

EDITORIAL

We are promised something like a ten per cent cut on freight rates about July first. According to the way the railroads are cutting down the wages of the men we are not getting a sufficient cut in freight rates. We should be getting at least a 50 per cent cut to keep up with the cut the men are getting.

"We're forever blowing bubbles, blowing bubbles in the air", might be well applied to F. O. Hellstrum and those who are fighting the fusion forces in this election. The latest bubble that Hellstrum and his chronic kickers have sent up into the ambrosial air was yesterday when they secured an injunction from Judge Lowe at Minot restraining the joint committee of the I. V. A. forces from acting together as an organization to collect funds and spend them for campaign purposes. Hellstrum always was a disturber and is forever seeking an office of some kind. We hardly think that the temporary injunction of Judge Lowe is going to stick and we expect to see action taken soon to dissolve it, but Hellstrum and his backers have played a good game of politics by waiting until seven days before election to pull it off. Courts you know move somewhat slowly sometimes, and it will require quick action to head this off. Anyway, it is only another bubble which will soon be pricked and blown to pieces.

If the stories carried in the press about the state game and fish board are correct that is another good reason why Gov. Nestos should be re-elected and Mr. Baker turned down. The governor, you remember, removed Mr. Bloom from that board but the incumbent refused to be moved, and is fighting his removal in court. It has been the contention of the governor that Mr. Bloom is not the proper person for the job, hence his removal. The Times-Record is not in a position to say whether the parties concerned in this alleged graft are guilty or not, but in the sight of the fact that papers have been served upon him there must be something more than mere talk to it. We can hardly think that the state officials would prefer such charges unless they have some real foundation in fact, but every man is innocent until proven guilty and so we shall have to wait and see what is the outcome of the charges. There have been some raw deals pulled off by the leaguers in office and state money has been squandered and wasted as well as made away with without any benefit accruing to the tax payers or the state. We presume now that the league organs will say that these are more political prosecutions. They have already said that the grand jury system is all wrong—but they didn't say this until several of their leaders were indicted and are now facing trial.

The Courier-News doesn't like it because many I. V. A. papers are espousing the cause of Senator McCumber. That paper likes nothing that does not conform to its political thinking. The people of this state would be foolish indeed if they did not support McCumber. It is either a question of supporting McCumber, with his experience and prestige, and keeping the state in the ranks of sanity and good business judgment, or supporting Frazier and sending a man to Washington disgraced at home last year and whose record for efficiency is below par. Frazier may be an honest man—we do not say that he is not—but giving him that, you will have to admit that he is too easily led around by those whose ideals of good government are very disastrous to the people of North Dakota. Frazier had a great opportunity when first elected governor to make for himself a mark in the world, but instead of doing so he allowed himself to be used as a dupe by a lot of socialists who exploited their theories in this state costing the tax payers millions of unnecessary dollars. We say that such a man should never be sent to the United States senate. He is in danger of being kidnapped while walking down Pennsylvania avenue. The real common sense thing to do in this election is to vote for Senator McCumber who is at least 100 per cent American and who is able to represent us with dignity and efficiency in Washington.

There is no measure now pending before Congress in more imperative need of early enactment than the merchant marine bill. Every day that American ship owners and operators are denied the relief that its provisions afford means that when the bill eventually becomes law there will be just that much added difficulty in recovering from the deadly foreign competition that now besets our ocean commerce. President Harding has sensed the situation and is doing everything he properly can to expedite consideration of the measure. The bill is pending in the house, and must

then go to the senate, where also the tariff bill is under discussion. But not even the tariff should be permitted to hinder the enactment of merchant marine relief. There is little use in building up our industries by tariff protection, if our exports are to be carried in foreign ships subject to the will of foreign owners. The exigencies of war or of business competition may cause the withdrawal of those ships from the American trade at any time, leaving the American exporter to find his cargo carrier as best he may. Independence in production is a fine thing. It is a cardinal republican doctrine to encourage by adequate tariff duties every industry that may contribute to the needs of the nation, but independence will never come to our producers until our foreign commerce is handled by men whose first concern is for the welfare of the United States. The British and other foreign ships that now carry such a large part of American cargoes keep the seas largely through subsidies paid their operators by their home governments. The sympathies of those operators are not only with their own countries, but in most cases they have signed contracts to turn their ships over to their governments the moment they may be needed in an emergency. Until the United States is possessed of a commercial fleet that is free from all such restrictions, our foreign commerce can never have that substantial foundation so necessary to permanent success.

