

# Board of Control Would Eliminate Valley City

The Fargo Forum has recently carried several articles concerning the State High School Football Championship Series, presenting the view of Fargo High School and of the Board of Control of the High School Athletic League, but have shown little of the situation as it appears from the angle of Valley City, Grand Forks or the state at large.

To begin with, Valley City, Grand Forks and Williston high schools were eliminated from the championship race because they had not met the requirement of paying dues on or before October 1. Valley City was not aware of the fact that she was delinquent in this respect until she called the Secretary of the League Sunday evening to secure official sanction to play Fargo this week end, and was dreadfully chagrined to learn that we were out of the race because dues were not paid one month ago. Examination revealed the fact that such dues truly were not paid. However, violation of the spirit and purpose of this rule could scarcely be charged against Valley City as the rule was written to prevent insubordination; independence of arranging games; opposition to official leadership, lack of financial co-operation, sharp practice, etc. Moreover, liberality with Valley City and Grand Forks could lead to no complication or other harm. Williston, we are informed, has made affidavit that her dues were sent in cash within the required time. The two remaining aspirants in the race were probably the only ones effected. Officials state that there have been precedents the reversing of which would be embarrassing. However the only one mentioned, Bismarck—one year ago—is not an analogous case. Such liberality with Valley City and Grand Forks could be used without any backfire, and is due on account of error in handling by the Board of Control. The policy pursued by them on this point to date could never make a successful league.

The difficulty lies with the Board's, and particularly the Secretary's method of handling dues collection. Since 1919 at least there has been a constitutional requirement that dues be paid October 1. However, punctuality has not been enforced, at least prior to 1927. In 1920 Valley City's dues were taken in November without objection and at the same time she was awarded the District Championship, and also permission to play for the inter-district championship. If the policy of the Board has changed without changing the constitution, it becomes the duty of the Secretary to notify members in regard to dues, both because of the change and the rigidity of requirement would demand it.

Valley City has had no proper due notice. A constitution was received, but the notice was submerged as completely as the joker in a legislative bill. Two careful examinations by the Superintendent and Principal missed this notice, even when looking for it. Only ten out of some eighty or ninety schools who participate in athletics paid dues before October 1. A simple twist of the wrist, so to speak, is all that would be necessary to make this notice very conspicuous.

It is the duty of the Secretary to notify in regard to dues, on general principles, if he has any duties. The League constitution requires it. Also the Secretary established a precedent of notifying by a circular letter in 1921, which would further demand that he should use as great care in 1922. The Secretary should have known of our delinquency and that it was unintentional. It may be said that the league was involved in Valley City and that the local Superintendent was its first president, outlined the first constitution and has never failed to be a member since its organization. Again Valley City is a three sport town and dues paid for football cover basket ball and track. It would not be profitable to forego payment of football dues when the other events are coming on. More than this, Valley City has shown her intention of membership by playing strictly in conformance to rules in all respects, such as playing only eligible men, only league teams, only in own district, etc. It could easily be inferred that the team was counting on league membership because it was successful, its goal never having been crossed this season. Intent was further shown by the fact that each game was reported to the Secretary immediately after it was played. Official care or neighborly courtesy would have impelled the Secretary to prevent a humiliating disaster of this character to come to such a team.

After the Secretary was put on the defensive in regard to his delinquency, he trumps a new method of eliminating Valley City—relative score.

Now any one acquainted with football will know that mere relative score is not a fair criterion. The relative stage of team-development at the time of games; the personnel of teams at the time of the respective games; the place of playing games, etc., are quite as important items of consideration as scores. Relative score has not been used as a means of comparison where direct comparison is possible, except as a supplement, and then only when properly offset by the considerations mentioned. When direct comparisons have not been made the reasons for the omissions are very important, and the honor should be awarded to the team least at fault. Valley City has played only league teams, in her own district, and early solicited a game with Fargo. Fargo has played out of her district, even out of the state, and the only effort she made to play Valley City was in an early season game, which would be an immense advantage to Fargo who has a large coaching staff and could whip her team into form early. It will be considered that this is not a fair way for Fargo to treat her most prominent rival in the district. On Oct. 28, Fargo and Valley each had an open date. Valley City solicited a game with Fargo on this date which was refused by Fargo because it could not be played in Fargo, a demand which Valley City would not grant because by previous agreements as to alternation the game belonged in Valley City this year. If Valley City and Fargo were not to play this year, most certainly fair play would require that Valley City would represent the district.

