

# FARMERS WIN STATE CONTROL NORTH DAKOTA

Revolt of Agrarians Ends in Capture of Law-Making Machinery and Bring the World New Kind of Government—Interesting Experiment Described by Russell.

By CHAS. EDWARD RUSSELL. BISMARCK, N. D., Jan. 3.—Lynn J. Frazier, republican, became governor today when he took the oath of office in the presence of members of both houses of the legislature, meeting in joint session. He has declared his intention to support a legislative program which includes state-owned flour mills, terminal grain elevators and pecking plants.

BISMARCK, N. D., Jan. 3.—North Dakota is now to hold for some time the center of the United States stage. A kind of government new on this continent or anywhere else is about to take hold of the machine here. It is a farmers' government from top to bottom and all the way across.

That is one thing novel about it. Then it is strictly non-partisan, being chosen by the farmers for reasons of their own and without the least regard to party lines.

### Farmers Run State.

It is also a government that owes nothing to any politician on earth and no corporation, bank, railroad or interest has a single string on it.

Few of the men about to take office ever held office before and none of the men that put them there had any previous experience in politics.

At the last election the farmers, in revolt, captured the legislature, all the state offices except one, and what is still more important, grabbed off the supreme court.

They will now run the whole shooting match from A to Izzard.

They can pass any law they please and nothing this side of the supreme court of the United States can interfere.

It is the biggest revolution that ever occurred in any state in this Union.

North Dakota has been from the beginning just a fine old pocket borough for the interests. The railroads, banks, elevators and grain men had an iron-clad combination that ruled the politics of the state the way a bucko mate used to rule a Cape Horner. Do what you're told, keep still or get hurt.

### Farmers Whole Cheese.

Today there isn't a railroad politician, grain agent or corporation vult in the state that dares peep. The farmers are the whole cheese.

Also, they have introduced a new system of choosing men for office. They started out literally to let the office seek the man. When it became evident last spring that they were likely to win out, a fine crop of their dear old friends and college chums sprang up all about the state offering the glad hand and pulling for this office or that.

All they ever got was the icy stare and swift kick. Instead of listening to the dulcet notes of these charmers, the farmers went about hunting for good men that were on the level, and not job hunters.

Their candidate for governor, for instance, Lynn J. Frazier, was steering a plow over his wheat lands when he was chosen. The committee wanted to telephone him and had to wait until he could be summoned to the house. He was the most amazed man in America and thought it was some kind of a joke.

But he quickly showed that no error had been made about him. He had never made a set public speech in his life, but he jumped into the campaign and turned out to be a crackerjack. He made more than 200 speeches. He got \$1,000 in a total vote of about 102,000—that's all.

### League Organized.

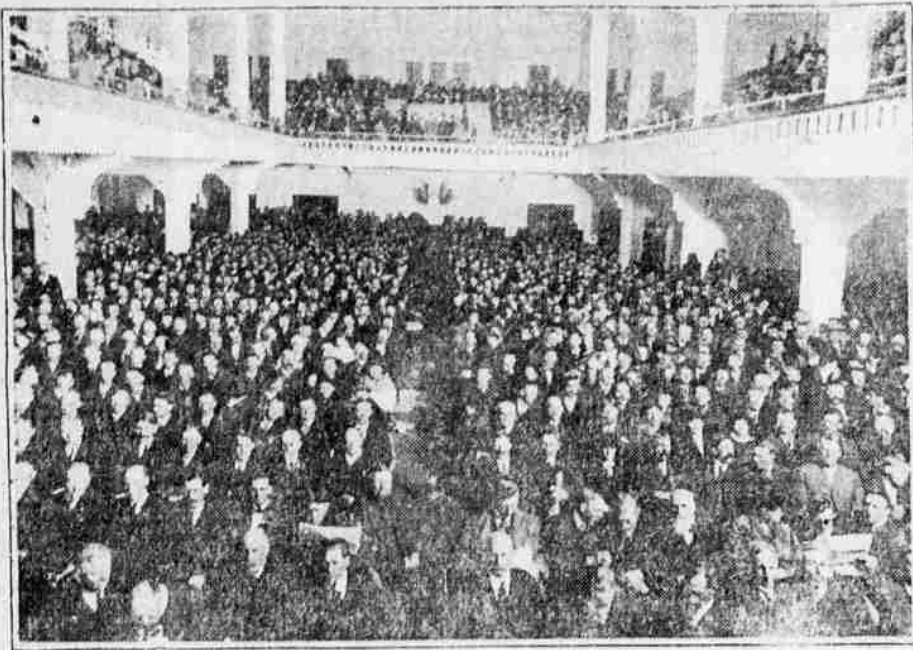
The name of the organization that put all this over is the Farmers' Non-Partisan Political League. It is only two years old, but has 40,000 enrolled members of the 50,000 farmers in North Dakota.

