

Experiments of League Costly to North Dakota

Practically Every Project Established by Nonpartisans Operated at a Loss to State—Waste Exposed.

By ARTHUR SEARS HENNING.

Bismarck, N. D., Feb. 17.—(Special.)—It is the ship of state drifting in North Dakota for the last seven years, the scene of the most remarkable experiment in state socialism in America?

It had to say, but with a primary and general election coming on this year, with the initiative, the referendum and the recall at the disposal of the voters and with the electorate all "hot up" over the situation, it would seem as if the folks out this way ought to know within the next six months where they are headed.

North Dakota has passed through an orgy of socialistic experiment that would fill the soul of Lenin with envy, for out here they have been doing it with real money and plenty of it—at least, until the crash came.

Convinced that they were the victims of metropolitan profiteers who beat down the price paid for their grain and livestock and boosted the prices exacted for everything they consumed, the farmers united in the militant Nonpartisan league, took possession of all branches of the state government in 1915 and proceeded to inaugurate state ownership of terminal elevators, flour mills, packing houses and cold storage plants, state insurance of grain and stock, exemption of farm improvements from taxation, state hail insurance on the acreage tax basis and rural credit banks to be operated at cost.

Then they established chains of co-operative stores, founded newspapers to represent their cause and entered upon numerous other undertakings in which they sank millions of dollars.

Not Howling Success. A couple of years ago it began to be perceived that the experiment was not working out so successfully as had been anticipated. Such undertakings as had reached the operating stage showed a loss and enormous waste, political manipulation of the state industrial funds for private benefit and various rackets exposed, taxes increased and the credit of the state suffered.

Reaction against Townleyism culminated last October in the recall of the members of the state industrial commission, chief of whom was Governor Lynn Frazier, the farmer whom the Nonpartisan league had placed in the executive office. The program of state socialistic ventures was not repudiated but the new governor, R. A. Nestos, and other members of the new industrial commission received a mandate to eliminate waste and graft and restore the state industries to a business basis.

Battle Still Raging. The battle still rages. The Nonpartisan league is fighting to regain full power and to continue the so-

cialistic undertakings. The extreme opposition would wipe out the whole league program and liquidate the state industries. Governor Nestos is taking a moderate stand. He would complete the state elevator and flour mill under construction and transfer the state bank into a purely rural credit institution.

A new element has been plucked into the situation by the appearance of petitions for the initiation of 11 new laws, proposed by Judge Robinson of the supreme court who was elected as a Nonpartisan league candidate. Judge Robinson would repeal numerous laws and make some new ones, including one providing that all unpaid real estate taxes for the last three years be reduced 50 per cent, all interest penalties and costs cancelled and property tax sales in the last two years except to bona fide purchasers be declared void.

Big Loss Reported. After making a survey of the industries created under the league regime the Nestos administration has reported that a loss of about \$650,000 on these undertakings has been discovered up to date. The governor expressed the opinion that the state had insurance institution is the only feature of the league program that has worked out satisfactorily so far.

Several hundred thousand dollars were wasted by unbusinesslike methods in the construction of the Grand Forks elevator and flour mill, according to the officers of the new administration, though this is denied by league leaders who assert that the project would have been completed within the original estimates had it not been for the big rise in the cost of material and labor. About \$1,100,000 has been expended so far and it will require \$1,400,000 more and another year to complete the plant.

The flour mill at Drake, which was purchased for \$36,000, has been closed down as a complete failure. Its product could not be marketed successfully in competition with that of the capitalistic millers and it lost \$75,000 in two years.

The Bank of North Dakota, which was to have saved the farmers from the exactions of capitalistic bankers incurred a loss on its banking business which is estimated at \$280,000. Its private banking department is being liquidated, but the policy of the new administration is to retain the bank as a depository of state and municipal funds and as the base of operation of the rural credit system.

Favors Rural Credit System. Governor Nestos believes that the rural credit system can be made a great boon to the farmer when it has been reorganized and placed on a self-sustaining basis. The extent of the losses believed to have been incurred by the rural credit system under the league administration has not been ascertained. About \$2,700,000 has been loaned, some of it on worthless security, according to the governor.

Another undertaking was the building of houses which were not to exceed \$5,000 each in cost for any person who was able to pay \$1,000 down. The state built 51 houses at a cost of \$490,000, although the limit of cost had been fixed at \$250,000. Only one was built on a farm and only one for a laboring man. Many were built for officials of the state administration and other leaders in the league. A city house built for one state official cost \$21,000. This venture is being abandoned at a loss.

