

THE NORTHWESTERN

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J. W. BURLEIGH, Editor and Pub. J. R. GARDINER, Foreman

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The United States has formerly notified both England and Germany that the general use of the American flag by British vessels would be viewed with grave concern here and that the destruction of any American vessel by Germany in the newly prescribed war zone would lead to serious complications. In other words, Johnny Bull must discontinue floating the stars and stripes over any of its vessels, while Germany is made to understand that it cannot take the Lusitania incident to excuse itself if an American vessel is lost in the zone of the submarine mines, etc. Go to it, Uncle.

The Ord Journal last week copied the O'Bryan article and our answer almost in their entirety, but for some reason failed to use common editorial courtesy. Had the Journal neglected proper credit, as is often the case, nothing would have been thought of it, but the Journal gave credit to "one of last week's Loup City papers," while the articles and answer in question were published only in the Northwestern. Davis' paper is noted for quoting only from its democratic contemporary here, and evidently lost its head when finding something it could not quote from that paper, hence come as near as it could to it.

The claim is made by certain authorities that there is untold quantities of wheat stored in ele-

vators over the country and there is absolutely no reason for present high prices. So evident is that fact, and so clearly has it been made to holders of surplus, that disgorgement is beginning and last week wheat slipped down seven and a half cents in Chicago. It is a shame that foodstuffs should be held so high, if there is nothing but speculation holding them up.

As per schedule, this section was visited with another and third spasm of blizzard weather last Saturday, beginning Friday with rain and sleet and ending with some snow and high winds, which so blockaded the railroads that the morning passenger from Sargent Monday waited for a snow plow to clear the way for it and failed to come through until about five o'clock that afternoon. The U. P. snow plow came up about 9 o'clock Sunday night, and the motor made it usual trips Monday. However, the weather cleared away some time Sunday night and Old Sol came forth in resplendent glory Monday morning. Now let the billious old weather granny get decent once more.

A British vessel, following the example set by the Lusitania, the other day put up the Dutch flag, when hailed by a German submarine vessel, but with the former incident fresh in the Teuton mind, they tried to torpedo the British craft, which only escaped

by adroit maneuvering and fast sailing. So, you see, what comes of the first-named incident, which cannot but be wrong in principle and very dangerous to neutral countries in their shipping interests.

The finance ministers of England, France and Russia face an acknowledged war cost of ten billion dollars for the current year. And England's chancellor says Great Britain could finance the war for five years at that rate out of the proceeds of its investments abroad, France claims to be able to do the same for two or three years, with something to spare. Great Britain also claimed to be spending more money to keep up the war than both the others combined. And yet, with all their bluff of immense wealth to use, America is supplicated to and does furnish foodstuffs to the poor and destitute, made so by the war carried on by those and other countries.

The Omaha preachers have tackled about the toughest job in their existence. They have made up a prayer list of 10,000 whom they will select for conversion, when Sunday comes, and headed the list with Jim Dahlman. We once heard an evangelist figurative hold sinners over hellfire by the hairs of their head, as he proclaimed. Had Omaha's mayor been there he could have called his bluff.

Germany's reply to the United States regarding the planting of the sea with mines, is friendly, but gives it out that it will go ahead and ships will navigate the waters around England at their own peril. Wonder what "Prince of Peace," will say to that? The great Chautauqua secretary of state is getting this country into a bigger muddle all the time. As a theorist he was great, but as a practical doer of things he is proving a monumental failure.

About the meanest and most despicable man is the one who openly gives you his word to do one thing and then does the exact opposite—makes himself a dishonorable man and a veritable liar, and all for a few dollars to be gained thereby. And when such a fellow hides behind church and society robes to do his dishonorable acts he can only be classed with the Judases and Benedict Arnolds. Shame on such a two legged character.

Iowa has come out for equal suffrage and prohibition. Last Friday the senate went on record by a vote of 38 to 11 in favor of granting votes to women, and by a vote of 27 to 32 favored the repeal of the mulct law. The senate also by a vote of 39 to 10 agreed to submit to the people a constitutional amendment providing for statewide prohibition.

St. Paul voters last week snowed under the municipal lighting bonds by a vote of 212 to 93.