It works with a new scheme and new method. Every farmer that joins pays for his membership. Formerly the annual fees were \$6. Now they are \$16 for two years in advance, and practically every man whose first year's subscription has expired is renewing at the new rate.

New members are put on the rolls by personal interviews. The league owns 140 automobiles and keeps a corps of organizers always in the field. The money received is used to carry on this work and to publish the league's newspaper, the Leader.

This paper started in September, 1915, on a shoestring, and now has

### FARMERS WHO "PUT OVER" THE FARMER GOVERNMENT IN NORTH DAKOTA



Members of the Non-Partisan League in convention at Fargo.

55,000 circulation. The league has lately acquired a daily paper at Fargo and owns the only photo-engraving plant in North Dakota.

Branch leagues are being organized in other states. The welcome the idea has received causes northwestern politicians to view the movement with pain and extreme disgust. It looks as if an entirely new deal was on in this part of the world.

Nobody can join the league except an actual tiller of the soil, so there is no chance for others to come in and get possession of the thing.

### Farmers Victimized.

The thing that had most to do with the creation of the league was the deplorable state of farming in North Dakota as a result of 57 varieties of gouge and swindle practiced by railroads, banks, money sharks, elevator combines, commission men and others.

Government, as conducted by the interests, merely assisted the plunderers. The total annual gouge was estimated at about \$50,000,000 on the wheat crop alone. Between farmer and consumer about 50 cents on each bushel disappeared into hands that had no right to take it.

The league's program provides for salutary reforms in the state government, but nothing to scare anybody. State-owned and operated terminal elevators, state hail insurance, state rural credit systems, taxation reform and the state development of the lignite deposits are the chief features.

The main object of the league is to secure a rational brand of government conducted for the benefit of the majority of the population instead of the benefit of railroads and banks. It will be a novelty for North Dakota—and some other regions.

### C. E. GATES DEFINES CAMPAIGN PLATFORM

To the Citizens of Medford:

I am a candidate for mayor of this city and if elected it shall be my policy to give the city a conservative, economical and thorough business administration. I realize the financial conditions of affairs and know that it will take practical business methods to manage the city as it should be. I pledge myself to real law enforcement, and to see that the officers of the law fulfill their duties.

The city water system must be cared for zealously, and to safeguard at all times the city's one best asset. The Public Market has been the means of protecting the small rancher and a blessing to the citizens of Medford and should be preserved and improved on all occasions.

I pledge myself to the maintenance, improvement and enlargement as the public needs demand. It shall be my constant endeavor to conduct all business in harmony with the city council and with all working together we can accomplish a great deal toward making Medford better financially and morally.

I am for the Hanson plan of refinancing the city, which not only takes care of the paving but gives the property owner thirteen years in which to pay paving, water mains and sewer assessments. I see no reason why the small property owner of the pavement should help pay the debt of the larger property owner on the pavement,—or the renter to pay the paving debt of the landlord.

