFollette on a ticket on which he has already declined to run. This was done because it left an opening to endorse "our governor," which the Republican C. P. P. A.'s promptly took advantage of by passing a resolution endorsing Dixon for governor.

"Progressive" Diplomacy

The Democratic C. P. P. A.'s saw that something had been pulled over on them, and it looked for a time as if the scheduled row would take place. In order to preserve friendship and promote brotherly love, a diplomatic gentleman proposed the endorsement of Miles Romney on the Democratic ticket for the same office for which they had endorsed Dixon. There was then some disagreement as to how the 29 would vote, and it was finally agreed that the male C. P. P. A.'s would vote for Dixon and their wives for Romney.

There was some disagreement as to how the Democratic C. P. P. A.'s would counteract the vote of the genial Steve Ely, who is not tied to the apron strings of any happy lady. It is reported that a committee of reconciliation was appointed to look after the case of Brother Ely.

"Menace" of Progress

The "menace" of the Farmer-Labor party was discussed. Old political hands told a gloomy tale of how the rank and file of the railroad men were joining the new movement with surprising rapidity. One gentleman got red to the roots of his hair denouncing the rank and file for joining without first consulting the "leaders". In order to pacify him another gentleman "jumped up and said Mickey McGlynn was traveling around the state suggesting that the Farmer-Labor party had the endorsement of the Weaders." Straightaway a resolution was brought in stating that these foul rumors were not true.

So they left themselves a back door through which to retreat if the stench of petroleum gets too strong in the parties of Kareful Kal and Oily Mack.

(The Producers' News.)

THE PRODUCERS' ALLIANCE AND A. C. TOWNLEY

(Special to the Farmer-Labor Voice.)

SIOUX FALLS, S. Dak.—Announcement that A. C. Townley is not now connected with the National Producers' Alliance, an organization formed by Townley last spring to organize farmers for control of the price of their products, was made by J. J. Hastings on his return from Fargo. Hastings and Townley have been defending against an indictment in connection with the Scandinavian Bank failure. Incidentally, it is said that Townley has been engaged in the hunt for oil. He is now touring Texas and Oklahoma, looking up a field for himself and associates.

The Producers' Alliance is left under the direction of George H. Griffith, one of Townley's close associates. Organizers are busily at work in Nebraska, and a few are again in South Dakota.

Last spring and fall a good many farmers were enrolled in the Producers' Alliance, but so far nothing has been done to put the organization to use. No meetings have been held, no precinct units have been built and the whole movement has gone dead in the shell.

Organizers at work buy receipt books from the head office—ten receipts in each book—for which they pay the head office one dollar for each receipt. They then go out among the farmers and get as much from them as they are willing to give. In some cases the organizers secure good contributions, but generally speaking they are not able to "get rich quick," at this work. The farmers are beginning to see that unless they control the State power politically, they will never have much influence over their produce

NEBRASKA PROGRESSIVE PARTY ENDORSES THE JUNE 17TH MEET

OMAHA, Neb.—(Special to Farmer-Labor Voice.) The Progressive Party of Nebraska, meeting here in regular convention on May 1st adopted resolutions that empowered its State Executive Committee to replace Governor Bryan's "fusionists" and Democrats, on the Progressive Party ballot, with genuine members of the Progressive Party and those who favor independent political action.

The convention unanimously endorsed the June 17th convention and ratified the sending of a large delegation from Nebraska. The State Executive Committee was instructed to change the name of the Progressive Party, if necessary, so as to conform with whatever name may be adopted by the National Convention in St. Paul.

BUFFALO LABOR JOINS MOVEMENT FOR MASS PARTY

NEW YORK.—Reports are coming in daily to the office of the Federated Farmer-Labor Party to the effect that the up state cities of New York are active on behalf of the Farmer-Labor Party. The entire union list has been circularized and a large delegation representing local unions, fraternal organizations and farmer granges is expected. The latest report from Buffalo states that the Buffalo Central Labor Council decided to send a delegate to the state convention for the formation of a Labor Party in New York, which is to be held at Schenectady on Sunday, May 18th. All unions in New York City have received credentials and letters and are urgently requested to take this matter up at their next meeting and see to it that their local elects a delegate immediately.