A vote for Nestos and his colleagues on that ticket is a vote to retain confidence and good government in North Dakota and for a sound and business-like administration of the people's business. A vote for Baker and his colleagues is a guarantee that the experiences of the past five years with all its mismanagement, graft and incompetency will be the result. Surely no voter with any degree of common sense, will entertain for a minute the defeat of Gov. Nestos and his colleagues. In six months he has accomplished wonders and is keeping every pledge made to the people. We can see no reason why the people of this state, recalling those men who were the head of the Frazier administration, should vote to put some more of the same kind back again. Baker, candidate for governor on the league ticket, has been senator in the state senate, and voted solidly all the time to put those socialistic theories that have put heavy taxation burdens upon the people. If elected governor he pledges himself to carry out the league program. Inasmuch as our indebtedness has reached in the past five years over nine million of dollars and your taxes have increased three or four times as much as they were when Hanna relinquished the governor's chair, do you want more of this kind of stuff or do you want reduction of taxes and expense all along the line. If you have had enough of maladministration and enough high taxes vote the Nestos ticket. Why should it require any study at this time which ticket to vote. If the issues last fall were right—and a majority of the people voted that they were—then they are certainly right now. There is only one issue at this time. It is league and anti-league, competency and incompetency. The leaguers proved their inefficiency, and Nestos government has proved its efficiency in the short time it has controlled the administration.

Judge J. A. Coffey, of Jamestown, handed one of those family deserters a job in court the other day that will be appreciated by all good citizens. These men need to be taught some of the rudiments of good living and that a clean conscience and more honest endeavor to live right needs to be instilled into their hearts. Men in all walks of life seem to take life too lightly. They get married and are responsible for the bringing into the world of families—some large and some small—and after a few years when the wife, breaking down under the burdens and care of motherhood and hard work in taking care of the home and keeping the children looked after, becomes tired of the job he has undertaken but never filled, gets a divorce, agrees to support the family, then falls down on the job like this man did that Judge Coffey sent to the penitentiary for one year and a half. He got no more than he deserved and we would to God that we had more judges on the bench just like Judge Coffey, who, seeing the need of bringing these family slackers to a realization of their duties, imposes a sentence that will at least give them time for reflection. The only thing that we now hope for is that a soft hearted pardon board will not listen to the wails and supplication of a lot of people who will want to get this man out of the pen in a few weeks after he gets in. If there were less pardoning by this board, and prisoners were allowed to serve their time, society would be greatly improved as a consequence, but now these law breakers know that it is only a minor punishment and they do

not give a rap for the punishment they are sentenced to because they know they will get off shortly. Speed the day when the law breaking class will realize from the sentences they receive that they will have to serve time. They get into the penitentiary on their own initiative and they should be allowed to remain there if that is what they want. Judge Coffey is to be commended for that sentence. More power to him.

