

N. U. STADIUM PLAN HITS SNAG

North Evanston Citizens Have Word to Say

The probability that the Chicago, North Shore and Milwaukee railroad will soon start condemnation proceedings for a right of way through the site of the proposed Northwestern university stadium, together with objections of some of the residents on Eastwood avenue, Evanston, to the closing of Ashland avenue at the stadium site have presented serious obstacles in the way of completing the stadium by the fall of 1925. This was disclosed in a speech by William A. Dyche, business manager of Northwestern university, this week at a banquet in the Orrington hotel given for the university football, swimming and cross-country teams.

"Recently the committee on business of the executive committee of the board of trustees of Northwestern university, appointed Robert W. Campbell, its president, and myself as a committee of two, with instructions to have preliminary plans for a stadium prepared, and to present a plan of financing the project to the entire committee, with a view of completing its erection by the fall of 1925 if possible, and certainly not later than the fall of 1926," Mr. Dyche said.

Preliminary Sketches

"Mr. Campbell and I are proceeding with our work, and preliminary sketches are being prepared by James Gamble Rogers of New York city, the university architect. Mr. Rogers and his office experts are familiar with every stadium that has been erected east of the Mississippi river. The plans will be complete and thoroughly up-to-date. Methods of entrance and exit and traffic service will receive most careful study, and every convenience provided which will add to the pleasure and comfort of the people. It is our thought, during the progress of these plans to ask the sporting editors of the Chicago papers to appoint a committee of their experts to aid us in perfecting the plans, especially that there may be provided in this stadium the best possible press stand.

"Mr. Campbell and I are confident that the methods we propose to sug-

gest for financing the stadium will be satisfactory to the trustees. We have no fear of the ability of the university to finance the project. The details of our plan or plans will be made public in due time. We are greatly encouraged by the loyal, enthusiastic support of the alumni of our own university, and the offers of help from the alumni of many other universities living on the north shore. These are all seeking for the privilege of taking part in financing the enterprise. If it seems wise we shall avail ourselves of their cooperation, for their enthusiasm is a source of great encouragement to us.

Question of Time Vital

"The question of time is the most important one. Can we erect this structure and have it ready for use early next fall? The details of preparing plans and working them out, and of seeking advice require much time. If we were sure of the size of the field at our command I would be inclined to say the stadium could be built by next fall; but at this point several obstacles confront us.

"Our present athletic field fronts south on Central street 665 feet, the west line being Ashland avenue, and the north line Isabella street. Its distance north and south is about 1600 feet.

"But the North Shore line has for two years been contemplating a right of way through our field. This condemnation suit is likely to be started any day. The plans of the railroad call for a right of way 100 feet wide immediately south of Jenks street extended. Perhaps you will know better what this means if the statement is made that the right of way would pass right through the home plate of our baseball field.

"If the railroad is to take 100 feet away from us and Jenks street is to be extended 60 feet wide, it means that the property north of that will be useless for an Athletic Field. Therefore, under these conditions we can only consider our field as fronting on Central street 665 feet, by a depth north along Ashland avenue on the west to the proposed right-of-way of substantially 1,000 feet.

"Our stadium must seat more than 50,000 people. The stadium of the University of Illinois, with its upper decks, has seating capacity for 54,000. Such a stadium, with a 30 foot passageway all round it, and with room to the north and south of the gridiron for the extension of a running track, will require a piece of ground more than 700 feet wide and about 665 feet long. We must build a stadium of this type; therefore, within the limits of our present field there is

scarcely room for the kind of stadium we desire; and, in addition, the room for baseball diamonds and practice gridirons would be entirely inadequate. We need three or four baseball diamonds and three or four practice gridirons.

No Room to Spare

"The University owns 210 feet of frontage on Central street, just west of Ashland avenue as it now lies, running north to Isabella street some 1,600 feet. This is an unsubdivided tract. If this land could be brought within the confines of our field we would have a reasonable amount of room, but not any to spare.

"With this thought in mind the suggestion has been made to the city council of the City of Evanston that Ashland avenue be vacated and relocated at the west side of this 210 foot strip.

"The other evening the Evanston city council had a special meeting at which a number of residents of East-

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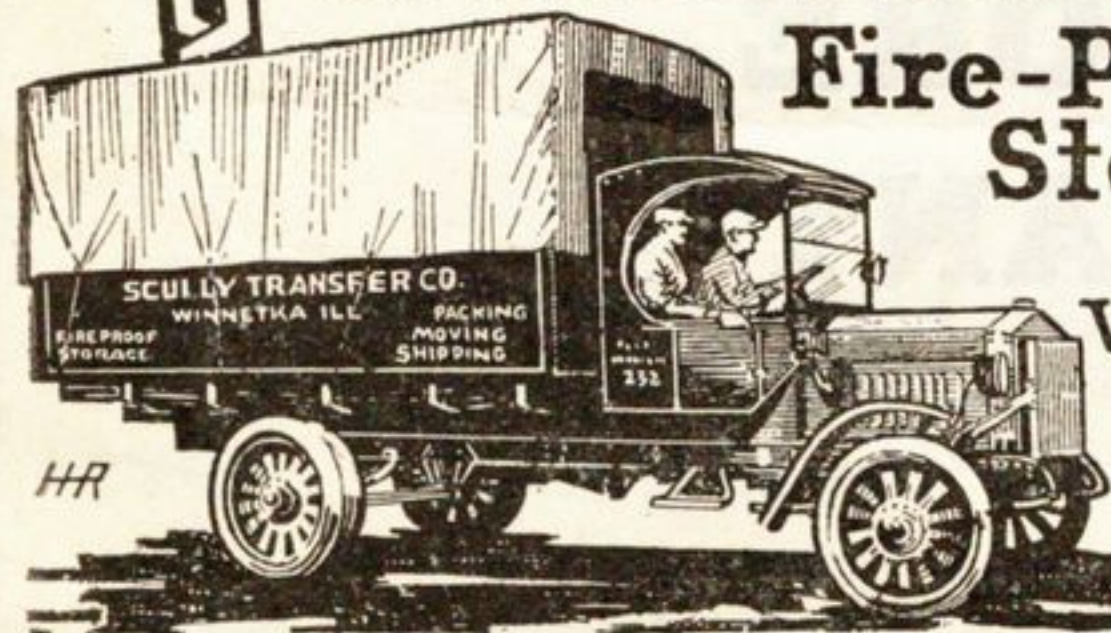
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