One benefit the league conferred upon the state—indisputably. It

brought the credit of the state so low that outside capital gave North Dakota a wide berth. There was no orgy of speculation in North Dakota farm land, consequently less inflation than in neighboring agricultural states and less shock in the postwar economic readjustment.

Two More Candidates File for State Offices

Lincoln, Feb. 17.—(Special.)—Two more candidates filed nomination papers in the office of D. M. Amsherry, secretary of state, today.

Judge W. R. Dean, after serving a six-year term on the supreme bench, asked for re-election from the Sixth judicial district. Judge Dean comes from Broken Bow. Under the law, supreme court justices are on a nonpartisan ballot. District Judge W. H. Westover of Rushville has announced that he also will be a candidate for the supreme bench from that district.

Florian Jacobs of Broken Bow has filed for the republican nomination for state senator in the 23d district, embracing Blaine, Custer, Loup and Valley counties. Jacobs was the Custer county representative in the lower house last winter and at the special session.

Lincoln Farmer Risks Death to Save Father's Body

Lincoln, Feb. 17.—(Special.)—Harry Hatzembuehler risked death this afternoon to drag the lifeless body of his father, Anton Hatzembuehler, from a burning barn on the family farm near Lincoln. The father was burned to death. The son left his father in the barn shortly after dinner and went to work in an adjoining field. Half an hour later he saw the barn in flames. He is reported badly burned. The origin of the fire is not known.

Military Court Sentences Commuted by Governor

Lincoln, Feb. 17.—Two of the sentences imposed by the military court at Nebraska City upon persons alleged to have violated orders of martial law were commuted by Governor McKelvie. Hugh H. Seymour, sentenced to jail for seven months, will serve three months under the commutation and Ernest Watson, sentenced to six months, will serve three. The other cases appealed to the governor were untouched.

Retail Jewelers Elect New Officers at Lincoln

Lincoln, Feb. 17.—(Special.)—Officers of the Nebraska Retail Jewelers' association elected today at the close of the 17th annual convention are: Fenton B. Fleming, Lincoln, president; Robert A. Goodall, Ogalala, vice president; Edward B. Fenske, Pierce, secretary-treasurer; P. A. Hannis, York; Robert Meyer, Grand Island, and Theodore Simms, Grand Island, executive committeemen.

"Jack the Clipper" Severs Tresses of Norfolk Girl

Norfolk, Neb., Feb. 17.—(Special Telegram.)—While Agnes Arneke, 14, was asleep in her room, someone entered and cut off part of her hair. August Arneke, the father, is asking the police to investigate.

Will Retire at End of His Present Term



George E. Johnson

Johnson to Quit as State Engineer

More Lucrative Employment Reason Given—Will Remain for Highway Fight.

Lincoln, Feb. 17.—(Special Telegram.)—George E. Johnson, state engineer, announced today he would tender his resignation at the end of his present term in January, 1923. More lucrative employment offered was given as the reason. Johnson stated that he talked to Governor McKelvie of resigning in September and then learned that an attempt was being made by democrats to drag state road building into politics.

"I immediately made arrangements with my future employers, who promised to hold the position open until the end of my term," Johnson said. "I decided that under the circumstances it was my duty to remain in office and fight the thing through. As far as the state is concerned, we have a complete report of every dollar spent and are ready and waiting for the investigation committee to meet."

Johnson was appointed state engineer by Governor Morhead in 1915 and has held the same position under various governors since that time. When he took the office there was no road building program; his staff numbered four people. In the summer of 1921 the staff numbered 750. The state of Nebraska is paying Johnson \$5,000; the position he will accept in January will pay him \$12,000 a year.

The first and last original dramas of Shakespeare are "Two Gentlemen of Verona," written in 1570, and "The Tempest," written in 1611.

Kansas City Man Will Be Judge at Debate on Grain

War Labor Board Conciliator Selected by Farmers; Brand May Represent Pickell.

William P. Harvey, vice president and general manager of the Penn Manufacturing company, Kansas City, Mo., has been selected by representatives of the United States Grain Growers, Inc., as one of the three judges for the debate at Lexington, Neb., on whether speculation, commonly called gambling, is a menace to the marketing of grain. The debate will be held March 4.

Ralph I. Pickell, Chicago, editor of "The Roundup," precipitated the debate when he issued a challenge which was accepted by George C. Jewett, Portland, Ore., vice president of the grain growers association, Labor Board Conciliator.

Mr. Harvey during the war was assistant to former President Taft and Frank Walsh on the war labor board. In this capacity he acted as conciliator in settling hundreds of disputes between capital and labor. His record in this work and experience in adjusting differences were largely responsible for his selection as a judge.