Money is needed to carry on of the campaign and to organize the work in order that the state convention may be a success. All organizations are requested to immediately make donations and send same to the Executive Secretary of the Federated Farmer-Labor Party, W. J. Kelly, at 81 East Tenth Street.

"A NOSE FOR NEWS!"

"The World's Great-st Nose-Paper" seems to have inadvertently slipped over an interesting fact—quite evidently while its truth censor was not looking. Word for word, the following is reprinted from Chicago "Tribune":

Dollar Last Week Worth 68.2 Cents—upon 1913 basis. In terms of wholesale prices of 200 representative commodities, the purchasing power of a dollar last week averaged 68.2 cents, compared with what it would have bought in 1913. For March its purchasing power averaged 67.2 pre war cents, and for the first quarter of 1924 it was 66.4. The commodity prices averaged 146.6 per cent of pre-war level during the week, 148.7 during March, and 150.5 during the quarter.

These are the figures of Prof. Irving Fisher. In the following table the index number shows prevailing prices compared with those of 1913, and the purchasing power represents what \$1.00 would buy in the period covered comparable with 1913:

| | Index | Purchasing power |
|---------------------------|-------|------------------|
| 1913 | 100 | 100 |
| 1920 May (Peak of prices) | 247 | 40.5 |
| 1923 yearly average | 157.7 | 64.4 |
| 1924 February average | 153.4 | 65.2 |
| 1924 week ended March 1 | 151.8 | 65.9 |
| 1924 week ended March 8 | 151.7 | 65.9 |
| 1924 week ended March 15 | 150.7 | 66.4 |
| 1924 week ended March 22 | 149.2 | 67.1 |
| 1924 week ended March 29 | 146.9 | 68.1 |
| 1924 week ended April 6 | 146.2 | 68.4 |

The price quotations are taken by Prof. Fisher from Dr's weekly review and the weights form the war industries board's report.

MIDDLEMEN GET FIFTEEN BILLIONS

(By Federated Press.)

Exploitation of farmers at the hands of modern commercialism again comes to light in the attempt of Railroad Financier B. F. Yoakum to educate President Coolidge to an understanding of the farm problem.

Yoakum pointed out to the president that consumers are today paying \$22,500,000,000 a year for food prices. Remember the 17th of June, get only \$7,500,000,000. The exploiting class have reason all the times as it leaves the farmer only \$15 billion for his produce.

"All Dressed Up—and Nowhere to Go!"



Farmer-Labor Forum

Farmer-Labor Voice solicits from its readers a free expression of their opinions upon all subjects of special interest to the farmers and industrial workers generally.

Contributions to this Forum should usually be of not more than three hundred words. With these, pen-names only will be published if requested. But name and address of writer must accompany each contribution.

Farmer-Labor Voice assumes no responsibility for the opinions expressed in this manner.—Ed.)

To the Editor, Farmer-Labor Voice:—

I am a laborer, working for the "upper crust" of society, in the grease and dust of a factory. I live in Dowagiac, Mich.—where the unemployment situation is bad, and getting worse. Yet the farmers in this locality are leaving their farms and coming to the city for employment—where they find that they have but "jumped out of the frying-pan, into the fire." So I say to the farmers of the Northwest that they are in no worse condition than those in Michigan.

The question then arises: What is to be done about it? And the answer is, organize for political action. But we have tried out the two old political parties—and all we have obtained from them is the promise of help. So the thing to do is to repudiate these smooth-tongued, weasel-word politicians—replacing them with men of principle and courage, who will give us right action and a square deal.

If we can get such action through formation of a third party; then I say, "Go to it!" For there is not a man or woman voter but knows that the political administration of our government is rotten to the core. So it behooves the American people to get busy and put their noise in order—by demanding of their legislative representatives realities instead of promises, and betterment instead of bunk.

My hair is turning gray. And looking behind me, I see the crosses marking workers' graves in "the potter's field." So, I hurry back to the factory—with that cheerful prospect to comfort me in the long hours of work. Let us, as workers, change this state of affairs—or there will never be a change, except for the worse.