"The general trend of prices of farm products during the last 30 day period shows a tendency toward stabilization rather than a continuation of the slow adjustment with prices of other commodities which has been in operation for some time and agriculture is still in a poor position to buy other commodities," said Rex E. Willard, far economist at the North Dakota Agricultural College today in speaking of present farm prices. Wheat is 54 percent above the pre-war level or the 1913 price but the prices of commodities that the farmer must buy are, as a whole, much higher so that a bushel of wheat will now buy only 77 percent as much building material as it would in 1913; it will buy only 73 percent as much household furnishings and 85 percent as much cloth and clothing", explained Mr. Willard. "The prices of farm products have, for some time and up to the beginning of the last 30 day period, shown a steady and gradual tendency to adjust with the prices of other commodities," he said. "Beef, different from most of the farm products, has shown a slight increase during the last 30 day period. Beef is now 6 percent below the 1913 price and will buy only 47 percent as much building material as in 1913; and 45 percent as much of household furnishings. Potatoes are 62 percent above the pre-war price and have shown a decrease during the last 30 day period. Hay is 18 percent above, and eggs are 9 percent above the 1913 prices. The average of a group of all farm products is 27 percent above the pre-war price but the average of all commodities, 323 in number and including all agricultural products, is 52 percent above the pre-war or 1913 price. This spread between farm and all other commodity prices has been much wider in recent months and there has been a slow and steady move for it to close. The reduction in freight rates has had a general tendency to help reduce the spread", explained Mr. Willard, "and to increase the purchasing power of farm products. Unquestionably the farmers pay the freight both ways". While wheat, hay, eggs, corn, and other products of the farm are above the 1913 price, it is found that the price of cloths and clothing are 81 percent, building materials 10 percent, chemical supplies 60 percent and house furnishings 111 percent above the 1913 price.

The commission form of government does not seem to be the real thing in those places where it has been tried out. At Fargo they are getting sick of it and petitions are being circulated to recall the present city commissions and to vote on the proposition of returning to the old system of a board of aldermen and mayor. The reason for this agitation mostly is because the people of Fargo are becoming tired and weary of the way the garbage question is being handled. The dump grounds at Fargo are nothing but a live mass of rats and putrid decay and nothing is being done about it. Then again they have an ordinance providing for a garbage collector and he is slow and according to the expression of many taxpayers charges a very high price for carting away garbage, charging people from \$1 to \$1.25 per month for the service and poor service at that. This is not right and we do not blame the people for putting up a kick. The city of Fargo should provide proper facilities for handling garbage and the taxpayers should be given this service without extra charge. They are paying enough in taxes as it is. It would seem under the present existing conditions that the recall will go through. When the people wait patiently for a long period with no relief they get mad and rise up in rebellion—so it is in Fargo. There is no excuse for existing conditions on the dumps at Fargo. Valley City, of course, is not near as large a place as Fargo, but we have one of the best kept and most sanitary dump grounds in the country. They could be kept just as clean at Fargo with proper supervision. It would take more people to do it—but, it could be done. There is no thing that breeds more disease than a dump infested by rats. They carry and spread disease very fast. We hope the people of the gateway city will rise up in their wrath and put the recall over if it will give them relief they crave. Fargo is getting some very undesirable advertising as a result of its dump grounds.

When Bill Langer was here two years ago and the people thought he was honest in his convictions he had

MINNIE J. NIELSON

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION

VOTE FOR HER AT THE PRIMARY ELECTION ON JUNE 28TH

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a lot of fellows "praying" for him and the result was he had the largest gathering in Valley City that was had really believed that he was sincere in his efforts instead of just merely being in any part of this state. The people are a candidate for governor, that he had the facts—and he had—and gave them to the people. But he was not sincere. He only had a selfish purpose to land in the governor's chair and failing in that he has soured at the world in general and himself in particular. Time was when the mention that Langer would speak in Valley City the weather could not stop the crowds that would come eager to hear the truth, but now things have changed and Bill has to "pray" for himself. You cannot doublecross the people all the time without them getting wise to it and they are now wise to the fact that all Langer's alleged sincerity to tell the people was only to gratify an itch for the governor's chair. No honest to goodness voter will take him seriously because they know he is liable to switch over again to some other side if the bait is strong enough to get him and a little hint that he might get some political power will turn the trick with him. Poor Bill, from the lofty heights of popular approval when the people really believed he was trying to help them get rid of graft and inefficiency in public affairs he has now fallen to the lowest depths of contempt and ridicule. And what a lovely spectacle to behold as one looks at his audience which are indeed small. There we see a bunch of leaguers who two years ago would get blue in the face calling him all the vile names they could think of, now fawning and cringing the knee at his feet, while he holds out his hand for them to kiss. If there ever lived a political Judas it is Langer and after this election he will be so dead politically that he will never be heard from again to any degree.