However, Valley City's playing record is superior to that of Fargo. Valley City has played five league games, all within the district and in none of them has her goal been crossed. Fargo has played four league games in the district and in two of them her goal has been crossed, in one case by a team that played Valley City; and in her non-district game likewise has her goal been crossed. The question of actual score cannot be considered without knowing all the factors very accurately as indicated in the previous paragraph. So it appears that this relative score talk was not well thought out by those who trumped it up.

Now this whole matter has been handled by a close co-operation. Valley City has been treated as a rank outsider and has at no time received information from the Secretary or President on these matters except when she has taken the initiative and made demands, which were most reluctantly granted. As has been the case in preceding years, information has appeared first in the Forum. As a matter of fact the Forum has striven to be a great moulder of athletic opinion in the southeast district as well as in North Dakota as a whole for Fargo. One who knows the trend of thought and type of expression of the League President would almost infer that he were sporting editor for this great state paper. If it is possible to eliminate such towns as Valley City and Grand Forks on merely whimsical technicalities, wherein the failure lies mainly with the League management itself, it will become very apparent to athletic fans that there can be no football championship this year, and that all football championships are bound to become more or less an empty honor.

Throughout these proceedings the president of the league has been an interested party, if not the greatest benefactor of the rule, and yet no proxy has been appointed to sit for him on the Board. For the sake of the high standing and great work of the League this ought not to have been so. Williston has wiggled out of her difficulty, and the sport editor at Fargo considers that even Grand Forks might have some claims. Can it be possible that this really is an affair that is personal to Valley City? The Secretary would appear to be in perfect accord with his chief. He may refuse to acknowledge responsibility to individual towns like Valley City and Grand Forks but his error of policy represents a principle that is state-wide in scope and this is a burden that cannot be shifted.

**DEMANDS DISPLAY OF FLAG**  
Paris, France, Nov. 1.—Unconfirmed dispatches from the radio agency at Cohoso today stated that the Fascist had demanded that the American Consul in Rome hoist the Italian flag over the consulate. The same report also stated that they had burned the chamber of commerce building in Rome.

# MANY TRICKS TO CARRY ELECTION

Fargo, N. D., October 31, 1922 — According to reports received at Independent Headquarters, the League leaders are resorting to many tricks in their attempt to win this election by fair means or foul. C. O. Parsons, who aside from his activities in this state in former years will be remembered as having later been tarred and feathered down in Kansas, has this fall been working as a League organizer in the western counties. At public meetings in Dunn county he has recently made the statement that the inspectors in each precinct will on election day be required to read to each voter the Nonpartisan voter's guide, a leaflet issued by League Headquarters urging the voters to vote the Nonpartisan ticket. Mr. Parsons threatened that any inspector who failed to follow these instructions on election day would be placed under arrest.

According to the statement of Jim Dorche, one of the election inspectors in Dunn county, Mr. Parsons is calling on the inspectors and giving them the same instructions and making the same threats in case they fail to obey his orders.