Broken Bow defeated sewer bonds last Tuesday by a vote of 284 against to 142 for.

To prove that black is white would be difficult, but not more difficult than for George Barr McCutcheon to write an uninteresting story. From the opening chapter to the very end, "Black is White," the next serial that will run in this paper possesses the best qualities of a story. The scenes are laid for the most part in New York City, and the plot centers around the strange career of James Brood, an American millionaire. Readers of this paper will be sure to find this an unusually interesting story. The opening chapter will appear soon. Don't miss it.

PAYROLL OF CIVILIZATION MET BY FARMER

WANTS NO "DEADHEADS" ON LIST OF EMPLOYEES.

A CALL UPON THE LAW MAKERS TO PREVENT USELESS TAX UPON AGRICULTURE.



By Peter Radford
Lecturer National Farmers' Union

The farmer is the paymaster of industry and as such he must meet the nation's payroll. When industry pays its bill it must make a sight draft upon agriculture for the amount, which the farmer is compelled to honor without protest. This check drawn upon agriculture may travel to and fro over the highways of commerce; may build cities; girdle the globe with bands of steel; may search hidden treasures in the earth or traverse the skies, but in the end it will rest upon the soil. No dollar will remain suspended in midair; it is as certain to seek the earth's surface as an apple that falls from a tree.

When a farmer buys a plow he pays the man who mined the metal, the woodman who felled the tree, the manufacturer who assembled the raw material and shaped it into an article of usefulness, the railroad that transported it and the dealer who sold him the goods. He pays the wages of labor and capital employed in the transaction as well as pays for the tools, machinery, buildings, etc., used in the construction of the commodity and the same applies to all articles of use and diet of himself and those engaged in the subsidiary lines of industry.

There is no payroll in civilization that does not rest upon the back of the farmer. He must pay the bills—all of them.

The total value of the nation's annual agricultural products is around \$12,000,000,000, and it is safe to estimate that 95 cents on every dollar goes to meeting the expenses of subsidiary industries. The farmer does not work more than thirty minutes per day for himself; the remaining thirteen hours of the day's toil he devotes to meeting the payroll of the hired hands of agriculture, such as the manufacturer, railroad, commercial and other servants.

The Farmer's Payroll and How He Meets It.

The annual payroll of agriculture approximates \$12,000,000,000. A portion of the amount is shifted to foreign countries in exports, but the total payroll of industries working for the farmer divides substantially as follows: Railroads, \$1,252,000,000; manufacturers, \$4,365,000,000; mining, \$855,000,000; banks, \$200,000,000; mercantile \$3,500,000,000, and a heavy miscellaneous payroll constitutes the remainder.

It takes the corn crop, the most valuable in agriculture, which sold last year for \$1,692,000,000, to pay off the employees of the railroads; the money derived from our annual sales of livestock of approximately \$2,000,000,000, the yearly cotton crop, valued at \$920,000,000; the wheat crop, which is worth \$619,000,000, and the oat crop, that is worth \$140,000,000, are required to meet the annual payroll of the manufacturers. The money derived from the remaining staple crops is used in meeting the payroll of the bankers, merchants, etc. After these obligations are paid, the farmer has only a few bunches of vegetables, some fruit and poultry which he can sell and call the proceeds his own.

When the farmer pays off his help he has very little left and to meet these tremendous payrolls he has been forced to mortgage homes, work women in the field and increase the hours of his labor. We are, therefore, compelled to call upon all industries dependent upon the farmers for subsistence to retrench in their expenditures and to cut off all unnecessary expenses. This course is absolutely necessary in order to avoid a reduction in wages, and we want, if possible, to retain the present wage scale paid railroad and all other industrial employees.

We will devote this article to a discussion of unnecessary expenses and whether required by law or permitted by the managements of the concerns, is wholly immaterial. We want all waste labor and extravagance, of whatever character, cut out. We will mention the full crew bill as illustrating the character of unnecessary expenses to which we refer.

