

# THE GREAT VICTORY IN NORTH DAKOTA

The greatest political struggle of North Dakota is over. The cause of the people won and the sun has set forever on railroad control of the state and bossism. John Burke, of Devils Lake, was elected governor, and Charles J. Fisk, of Grand Forks, was elected to the supreme bench, both being democratic nominees. The majorities are substantial, ranging from ten to twelve thousand.

John Burke is a Scotch-Irishman, born near Sigourney, Iowa, forty-seven years ago; he spent the first twenty-five years of his life on a farm and acquired most of his education in the rural schools. At the age of twenty-five he entered the law department of the state university of Iowa, where he graduated two years later. He began the practice of his profession at Des Moines, but afterward moved to northern Minnesota and later to North Dakota. In 1896 he was a candidate for congress, but went down to defeat, as did the democratic candidates generally. He has served two terms in the state senate and one term in the house, being elected from a strongly republican community.

In personal appearance, he is tall and angular, resembling the lamented Lincoln. He is a good lawyer and a powerful speaker.

Saturday evening the 17th inst. a jollification meeting was held at Mr. Burke's home city, Devils Lake, where democrats from all over the state assembled to celebrate his election. A platform meeting was held in which good government republicans took part.

In his address, Governor-elect Burke stated that the recent election was not a democratic victory alone, but a victory of good government republicans and democrats over bossism and rail-

road control of the state. The machine republicans had forced onto their party a man for the supreme bench who was to be used by his makers and they were justly punished by the defeat of their candidate. He promised to carry out all pledges made in the democratic platform so far as a governor alone might be able. He referred in particular to the non-enforcement of the present state law giving power to railroad commissioners to fix all rates. This would remedy an evil which affects the entire state and particularly the coal producing regions. North Dakota has no fuel problem. She has coal in abundance. But the railroads discriminate against the native coal by exorbitant rates, to such an extent that mining has never progressed. IT IS CHEAPER IN THE RED RIVER VALLEY TO BURN PENNSYLVANIA COAL THAN NATIVE COAL HAULED FROM THE VICINITY OF BISMARCK. This is but an illustration of railway abuse, which the governor will seek to remedy.

Mr. Burke told me the state appointments would be given to both democrats and good government republicans. This is also the unanimous wish of the democratic state central committee. He said he had not made a single promise of an appointment during the entire campaign, and the central committee resolved that he should be free to make all appointments without suggestions.

As to the results: The day we were at Devils Lake, the republican machine was assembled at St. Paul in our neighboring state of Minnesota to decide upon a course of action during the coming session of the legislature. They always decide upon a slate at the Merchant's hotel in that city prior to each state con-

vention, and it is always nominated, and until this year, elected.

But the democratic platform promises an extensive primary election law, which will make St. Paul sessions unnecessary. The machine means to fight. There is no compromise between them and the insurgent republicans.

With an economical and effective administration of state affairs Mr. Burke will certainly be re-elected with the help of fair play republicans. He told me that the people of this state wanted a business administration, and it was his intention to give them such, and with the greatest economy possible. There can be no compromise on the part of the machine, for both of our United States senators are standpatters and their seats in the senate depends upon the defeat of the democrats and insurgent republicans. In two years Senator Hansbrough, also from Devils Lake, will be superseded either by a democrat or an insurgent republican, and in four years Senator McCumber of this city will meet a like fate.

The evening before the election Senator McCumber spoke in his home city, urging the voters to stand by the ticket from top to bottom and particularly to elect the republican candidate to the state senate from this district, giving as his reason that the successful candidate would vote on the election of a United States senator two years hence. The next day the voters discredited him by electing a democrat to the senate in an overwhelmingly republican district, every ward in Wahpeton and his home county going strongly democratic for governor and supreme judge.

The tide has turned. The voice of the people has been heard and a fettered people are at last free.

GEORGE E. WALLACE.  
Wahpeton, North Dakota.

## LAWRENCE CALLAHAN'S THREE BARNES

Those who still believe that "the foreigner pays the tax," that "the tariff is a patriotic institution" and that "fidelity to the republic" and "standpatism" are synonymous terms, will be interested in reading the story of Lawrence Callahan's Three Barns. The story is written for The Commoner by E. E. Brossard, an attorney of Columbus, Wis. Here it is:

W. D. Connor, chairman of the Wisconsin republican state committee, recently gave an interview to the Milwaukee Journal in which he said: "It is my belief that the republicans of Wisconsin should take advanced ground in favor of tariff revision. The western farmer is a strong advocate of tariff revision. The tariff tends to keep down the price that he gets for his crops, while it increases the cost of almost everything he has to buy."