SETTING NEW YORK RIGHT

The Kansas City Star says: The Middle West ought to be grateful to New York for warning it against the St. Lawrence project. The West is impetuous. When it sees something it needs and wants it has a way of going right after it. New York restrains itself more. Particularly it restrains itself more when it is a question of going after something that the West wants.

This St. Lawrence waterway, now New York does not for a moment take the position that the West ought not to have it. Even if it would take commerce away from New York and send it to the Great Lakes and the river ports of the West, New York would still want the West to have it. Don't let the West misunderstand New York on that. But what New York is afraid of, and what Governor Miller of that state has repeatedly warned of in his debates with Governor Allen on this subject, is that the West has underestimated the cost and overestimated the utility of this project. New York is afraid that the West will spend its money and get nothing for it. We suppose New York feels the same way when the West visits that town and takes in the theatre.

New York hears it's awfully expensive dredging in the St. Lawrence. Much more than dredging in New York harbor. Also New York hears that the St. Lawrence freezes up for a good part of the year. Surely the West wouldn't want to spend hundreds of millions of dollars and get nothing but a skating rink. It is of these disappointments that Governor Miller warns the West. Go slow, is his advice. Or perhaps he would say go slowly, if he took time to think. And get New York right, he urges. It is merely acting for the West's own good when it opposes this scheme. It hasn't considered the point whether it would bump New York at a port, because that is not the question. The question is what is best for the West. Once New York determined that point there never was any doubt which side it would be on, and New York wants the West to feel perfectly sure of it.—Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Tidewater Association, June, 1922.

SCANDINAVIAN COMEDY COMPANY COMING

"Ole i Skratthult, the foremost Swedish comedian and his popular company of 9 people "all-stars" now back from their successful western tour where they for every night for 8 months have been playing to packed houses and turned away business in the greater cities will come to the Grand theatre, Valley City on Saturday, July 1st, at 7:30 p. m. This company now on their 16th season in America has the word about it to be very good and absolutely clean in their latest and new program, also has the newspapers given them the big comments to that effect in all the places where they have appeared after their performances. In Seattle they played to over 1350 people; in Spokane to 1000 and in Portland the company had to turn away more than 300 people, unable to gain admission. Everywhere the great throng of people has been heaped in continuing roars of laughter, and has by their wild applause given their satisfaction proved. Exceptionally good music by accordion artists and pianists. This company has a number of records in the Columbia concern.

Note: This is the only opportunity to see and hear this famous company now on their way east. You will regret if you stay home when "Ole" and company is in town. Among other players is the great Norwegian Baritone, Mr. Amore Myhre of Warren, Minn. Buy your tickets early in advance to get a seat. On sale at the theatre box office. The play is given in the Swedish language.

BREAKING HIS OWN LAW

Pleas for the strict enforcement of the prohibition laws do not come with particularly good grace from former brewers, and their motives may well be open to suspicion, yet Adolphus Busch, in a pamphlet which he has just sent to every congressman and most daily newspapers scores a point which cannot be ignored.

Mr. Busch makes the charge that intoxicants are openly sold on all vessels controlled by the American shipping board and he provides a copy of the wine list of the steamer George Washington as evidence.

The list includes all the common wines, champagnes, whiskies and beers, even to "old American rye moonshine".

Inasmuch as the constitution follows the flag, it is a violation of the constitution and the enforcement act to permit the sale of intoxicants on any American ship. It is also a violation to transport it within the three-mile limit, and another violation for any government ship to possess intoxicants within the three-mile limit.

The only defense made is that it is necessary for American ships to sell intoxicants if they are to compete with foreign vessels.

