

REFUTES LIES

U. L. Burdick, head of the North Dakota Farm Bureau federation, who is NOT a Nonpartisan leaguer, in a recent statement to a farm paper of the Pacific Coast said:

The state of North Dakota is not bankrupt; in fact, no state in the Union owes as little state debt per capita as North Dakota. Our state debt does not exceed \$1 per quarter section of land. You hear much about 40 banks closing in North Dakota. What closed the banks of North Dakota? The banks in North Dakota closed for the reason that the farmers around the banks closed first. Years of crop failures, running as high as five straight in some sections of the state, together with the price of the 1920 crop slightly over half of the cost of production, simply put hundreds of farmers out of business.

So it wasn't Townley that did it!

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Letters From Our Readers

FRIENDLY ADVICE

Editor Nonpartisan Leader: It makes me tired when I know we farmers can change things if we want to, but don't. We pay our dues and then don't even read the paper that is sent to us to keep us posted. When in Nebraska last winter a farmer said he was not going to renew his membership because he had been to a sale and they had told him all kinds of things (naming some) and he had to take it because he could not answer them.

I said: "Do you read your League papers?" He said: "No, I haven't got time."

There are hundreds of you who don't take three minutes time a day to read your papers, and that is all you need to spend to be posted. Most of you think all you have to do is to pay your dues and then "let George do it." If you would quit talking about the short crops and the low prices and would talk politics to your wife and family and to your neighbor, you would soon get better prices for everything you have to sell.

If farmers don't wake up soon, they will find that the other fellow who is in politics will own them body and soul, and you will work for him and eat humble pie. You know that you are only worth 50 cents from your neck down, but there is no limit to what you are worth from your neck up. So use your head and see what headway you will make.

Next year is at the door and we have a big fight coming. Are you prepared to help? Let's start something and make the membership 100 per cent by spring. Are you mad enough to take off your coat and wade in? How many of you are willing to help? Now all together. **JULIUS H. BENDER.**

Fergus Falls, Minn.

A NEW FRIEND

Editor Nonpartisan Leader: I will admit that I do not belong to the Nonpartisan league, but I have advocated the principles it stands for as explained in your issue of August 22, which fell into my hands today. The doctrine taught in it meets with my red-hot approval.

Our lawmakers, both state and national, are crazy in squandering the people's money preparing for another war. Therefore it behooves the producers in all lines to call a halt and unite in our endeavors to bring matters back on a line of justice to the whole people.

I was talking on the street today

when a man expressed himself in this manner: "I do solemnly promise before God and these witnesses that I knowingly will never put in my vote for a single one that now holds office in the county, state or nation, so help me God."

There were quite a number of bystanders who spoke up and said they thought the same.

Chelan, Wash. **W. J. LONG.**

GOOD IDEA

Editor Nonpartisan Leader: Why not promote the sale of union made goods direct to the people? The same agents selling such goods could sell subscriptions to the Nonpartisan Leader and Russell's book on the League. Farmers should by all means help to find markets for union labor's products. They bought North Dakota bonds. We want their goods.

KNUTE CHRISTENSON.

Benedict, N. D.

BIG CONFERENCE

The Public Ownership league of America will hold its big annual conference in Chicago, November 19, 20 and 21. The Nonpartisan league will participate by sending speakers and delegates. Manager Cathro of the Bank of North Dakota, Governor Frazier and Senator Ladd of North Dakota and other prominent Leaguers will speak. Senator LaFollette, Congressman Keller of Minnesota (labor) and other big men in the progressive and public ownership movement, will also speak. Leaguers are cordially invited to attend, both by the Public Ownership league and national League headquarters. Public ownership of banking and transportation facilities will be among the chief topics discussed.

THE SEARCHLIGHT

In its current issue, the Searchlight (Washington, D. C.) puts into one comprehensive picture the outstanding official facts which show what Harding and the "old guard" are doing. The Republican legislative program—the tariff, the taxes, tucking the farmers into bed with the railroads, repealing the excess profits tax, the foreign loan refunding bill—all these measures are revealed in their relations to the public welfare in the current issue of this valuable publication. The personnel of the American delegates to the disarmament conference is also discussed from the point of view of their previous attitude toward militarism and secret diplomacy.

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