That is a remarkable assertion by the leader of his party in Wisconsin. It admits more than real tariff reformers claim. They do not claim that the tariff "tends to keep down prices" of the farmers' crops. Their position is that the price of those crops is fixed in the world's market and goes up or down in obedience to the law of supply and demand, unless cornered and controlled by the boards of trade gamblers. The duty on farm produce is to blind and placate the farmer. He must still compete with the world in his line while the tariff "increases the cost of nearly everything he has to buy." Is it not strange that Chairman Connor sees this and that the farmer does not see it or rather has not seen it in the past; and stranger still that Mr. Connor has "thought and felt that way for years?"

Lumber is an important necessity to the

farmer and to every householder. Mr. Connor has been an extensive producer of lumber, and he likely had that commodity in mind when he said "the tariff increases the cost of everything" that the farmer, the mechanic and consumers generally must buy. The history of the price of lumber furnishes an excellent lesson for study of the practical workings of the tariff.

Here is a practical, home example of how the tariff and the lumber trust have "worked" the farmer and other consumers:

Lawrence Callahan built a barn in 1902, another in 1904, and is now building a third.

All these barns are in the city of Columbus, Wis., and within a block of each other. They are identical in size and materials and the same lumber bill was submitted to the dealers for bids.

The lumber in barn No. 1—built in 1902—cost \$89; in No. 2—built in 1904—\$96; and in No. 3—built in 1906—\$138.

Therefore there has been an average advance in price in the grades of lumber used in these barns of over fifty-five per cent in four years and nearly twenty-four per cent during the last two years.

IN THE MEANTIME MR. CALLAHAN'S WAGES AS A CARPENTER HAVE REMAINED STATIONARY.

This illustration is so simple that no discussion can make it plainer.

And what relief does Chairman Connor offer? Does he offer a prompt reduction of the profit on lumber? By no means; here is his remedy: "I believe that the next republican platform should

contain a strong plank in favor of tariff revision."

In place of present relief the farmer is to get a platform promise two years from now. Would not a "strong statute" now, be better than a "strong plank" two years from now, for every one but the lumber trust?

Although for years Chairman Connor believed the tariff robbed the farmer he was careful to say nothing about it so long as the farmer appeared asleep to the fact that he was being plundered. During all that time the new Wisconsin boss was like Pat's parrot. "He didn't talk much, but he kept up a divil of a thinking."

Why did he wait till after election to make the admission?

Why is it that a revision has not been made during the present congress?

The iniquity of the present tariff is admitted by republican managers. The republican party is, and for ten years has been, in complete control of every department of the federal government. If that party can not or will not correct these admitted wrongs now, it will not or can not correct them two years hence.

How, then, is the farmer to get his rights? Let him think of this for two years.

At the end of that time he may be ready to answer with his ballot.

E. E. BROSSARD.

Perhaps there are other readers of The Commoner who can give "a practical home example of how the tariff and the trusts have worked the farmer and other consumers." Such practical illustrations as these must certainly open eyes that have heretofore been blind.

### AN UNUSUAL REPORT

The Knights of Columbus, one of the leading Catholic organizations of the country, have a local organization at San Francisco, and this organization in behalf of its San Francisco membership appealed to the country for relief funds at the time of the San Francisco earthquake. It was estimated by the local organization that \$100,000 would be needed to provide for the suffering members. Something over \$60,000 was subscribed by the members of the order all over the country—a very creditable sum indeed. But the strange part of the story is yet to be told. The local organization took charge of the funds, investigated the applications for relief, and after distributing to

the deserving, found itself in the possession of a surplus of nearly \$45,000. To be accurate, the total sum received was \$60,671.13, and the amount distributed \$15,861.85. The Knights of Columbus of San Francisco have announced that the balance—almost three-fourths of the entire sum received—will be returned to the givers.

This is an unusual report and worthy of notice. That the money was subscribed is proof of the fraternity and generosity of the Knights of Columbus; that it was wisely and carefully distributed is conclusive proof of the conscientiousness of those who had the fund in charge. Often the local distributors of such a fund are so generous as to distribute all the money received even though many of the claimants be lacking in merit, for there are always some in every community

who are selfish enough to appeal for relief when relief is not really deserved. If all distributors of relief funds discharged their duty with the fidelity shown by the Knights of Columbus of San Francisco, it would be easier to raise money for such emergencies as that through which our western seaport has passed.

Speaker Cannon says the tariff will not be revised, and Senator Beveridge says it will. But as Speaker Cannon attends to all the legislation in the lower house, and as the lower house must originate such bills, the chances are that Speaker Cannon's attitude is the correct one, and that the tariff will remain unrevised until the people elect a congress that will be for the people instead of for the trusts and corporations.