### DIED

Merritt Wilkinson, age 72 years, died Jan. 1, 1917, at Central Point. For 48 years he was a resident of the Grand Ronde valley. He is survived by one son, Leon Wilkinson. The funeral will be held Thursday at 2 p. m., from the family residence. Burial Central Point cemetery.

### INGRAM FINED \$10 WHILE REED HELD

Peter Ingram and Carl Reed, the principals in a drunken fracas at the home of Reed last Saturday night, in which Ingram was out over the head with a bottle and Reed was shot through the shoulder, were given a hearing before Justice Dox at Jacksonville Tuesday afternoon. Ingram pleaded guilty to a charge of vagrancy and was let off with a \$10 fine. Bonds for Reed were fixed at \$300, the bond being supplied by Dick Hale and Mrs. Ingram.

The evidence at the hearing showed that Ingram shot in self-defense after being knocked to the floor with a bottle. The shot was fired by Ingram while he was lying on the floor and Reed was again attempting to break a bottle over his head. The bullet lodged in the ceiling after passing through Reed's shoulder.

Reed will again appear before Justice Dox in a continuation of yesterday's hearing, Thursday afternoon.

### BOURKE COCKRAN DEFENDS MOONEY

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 3.—Trial of Thomas J. Mooney for murder in connection with a preparedness day bomb explosion here July 22, 1916, in which ten persons lost their lives and forty were injured, opened in the supreme court here today with W. Bourke Cockran of New York, leading the defense.

"Do you object to anarchists?" Cockran shot at Edward S. Lowry, a manufacturer, the first of twelve venturers to enter the jury box.

"I am against them," said Lowry. Lowry said, however, he had no prejudice against Mooney and could weigh the evidence fairly. He was excused by Judge Franklin A. Griffin.

It was announced that Frank L. Mulholland of Toledo, Ohio, general counsel for the international association of machinists, would act in an advisory capacity in the defense. He was present in court.

### SEEKING LOST COUPLE ON LITTLE NISQUALLY

TACOMA, Wash., Jan. 3.—Following discovery of tracks of a man and woman believed to be those of the missing Powells on the Little Nisqually river about five miles from the Powell camp yesterday, two parties of three men each left this morning on the first systematic and well-organized search since Otto Powell and his wife were reported lost December 28. The men are experienced forest rangers and carry provisions for fifteen days.

Advertisement for 'The Million Dollar Cigar' featuring an owl logo and the text: 'WHAT makes the OWL a good smoke? Hand workmanship and that million dollar reserve supply of mellowing leaf. Isn't that a good deal to find in a nickel cigar?' The Million Dollar Cigar, M. A. GUNST & CO. INCORPORATED.

### ARREST COUPLE FOR VAGRANCY

On a warrant sworn out by Joe A. Thomas, who with his wife conducts a rooming house on South Holly street, Anna Whitman and Van Treese were arrested Tuesday afternoon, a charge of vagrancy being lodged against them. The pair are alleged to have entered the Thomas rooming house after midnight Monday night and to have occupied a room together. They were discovered Tuesday morning by Mrs. Thomas, and the issuance of the warrant followed.

The girl was released on her own recognizance, while Van Treese was lodged in the city jail until this morning, when he was transferred to Jacksonville. The case will be heard Thursday afternoon by Justice Dox.

It is probable that the charge against the woman will be dismissed. Van Treese is not expected to be dealt with so leniently, as he has a record of having passed bogus checks and appropriated cars in this vicinity during the past summer.

### POSTAL BUSINESS FOR 1916 SHOWS GAIN OVER 1915

Business in the Medford postoffice during the year 1916 showed a gain in every department over the previous year. The gross receipts were over \$1000 heavier than in 1915.

With the extension of delivery service to all parts of the city, one regular city carrier has been added to the force, as have been two subs for parcel post work and for emergency work. The monthly pay roll for December, 1916, was \$1492.45, aside from the amount paid employees of the treasury department engaged in the care of the new postoffice building.