# THE REGULAR ROTARY DINNER

There was a good attendance at the regular Rotary dinner yesterday noon at the Rudolf Hotel, several visitors from Jamestown being present, and Mr. Howard Willson, one of the officials of the Barnes County Farm Bureau, also being a guest. Following the business of the club Ward Boyd, Rotarian of the Jamestown Club and pastor of the Presbyterian church of that city, was introduced as the main speaker of the club, after Rotarian Flint, also of Jamestown, had made a few well chosen remarks. Mr. Boyd took as his subject, "elections." He did not pretend to go into American politics, but gave a very concrete and interesting talk of the methods and workings of the English political body, reciting the many different heads to the government of that country and the manner in which they functioned. He showed the difference between that country and this in holding and deciding elections. He stated that in England when the opposition party became strong enough to overthrow the party in power then the government then reigning fell and new elections followed rapidly and the whole thing was over in less than a month, while in the United States it took us all the way from six to eight months to get an election over with. A British government might last one week or it might last six years as did the government headed by Lloyd George which was overthrown about two weeks ago. Ward Boyd contended that Lloyd George was one of the greatest men of the present day and that he had done more for England in bringing it back to a solid foundation than any other man in that country. He maintained that England was the only one of the allied nations that had made an effort to pay back its war debts to the United States and that it was the solid statesmanship of Lloyd George that has made England proud of its credit. The talk was well received and was exceptionally interesting. Had the speaker more time we feel sure that he would have met with rapt attention as every one present greatly enjoyed the short time that he addressed them. We hope some day to hear Rotarian Boyd speak again when he will have more time to enlarge on his subject.

# NEW PREMIER RULES WITH IRON HAND

Rome, Italy, Nov. 1.—Benito Mussolini, the new Premier of Italy, declared today that the Fascists would give back to the country its soul. The ministers clothed in frock coats which replaced the black shirts which distinguished the Fascists from the rest of the politicians, were at work today with iron discipline prevailing in every department. Mussolini has instituted a queer system of checking up his new government. Each morning he plans to call up each department to assure himself that his ministers are at work. State employees have been warned that tardiness will not be tolerated and if anyone is tardy they will be dismissed instantly. The new premier's attitude toward Gabriel D'Annunzio was the cause of much speculation was partly cleared today by a telegram sent by Mussolini to the poet airman. "I am assuming the Poet's task of giving discipline and internal peace to the Country. I am sending you my greetings and wishes. This will not be a blindfolded victory."

# LOCAL BUSINESS MAN'S VIEWS

"The people of this state have watched for several years prior to the Recall Election by which Governor Nestos supplanted Governor Frazier the increasing interference of government in private affairs; the growth of a paternalism as obnoxious as it is expensive; the centralization of our government to the destruction of state and public individualism; the foisting of fool theories of uplift by law and by regulation of a hardy, self-confident people who have won their place at the front of the world by lifting themselves instead of being lifted by fiat of law; the spread of a smear of messy socialism under the guise of common good flubdub; the ceaseless foray against the very business enterprises that were chiefly responsible for the development of this state to its erstwhile supremacy, all of which has been inspired and undertaken, not for sound, economic reasons, but rather for unsound political reasons, and which has resulted in almost confiscating such business enterprises by taxation.

The servile partisan legislature of the dominant League has hastened on every occasion to capitalize any special interest that showed itself, accompanied by threat of political reprisal unless its specified demands were heeded. Night and day during the period mentioned we have been beset by spying, censoring, uplifting, reforming, regulating and restricting of liberties of both speech and action; the expansion of the particular class idea in legislative methods and influences, and with it all the vast complexities and devastating expenses of this sort of mis-government that proceeds on the assumption that the state of North Dakota is a corrective institution, with the people its inmates, instead of a co-operative state with the people partners as its constituents.

Indeed, we have plainly and clearly seen the decay, as far as government is concerned, of the old vigorous and successful western American policy and creed of individualism and self-help, and have been messed and mused about; taxed to the point where thrift and effort are penalized; regulated, restricted, uplifted, reformed and directed in our ways and walks by a crowd of political shysters whose only motive is self-interest; overwhelmed by an avalanche of useless and expensive laws as exploited by an alleged agrarian class legislation that had its selfish origin and warrant in the desires of the class legislated for regardless of the people and the political necessities of the legislators who framed it. We have been harassed with the growth and establishment of a bureaucracy that has increased tenfold in the past six or eight years, and the expansion of the commission system until members of these governing bodies barnacle the Ship of State in such numbers that little of the original hull can be seen, each commission providing salary and sustenance for politicians at the expense of the people, and not one in all of them worth five per cent of what it costs for organization and maintenance.