Union Opposes "Full Crew" Bill.
The Texas Farmers' Union registered its opposition to this character of legislation at the last annual meeting held in Fort Worth, Tex., August 4, 1914, by resolution, which we quote, as follows:

"The matter of prime importance to the farmers of this state is an adequate and efficient marketing system; and we recognize that such a system is impossible without adequate railroad facilities, embracing the greatest amount of service at the least cost.

able cost. The farmers and producers in the end pay approximately 95 per cent of the expenses of operating the railroads, and it is therefore to the interest of the producers that the expenses of the common carriers be as small as is possible, consistent with good service and safety. We, therefore, call upon our lawmakers, courts and juries to bear the foregoing facts in mind when dealing with the common carriers of this state, and we do especially reaffirm the declarations of the last annual convention of our State Union, opposing the passage of the so-called "full-crew" bill before the thirty-third legislature of Texas."

The farmers of Missouri in the last election, by an overwhelming majority, swept this law off the statute book of that state, and it should come off of all statute books where it appears and no legislature of this nation should pass such a law or similar legislation which requires unnecessary expenditures.

The same rule applies to all regulatory measures which increase the expenses of industry without giving corresponding benefits to the public. There is oftentimes a body of men assembled at legislatures—and they have a right to be there—who, in their zeal for rendering their fellow-associates a service, sometimes favor an increase in the expenses of industry without due regard for the men who bow their backs to the summer's sun to meet the payroll, but these committees, while making a record for themselves, rub the skin off the shoulders of the farmer by urging the legislature to lay another burden upon his heavy load and under the lash of "be it enacted" goad him on to pull and surge at the traces of civilization, no matter how he may sweat, foam and gall at the task. When legislatures "cut a melon" for labor they hand the farmer a lemon.

The farmers of the United States are not financially able to carry "dead heads" on their payrolls. Our own hired hands are not paid unless we have something for them to do and we are not willing to carry the hired help of dependent industries unless there is work for them. We must therefore insist upon the most rigid economy.

Legislative House-Cleaning Needed.

While the war is on and there is a lull in business, we want all legislative bodies to take an inventory of the statute books and wipe off all extravagant and useless laws. A good house-cleaning is needed and economies can be instituted here and there that will patch the clothes of indigent children, rest tired mothers and lift mortgages from despondent homes. Unnecessary workmen taken off and useless expenses chopped down all along the line will add to the prosperity of the farmer and encourage him in his mighty effort to feed and clothe the world.

If any of these industries have surplus employees we can use them on the farm. We have no regular schedule of wages, but we pay good farm hands on an average of \$1.50 per day of thirteen hours when they board themselves; work usually runs about nine months of the year and do three months dead time, they can do the chores for their board. If they prefer to farm on their own account, there are more than 14,000,000,000 acres of idle land on the earth's surface awaiting the magic touch of the plow. The compensation is easily obtainable from Federal Agricultural Department statistics. The total average annual sales of a farm in the continental United States amounts to \$216.00; the cost of operation is \$340.00; leaving the farmer \$176 per annum to live on and educate his family.

There is no occasion for the legislatures making a position for surplus employees of industry. Let them come "back to the soil" and share with us the prosperity of the farm.

When honesty is merely a good policy it is a poor virtue.

Lazy farmers are just as useless as dead ones and take up more room.

When the soul communes with the spirit of nature the back to the farm movement prevails.

There are two kinds of farmers. One tries to take all the advice he hears and the other won't take any at all.

FARMER RADFORD ON WOMAN SUFFRAGE

The home is the greatest contribution of women to the world, and the hearthstone is her throne. Our social structure is built around her, and social righteousness is in her charge. Her beautiful life lights the skies of hope and her refinement is the charm of twentieth century civilization. Her graces and her power are the cumulative products of generations of quietly conquest, and her crown of exalted womanhood is jeweled with the wisdom of saintly mothers. She has been a great factor in the glory of our country, and her noble achievements should not be marred or her hallowed influence blighted by the coarser duties of citizenship. American chivalry should never permit her to bear the burdens of defending and maintaining government, but should preserve her unscathed from the allied influences of politics, and protect her from the weighty responsibilities of the sordid affairs of life that will crush her ideals and lower her standards. The motherhood of the farm is our inspiration, she is the guardian of our domestic welfare and a guide to a higher life, but directing the affairs of government is not within woman's sphere, and political gossip would cause her to neglect the home, forget to mend our clothes and burn the biscuits.

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