M. M. B.,

Dowagiac, Mich.

Political struggle, through the league, to reform the system—and

form is bringing, out there clean path;

with ever-increasing strenght of action. A great political upheaval is imminent, with its headquarters there.

And what is it all about? What is the farmers' grievance; what is the cause of it, and what is the remedy?

While the prices of farm products have fallen woefully, the prices of farm-machinery, fertilizers, lumber, fencing, etc.—along with the cost of food, clothing, and farm labor—still remain largely upon the war-time basis. The farmers' indebtedness—with interest and taxes—has not lowered with the deflation of farm-products prices. And so, turn whichever way he will, the farmer is up against disaster.

It is often pointed out, that conditions would not be so bad for the farmer, if the prices of things other than farm products were reduced proportionately. But this is no solution. In the first place, the big industrial magnates would not stand for any such reductions. Nor would labor accept willingly such reductions in wages. And the farmers' indebtedness would not decrease proportionately with general reduction in prices, even if those facts were otherwise. In order to decrease the farmer's burden, there would have to be a great reduction in the pay of public officials—and in their number. Also, creditors would have to cancel at least half the face value of their bonds.

The farmer is not a beggar, and he wants no special favors from anyone. But he has been the victim of gross injustice—and he knows it. And so he is bestirring himself, with a view to righting this wrong state of affairs. The voicing of his demands is not yet so loud and clear as it soon will be. But he has learned the power of his strength united with the power of labor, and he is organizing to make good use of that strength.

Low and menacing, like the mutterings of an approaching storm, the voice of the farmer is beginning to be heard. And a political storm is coming!

William G. Conklin,

Lawrence, Mich.

Editor, Farmer-Labor Voice:

I have seen a copy of your publication, and believe that it will be a valuable newspaper for the working class—the farmers and the wage-workers. Here is my subscription, for a year.

Yes, it is time for the workers to organize in common. Because it makes no difference whether we are farmers or wage-workers, we are all exploited just the same by the international system of Capitalism. So we must lay aside all jealousies and organize as the producers of the world, for united political and economic action in our own behalf. It has been

to divide the strength of the producers, and thus the more easily carry on their exploitation. But I believe that the days of such splitting of the workers' forces have gone by. And I am with you, for the Farmer-Labor Party and its program of united action.

Forest Grove, Mont.

A. Bauer.

To Farmer-Labor Voice:

This is my last dollar, which I am sending for a subscription—and probably my last act in the revolutionary movement, for my wings are sprouting and very soon will be spread for flight!

For forty years I have done all that I could in the movement, wherever and whenever seemed possible. But how discouraging the labor has been! Always I could see failure in prospect, because of intolerance and wrong tactics—in the leading revolutionary organization of each period it was the same fault. But I believe you are on the right road, at last! And here is my revolutionary greeting.

Fred Trulson,
Arlington, Wash.

SURPLUS FARM PRODUCTS.

In dealing with the distress of the farmers, it is pointed out that there is an over-production of farm products, and the only way to secure the right prices for the farmers is for them to cut production or to dump the surplus on foreign shores.

It is well known that there are millions of people in the industrial centers of the United States who are in dire physical want. They have no work and no power to buy the products of the farmer, and those who are working get wages that compel them to retrench, so they do not buy all they need.

In the face of these well known facts, it is evident that both methods proposed by the "authorities" are fallacious and superficial. What should be done is to eliminate the parasites that unduly increase the prices to the consumer, and disorganize the distributing processes of the nation. If all the people in the industrial centers were given regular and lucrative employment they would furnish an ample market for the products of the farms, provided these products do not fall into the hands of speculators who artificially boost the prices.

On the face of the case it seems silly to look to impoverished Europe to take our so-called surplus when we have the best market in the world here at home if it is properly nourished. It has been shown conclusively that, when the workers are all employed at good wages the farmer gets a good price for his products—Minnesota Union Advocate.

"All Dressed Up—and Nowhere to Go"!