Why should we, stalwart pioneers and their equally fearless and efficient sons and daughters, who were prosperous and successful unto the climax of our fondest desires when this nonsensical crusade began, continue to fuss with each other? Why not reflect and reform ourselves and resume the reciprocal fellowship, society and business under which we thrived and waxed strong before the chimerical schemes excited our emotions and beclouded our judgments, which resulted in mistakes of government from which we are suffering?

November 7th offers us an opportunity to do so. Let us take advantage of it."

# AMALGAMATION OF RAILROAD UNIONS

St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 30.—Amalgamation of the 16 railroad unions of America will be discussed at a meeting in Chicago, December 9th and 10th, it was announced today. The call was sent out immediately after the receipt of word of the refusal of the labor board to adopt the principle of the living wage as a basis of wage adjustment. More than 11,000 local lodges of the railroad unions will be circularized by the executive committee of the railroad union amalgamation conference. They will be asked to participate in the conference next month. Every local lodge will be entitled to a delegate. Every railroad union, including the Big Four Brotherhood which is recognized by the railroad labor board is to be asked to join in the amalgamation of the one big union. The conference was called by the National Committee. E. C. Kennedy is chairman and A. H. Wanger, is secretary.

# FRAZIER TALKS TO GOOD CROWD

Ex-Governor Lynn J. Frazier spoke to an audience of about 400 at the high school gym last evening. He was introduced by C. A. Fisher of this city. Frazier started his talk with declaring that the opposition to his party have made the statement that this election is not along party lines.

He said that the opposition were calling his party radicals and went on to say that today the American Legion and its followers were advocating "the conservation of wealth for the payment of the war." This, Mr. Frazier said, was advocated by his party before the war and they were called radicals for it.

He declared what was radicalism in the days that are past is now entitled progressiveness today. The opposition is trying to use this to mislead the people. Every campaign for the past years have been unfair. Declared that the opposition has no logical argument against the program of the nonpartisan league. Nestos has been quoted as being opposed to socialism but still he advocated that the state should own and operate the lignite mines of the state. Yes, this is just a little bit socialistic. He declared that Nestos' statement about being opposed to socialism was a joke. He also declared that the opposition while claiming to represent the decent people of the state, was backed by the entire Red Light district of Minot, which voted its entire strength every time for Nestos or O'Connor whenever they were running for office. That is the decent class of people.

He declared that the Scandinavian American bank was an old issue and it was generally understood as such. He declared that any bank would close if it was subjected to the hammering that was brought to bear on this bank. He said he knew of bankers who paid men to go out and knock the bank. He said that the special legislative committee sent to investigate the bank found nothing. He made the statement that the reason why Nestos and O'Connor were unmarried was because it was an expensive and responsible thing.

The opposition have also declared that the old regime did not accomplish anything, but he cited the state insurance law which alone saved the state \$320,000. This was the law that provided for the carrying of insurance on the state, county and city buildings. The bonding law, and the hail insurance law was also cited as some of the accomplishments.

He declared that the Fire Indemnity concerns were the strongest financial institutions in the nation.

He declared that the eastern capital was against the Bank of North Dakota and that was why the I. V. A.'s wanted to close the bank. This bank would cut down the easy profits for them. He said that the bank was loaning money at 2 per cent to the farmers and that would be a saving of 2 1/2 to 4 percent which would be beneficial to the farmers.

He also said that if the farmers were as well organized as the bankers they would have a very strong organization. He said that there was not 25 bankers in the state that did not belong to the Bankers Association and were paying their annual dues of \$25. He said that the bankers association ever since statehood have been able to send lobbyists to the capitol to work against any measure that they did not want and work for those that they did.

He referred to the grain grading law which the I. V. A.'s had knocked out, by having the supreme court hold it unconstitutional. He said that the difference between our market value of wheat and the cash value in the twin cities ranged from 6 to 30c. Average range 30c, some 14c, which would have been only six cents with the grain grading bill in effect. He cited an instance in Grant county where the margin was 85c and the freight rate 16c to Minneapolis and then it was still 19c over the rate if the grain grading law was in effect. He declared that the farmers on every 60 bushels sold lost enough to pay for their membership fee in the league and have 30 cents left over for peanuts. He did not blame the local buyers for the difference in the price but declared that it was from outside influences.