Walter Dill Scott, president of Northwestern university, Evanston, Ill., was originally reported as the judge selected by Mr. Pickell. Charles J. Brand, manager of the American Fruit Growers' association, Pittsburgh, is now reported as the second judge. The two judges will select the third man.

Nebraskans Are Urged. J. N. Norton, president of the Nebraska Farm Bureau federation, and Frank Myers, former manager of the Nebraska Farmers' Union exchange, Omaha, are being urged for the third judge.

The debate was arranged by John Jacobson of Lexington and will be under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce. Reservations have been made from all parts of the United States.

Man Dies Instantly When Kicked by Mule

Nebraska City, Neb., Feb. 17.—(Special.)—Harry Ehlers, 39, a farmer residing northwest of here, was kicked by a mule and instantly killed. While he was turning his mules into a cornfield, one of the animals, in passing through the gate, kicked him in the neck. He is survived by a wife and two small children.

Bloodhounds on Trail of Incendiaries at Danbury

McCook, Neb., Feb. 17.—(Special.)—Danbury, this county, has been visited several times the last week by incendiaries and bloodhounds have been called into service to locate the guilty parties without success so far. Two buildings have been fired and preparations made to fire the third one.

School to Be Dedicated at West Point, February 22

West Point, Neb., Feb. 17.—(Special.)—The board of education has set Wednesday, February 22, as the date for the dedication of the new school building. The day will be given over to general school exercises and a program will be presented in the evening.

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Men's Sweaters, heavy shawl collars, at \$1.00. Men's Union Suits, at \$1.00. Men's Dress Shirts, at \$1.00. 50c Cashmere. Hose, 3 pair, at \$1.00. \$2.00 House Slippers, at \$1.00.

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Farmers Optimistic Over Wheat Despite Dry Spell

Friend, Neb., Feb. 17.—(Special.)—Notwithstanding the continued dry weather, farmers in this part of the state are optimistic about the condition of winter wheat. Several say the wheat will come out all right in the spring, provided, however, that the moisture comes as the frost goes out of the ground.

Fire Destroys Frame Farm House Near Nebraska City

Nebraska City, Neb., Feb. 17.—(Special.)—The two-story frame house on the Will Davis farm west of the city was destroyed by fire at night. When the fire was discovered by J. S. Osborne, who resides on the farm, the entire second story of the building was ablaze. Neighbors succeeded in saving part of the household goods. The fire was caused by a defective chimney.

Mexican Pleads Guilty to Murder at Sidney

Sidney, Neb., Feb. 17.—(Special.)—Cleoro Estrada, Mexican, who was arrested at Greeley, Colo., for the murder of Steve Paun at Sidney six weeks ago, was arraigned for preliminary hearing here and pleaded guilty. He was bound over to the district court, now in session, and he will have his trial within the next week.



SPRING TOGS for the Juveniles

MADAME FASHION, it seems, knows quite a lot about children—and she has evolved for them some extremely attractive clothes for Spring wear.

The Store of Specialty Shops is now ready with an array, whose superior quality is instantly manifest, and whose prices are attractive, too.

FROCKS For the girls 8 to 16.

What "young lady" wouldn't enjoy wearing one of these Dresses of Crepe-Knit, Georgette, Crepe de Chine or Canton Crepe. They are made in such delightful styles and in such dainty colors, as well as black and white. Priced from \$17.75 to \$45.00.

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Girls' Shop—Second Floor

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It is important to secure a perfect fit for tiny growing feet; that is why we are so careful to carry all sizes and widths. They must not be too short or too narrow, neither must they be too large. Bring the youngsters in tomorrow and get them a well fitting pair of shoes.

Shoe Shop—Main Floor

For the Little New Baby

Dainty, indeed, are the fine hand-made frocks for his Little Majesty. Coats, sacques, quilted robes, stockings, booties—everything, in fact, that a baby could possibly need are here. Intelligent salespeople are waiting to help you with your selection of complete layettes.

For the Tiny Tots

The most fascinating little frocks, coats, sweaters and underwears are here for the tiny tots of 2 to 6 years. Big pockets, bows, frills and ribbons adorn them in every possible way. Infants' Shop—Second Floor

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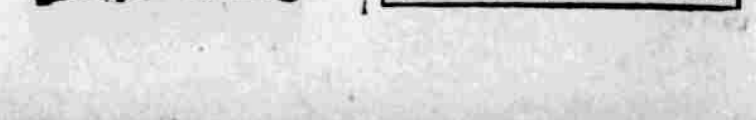
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