

Finding Aid to the Nonpartisan League Collection

Nonpartisan League Collection, 1917-1964

.4 linear ft.

Collection number: Mss 51

[History](#)

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OVERVIEW

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

Provenance: Collection assembled by Institute staff.

Property rights: The Institute for Regional Studies owns the property rights to this collection.

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Citation: [Identification of item]. Nonpartisan League Collection, MS 51, Institute for Regional Studies, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

HISTORY

The Nonpartisan League was founded in North Dakota by A.C. Townley in 1915 at the height of the Progressive movement in the Northwest. Among its aim was to initiate state-owned mills, grain elevators, bank, and hail insurance company in order to protect the farmers from grain speculators and other business interests. In 1916, the league won the governor's seat by electing Lynn J. Frazier and controlled the state legislature in 1919 when it was able to enact it entire program. Troubles with its programs, leadership defections and Independent Voters Association attacks weakened the League and by 1921, it began to fall apart. After 1932 it became a political machine, and in 1956 it affiliated with the Democratic Party.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This Nonpartisan League collection has been assembled by the Institute staff over a long period. It is by no means comprehensive, but is rather a collection of what has become available to the Institute from a wide number of sources.

The [Correspondence Series](#) contains twelve letters including from A.C. Townley, L.D. Griffith, Alfred Knutson, Leon Durocher, and A.E. Brine. Many letters are reminiscences about the League written in the 1950's to Institute staff member Leonard Sackett. The Bylaws file contains the 1921 bylaws of the North Dakota Branch, and the 1954-1956 constitution and bylaws.

The [Publications Series](#) contains various both pro and anti-league items. Consult the contents listings for specific items.

The [Subject files](#) contain a variety of material related to the League from 1917 to the 1950s. All container listing entries are self-explanatory.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder	Contents
1/1	Finding aid
	Correspondence Series
1/2	1922, 1925, 1940, 1955, 1959
1/3	North Dakota Branch, bylaws, 1921, 1954
	Publications Series
1/4	American Bolshevism, an address by Elmer T. Peterson, 1919
1/5	Bill and the Menckens, by Farmer John
1/6	Charley and Sandy
1/7	Effect of Townleyism on State and Individual Credit
1/8	An Enemy of Church and Home
1/9	Facts about North Dakota's New Laws
1/10	Facts and Figures on North Dakota Issues
1/11	Facts Political, 1956
1/12	The Farmer and Townleyism
1/13	Frank and Tom Have it Out About the Recall
1/14	Freedom for all Forever, 1918 Souvenir rally booklet, National Nonpartisan League
1/15	Information for League Speakers and Boosters, 1920

- 1/16 A Letter from one who joined -the Nonpartisan League, by Elmer Anderson
- 1/17 "The Nonpartisan League and some of its North Dakota experiments," by H. C. Young,
- 1/18 Nonpartisans bitterly opposed Federal Farm Loan Act
- 1/19 North Dakota's reward for electing Nonpartisan League officers, 1920
- 1/20 The 116 Nonpartisan League Members of the 16th Legislative, 1920
- 1/21 Our Socialist Autocracy
- 1/22 Our Taxes and the cost of our State Government
- 1/23 Reasons Why Good Citizens Cannot Vote for Lynn J. Frazier for United States Senator
- 1/24 Sovietians, Wreckers of Americanism
- 1/25 Take Your Choice on November Seventh
- 1/26 'This is 'My War,'" by Tom Parker Junkin, ca. 1918
- 1/27 *Townleyism Unmasked*
- 1/28 Where the Money Went

Subject Files Series

- 1/29 Bibliography by E. C. Blackorby, 1938
- 1/30 Cartoon "Birds of a feather flock together," 1953
- 1/31 Farmer Worker Conference, Fargo, N.D., 1954 - Legislative Guide
- 1/32 House Bill No. 183, introduced by J. A. Harris, 1919 ("Military Compulsory Act")
- 1/33 Interview with A.C. Townley by Richard Dobson, 1956
- Newspaper Clippings
 - 1/34 1917
 - 1/35 1918-1920, 1932, 1934
 - 1/36 1953-1956
 - 1/37 Cartoons
 - 1/38 Miscellaneous newspaper quotes
 - 1/39 A. C. Townley, 1922-1964
 - 1/40 Poem - "Townley, and Frazier, and Bill"
 - 1/41 NPL Precinct and county convention instructions 1950, 1956
 - 1/42 NPL State Convention minutes, 1948-1954
 - 1/43 'Voter's Guide, Langer Ticket, Primaries June 27, 1934'
 - 1/44 Candidate literature, 1950s