He declared that the Twin City financial interests were dominating the politics of the state because of their financial aid to the I. V. A.'s. He also declared the because of this aid Governor Nestos had to go to the Twin Cities and report to headquarters.

He declared that the farmers and people of the state were aiding the Minneapolis and Duluth grain buyers to build beautiful mansions in their home towns. He asked the audience to go to the western part of the state and compare the mansions there with those in the cities.

He took the I. V. A. motto, "Let's finish the job" to mean "Let's kill

the farmer's program." He cited an instance in one of his speeches when he asked the farmers what they thought it meant and they replied, "Finish the farmers."

He also declared that it would be a disgrace to vote for Lemke and himself as they had been recalled once, according to the I. V. A.'s. He said that if they had sold out to the I. V. A.'s last fall there would have been no recall and they would still be the state officials.

He urged the people to get together and vote as their conscience dictated and not according to party lines. He also urged them to forget their political prejudices.

After the recall election he declared that he was thru with politics and that he had had enough. But when several friends wanted him to run and gave him their endorsement he again entered the field. He did this as he did not want to be called a quitter and because he was interested in this affair.

Again urging the people to get together and be sure to get out and vote on November 7th he wound up his tragedy of agony.

# THE TRUTH ABOUT TAXES

It has been brought to my attention that the League Press is criticizing the Nestos Administration for a slight raise in the tax levy for 1922 as compared with that of 1921.

The tax rate for State purposes in 1922 is 3.64 mills as against 3.38 mills in 1921 or an increase of twenty six hundredths mills (.26).

On the other hand the valuation for 1922 is \$1,309,078,716.00 as against \$1,378,000,000 in 1921 or a decrease of \$68,921,284 so the total of the taxes levied for 1922 will amount to \$4,765,047 as against \$4,657,640 in 1921 or an increase of only \$107,407.

All of these taxes are levied for the purpose of meeting the obligations of the state either appropriated by the 1921 Legislature, when Frazier was Governor, or as a direct result of the League Program, which the following figures will substantiate:

1921 Tax Levy in Mills and Dollars	
General Fund	2.28 \$3,341,840.00
Real Estate	
Bond Interest	.10 127,800.00
Soldier Bonus Tax	1.00 1,378,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.38 \$4,657,640.00</b>
1922 Tax Levy in Mills and Dollars	
General Fund	2.24 \$2,932,336.00
Real Estate	
Bond Interest	.28 301,088.00
Bank Bond Interest	.10 130,908.00
Mill and Elev.	
Bond Interest	.07 91,636.00
Soldier Bonus Tax	1.00 1,309,079.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.64 \$4,765,047.00</b>

The above figures show that there is a decrease in the amount levied for the General Fund of \$209,504 from the amount levied for 1921.

The amount levied for interest on Real Estate bonds is entirely due to the fact that a number of loans made by the Frazier administration are delinquent and if the borrowers do not pay the interest on their loans it is necessary for the State to levy a tax for the purpose of paying the interest on the bonds issued for these loans.

The Bank of North Dakota, on account of the mis-management of the League Administration has lost so much money that they are now unable to pay interest on their Capital Stock bonds and a tax has to be levied for this purpose. The Frazier administration levied a similar tax in 1919.

The amount levied for the interest on the Mill and Elevator bonds is also necessary as the interest on the State bonds must be paid.

The Soldier's Bonus levy is a legislative levy which must be met and over which the Board of Equalization has no control.

In view of the above figures, I believe any fair-minded person will admit that the tax levy as made is necessary in order to pay up monies appropriated and expenditures authorized by the Frazier Administration.

Respectfully,  
JOHN STEEN,  
State Treasurer.

Bismarck, N. D.  
October 23, 1922.

# HARRY LADEN HELD BY POLICE

St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 30.—Harry Laden is being held by police today pending the outcome of the shooting on the West side Sunday night. Emil Anderson, 37, is in the City hospital with a bullet in the abdomen. Laden entered the Anderson home Sunday night during a party and demanded to know where his wife was and on being informed that she was not there he fired at Emil Anderson and Oscar Anderson.