Following is a statement of the business of the postoffice during the past year:

Gross receipts, December 31, 1916, \$28,689.19; gross receipts December 31, 1915, \$27,940.03. Gain in 1916, \$749.16.

Stamp sales: December, 1915, \$3164; December, 1916, \$3370.45. Gain in stamp sales December, 1916, over 1915, \$206.45.

Heaviest day in receipts of mail: December 24, 1915, 164 sacks; December 22, 1916, 176 sacks. Gain 1916, 12 sacks.

### PRIVATE BIDDERS FAIL ON CRUISERS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—Private bidders again today failed to give the navy satisfactory proposals for three of the four new scout cruisers. The Seattle Drydock and Construction company already had been awarded one of the ships.

The Fore River Shipbuilding company of Quincy, Mass., was the only concern to respond to the re-advertised proposals opened today, but its figures in every case were nearly a million dollars above the \$5,000,000 limit fixed by congress.

The navy now is confronted with asking congress to increase the limit of cost or to build the ships in government yards.

# Chicago Prices

We Are Selling for Less Than Chicago Prices

You can be the judge. For the balance of this week we will make the following prices:

- Any New Suit in the house, including the finest \$20 Serges \$9.98
- New Coats and Vests \$1.98
- 16-inch High Top Shoes, worth \$8 and \$9 \$4.98
- 12-inch High Tops \$3.98
- One lot of Heavy Work Shoes, genuine oak soles, sells anywhere \$3.50 and \$4, this week \$2.50
- One lot Heavy work Shoes \$1.98
- Big Heavy Flannel Shirts, worth \$1.75 and \$2 98c
- Heavy Winter Underwear 39c
- Men's Work Pants 98c
- Big Bib Overalls 69c
- Canvas Gloves 5c
- Mule Skin Gloves 25c
- A big assortment Men's Hats 98c
- A lot of School Tablets, 3 for \$1.50 Alarm Clocks 75c
- One Victrola, worth \$40, this week \$15.00
- One \$35 Graphophone \$10.00
- Trunks at less than wholesale.
- Boys' Shoes as low as \$1.00

The Whole Entire Stock Cut to the Quick  
It's up to you. Remember, it's just this week  
**WILL. H. WILSON**  
The Cheapest Store in the West

Automobile Supplies Let Us Explain  
how it is possible for us to sell you auto supplies of the highest order at such low prices. It is no secret—just the way we buy, in large quantities and for cash. Don't delay purchasing that new horn, lamp, etc. Come to us today. The cost will be nominal.  
**C. E. GATES**

## State Poultry Show

MEDFORD, OREGON  
Jan. 9 to Jan. 13, Inclusive

B. F. KEENEY, Judge  
ERNEST WEBB, Superintendent

Entries Close Midnight, January 5.  
Judging Begins Tuesday, 9 A. M.

Awards by Comparison  
Cash Premiums Will Net 60 Per Cent of Entry Fees.  
Many Elegant Cups Offered  
Large attendance of Prominent Poultrymen promised from Northern Oregon.

ADMISSION: Adults 25c, Childrn 10c.

Show Formally Opened at Noon, Jan. 9  
By order Executive Board

## Brr-r!

Chilly, changeable weather? A good oil heater will keep you warm and cosy. A gallon of Pearl Oil gives 9 hours of smokeless, odorless, cheerful heat.  
Prices: \$3.75 to \$7.75

## Perfection Oil Heater

For Sale by  
Garnett-Corey Hardware & Plumbing Co.  
Medford Furniture Co.

Prr-r!

### Mr. Fred Alton Haight

## TEACHER OF PIANO

New term begins January 2. While all applications will be considered, the number of new pupils that can be accepted is limited.

## THE HAIGHT MUSIC STUDIO

401 Garnett-Corey Building  
Phone 72 Medford, Oregon