The same plea could be set up by any bootlegger—the plea of financial profit. Any saloonkeeper who was put out of business by the Volstead act would have as good a case as the shipping board. He could well argue that he had to sell liquor to remain in business.

If the American government wishes to foster respect for its own laws, it should certainly begin by obeying them itself. If it is desirable to sell intoxicants on American vessels, it should be done legally through an amendment to the Volstead act. If the government itself violates the present law and constitution, it is an admission that they are undesirable or nonenforceable. If they are non-enforceable or undesirable they should be changed, but as long as they are on the books, it does not seem reasonable to demand that the government itself observe them.—Forum.

MORE FIRST HAND EVIDENCE

North Dakota has many a citizen who can testify from first hand experience that farming does pay good returns, and that despite all the handicaps of weather, rust, grasshoppers, and low prices some North Dakota farmers can and do get ahead of the game.

This week The Forum told the story of one settler in North Dakota who had accumulated property worth \$40,000 solely from the crops he had

grown in the last 16 years. Hundreds of similar instances could doubtless be cited, but since the story of that one settler was related, a much more remarkable one has come to The Forum's attention.

In 1903 a certain Syrian immigrant came to America and settled in Indiana, where he tried to earn a living as a peddler. His travels brought him to North Dakota where he heard about homesteads. He decided to take a homestead here, although he knew absolutely nothing of farming, and his entire capital consisted of two horses,

THE BANK PROSECUTIONS

It is unfortunate that the Scandinavian American bank prosecutions should be considered from the standpoint of politics, but it is impossible to close one's eyes to the fact that if the Nonpartisan league candidates are elected, prisoners indicted for the Scandinavian American bank mess may never be tried.

To that extent at least, the cases must be considered as an issue in this campaign, as a correspondent notes in another column on this page this evening.

That does not mean that the political aspect of the cases need be carried into the courtroom, but it does mean that if the political aspects of the cases are not considered by the voters at this time, the prosecution of the prisoners will be left to Nonpartisan league officials, and if pushed at all will be pushed halfheartedly. In view of the fact that Nonpartisan league officials did nothing to bring the wreckers of the Scandinavian American bank to justice, there is no reason to believe that they will show any interest in the indictments now.

It would be a grave miscarriage of justice if the men responsible for the bank's failure were permitted to go unpunished. The fact that more than \$400,000 of public money was poured into this bank, and loaned to the league leaders for their various enterprises, in unlawful amounts and by unlawful means, is disputed. A grand jury of 21 reputable citizens has indicted 13 prominent North Dakotans in this scandal.

Are the voters going to place the prosecution of these men in the hands of a Nonpartisan league administration?

Are the voters of the state going to vote, in effect, to have these indictments dismissed, or to leave the prosecution in the hands of "friendly officials"?

Are the voters going to nullify the action of the grand jury, or are they going to permit these 13 men to be brought before a jury of their peers and tried for shameful violation of the banking laws of the state?

If the 13 prisoners escape trial, or if their trials are permitted to become farcial, the banking laws of our state will mean nothing. It will be a public proclamation by the voters that any banker can violate the state banking laws and get away with it if he is "right" politically.

A vote for the league candidates for state office, means a vote to whitewash the Scandinavian American bank deal. And two of the men indicted are the owners of the official league daily which is so vigorously denouncing the present attorney general for securing the indictments. No wonder they are interested in the defeat of Attorney General Johnson. It may keep them out of the penitentiary.—Forum.

Dr. S. A. Zimmerman is enjoying a visit from his father, Mr. Abraham Zimmerman, of Black Duck, Minn., who recently arrived in the city to visit the doctor. Mr. Zimmerman, Sr., is a very spry young man of some 86 summers and from the way he gets around he could give his boy quite a race down the avenue. He is a veteran of the civil war and is proud of the fact that he was able to go in and render a service to his adopted country, to which he came in 1861. We had the pleasure of meeting this veteran and hope that he will enjoy not only this but many more visits to Valley City.