

Railroad News of Interest

LETTER FROM AN EX-RAILROADER

W. J. Brandon, Formerly Employed by the Burlington at Alliance, Sends Interesting Letter

"My Dear Friend Jack:
 "Just received the good, old Alliance Herald, and it sure was appreciated, making me think of the good old times Alliance furnished me in times past. Time certainly does change things, doesn't it? I am well, as usual, and am on the go from 6 a. m. until 11 p. m. every day, always doing something. We are getting bayonet practice, and its sure great stuff. A fellow can get some mighty wicked jabs from a blow. I don't imagine we engineers will get to use them, but we are being prepared for every emergency.
 "Our camp here is ideal, with every kind of amusement furnished that you could think of. The barbers' union gave our company a complete baseball outfit. By now we are professionals. I am in the first platoon, first squad. Today our platoon played the third platoon, with results in our favor, score 2 to 1. Played short-stop myself and being rather long for a short job got away good, making five doubles, caught three high ones; at the stick got two hits, one being a home run. Our second lieutenant caught for us. He's a splendid fellow but no ball player to speak of, except at the bat, where he is good. He's a great big fellow and jolly as can be, and with us in everything. There isn't a fellow in the company that wouldn't risk his life for him.
 "Arlington cemetery is across from the parade grounds. Sunday afternoon we went through it. Saw the most of the battleship Maine, and the graves of some of the national heroes. There was so much of interest there to see. The first day of the liberty loan campaign on the third drive, our battalion paraded in Washington, D. C. Believe me it was sure great dope. Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbank and Charlie Chaplin were there. They sure gave the soldiers a welcome that will never be forgotten by any of our company.
 "The Y. M. C. A. is certainly doing its bit in this war. I don't know what a soldier would do if it wasn't for them and the Red Cross. The Red Cross is preparing us now for the trip across the big water, furnishing us with socks, sweaters, wool helmets, wristlets, gloves and everything that one needs.
 Fort Meyer is certainly a clean and sanitary camp. No sickness here at all—only home and love sickness. Some of these silk shirt office boys sure do hate to hop into the kitchen and scrub pans and pots, polish the cut glass and the mahogany and wear the trench shoes, better known as hobnails. Each weighs 8½ pounds and

have about twenty big nails in each one. After a big day's drilling these fellows are all in, but in three weeks' time they have forgotten to growl and begin to enjoy their work. I claim that the army is making a lot of men out of chronic 'sissies.' The men here at camp are pretty good—only forty-two in the guard house today. Well, how are all the boys there. I imagine that most of them are drafted by now? Must close for this time, as it is time to turn in. With best wishes and kind regards to all my Alliance friends.
 Your old friend,
 W. J. BRANDON
 American Expeditionary forces, Fort Meyer, Virginia."

Dan Fitzpatrick is laying off at present because of his wife's illness. Henry Nelson caught Dan's turn out of here on 42.

Engineer McGuire and fireman caught a work train out of here Monday and have been working at Hyannis and Whitman this week.

Two work trains have been put on the last week at Antioch. The company is building sidetracks and storage tracks to accommodate the rapidly increasing potash plants.

Engineer N. T. Shawver was at the round house office and says that he expects to be able to go to work in a few days.

Fred Allen has been laying off the past week. J. A. Wolverton is in Fred's turn out of here.

John Schirk went to Plattsmouth on company business Tuesday of this week.

The wrecker and crew were called out last night to Hemingford to pick up a box car that was derailed, blocking the main line. No. 42 was delayed an hour.

G. C. Ruth and wife have returned from their visit to the Black Hills. Shorty's smiling face is a welcome appearance at the round house again.

The Hill jobs were put back on again this week. One crew at Ardmore, Marsland and Edgemont.

J. O. Parsons leaves today for his annual fishing trip at Whitman. If Johnny is as good at catching bass as he is at engineering, he will clean out all the fish in the lake at Whitman.

Engineer A. W. Newberg received word last night of the death of his sister at Julesburg, Colo. Mr. and Mrs. Newberg left for that place on 301 last night.

Rudolph Malek returned from New York yesterday where he had been to attend the funeral of his brother. He saw one of our large transports leave with two thousand soldiers for "over there."

Word has just come from Washington that Mr. Loomis has been appointed as emergency district club leader for this section of Nebraska. He will use Friday and Saturday of each week in this capacity, organizing boys' and girls' garden clubs in city and rural districts. One-third of his salary will be paid by the United States government. This is a just recognition which Peru has deserved for a long time. It united the work of the normal school with the university and with the national government as never before. There is, no doubt, that Peru's interests will be enhanced as well as those of the university by this combination. Details of Mr. Loomis' work will be published in most of the newspapers throughout this district within the next few weeks. His work on Friday and Saturday of this week will be in organizing the rural districts of Otoe county.

President Hayes, national director of the N. E. A., for the state of Nebraska, met with the state executive committee at the office of the state superintendent last Wednesday. The state committee consists of the state director, State Supt. W. H. Clemmons, Supt. Jesse H. Newton, Supt. J. H. Beveridge, Acting Chancellor W. C. Hastings, State High School Inspector A. A. Reed, and Dean B. E. McProud. Already the Nebraska membership in the N. E. A. has increased 300 per cent. The committee hopes to enlist at least 1,000 teachers of Nebraska as members of the N. E. A. during the drive. So far Nebraska is in the lead of states in the percentage of teachers enrolled. Fairbury alone has 100 per cent active membership of its teaching force.

President Hayes has sent a letter containing a patriotic appeal to all the young men who are graduating from high school this year. The purpose of the appeal is to enlist their interest in preparing for educational service. Opportunities were never better for young men in the educational field than at the present time. Graduates of the manual training department are receiving from \$100 to \$170 a month with hundreds of calls that cannot be filled.

Miss Nell Tash and mother visited Charles Tash in Denver the first of the week. Charles has left for Camp Funston.

Clarence Schafer has bought the residence of Harry Dubuque. Mr. Dubuque has in turn purchased the residence of Jerry Rowan.

The mother of Mrs. Dr. Slagle leaves this week for her home at Abington, Ill.

Grover Sutton, of Alliance, and Estelle Denton, of Willette, Wyo., were married by Judge Tash at the court house Wednesday.

Mrs. Pate and Mrs. Dole were hostesses at the Red Cross Kensington held Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Dole.

Meetings are being held every night at the Baptist church and will continue over Sunday. The boosters' band will sing Saturday night. A special service for women only will be held Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. There have been forty-five professions and fifteen received into the church for baptism. The evangelist and singer are proving themselves up to expectations.

AGENT ON TREATING OF SEED POTATOES

County Agent George Neuswanger Gives Advice on Methods of Treating Spuds for Seed

In response to an inquiry from The Herald, County Agent George Neuswanger has issued the following statement on the treating of seed potatoes:

"There is some difference of opinion among potato growers of the county as to the value of seed treatment. In many cases too much has been expected from only one year's treatment, treating alone or treating just for one year will not eradicate the scab. Treating must be done each year and in conjunction with other control measures, such as rotation of crops if the best results are to be had.

"If comparatively disease-free seed is selected, treated according to directions and planted on disease-free soil such diseases as scab can be

largely controlled. Experiments have shown that the organisms causing scab may live in the soil as long as five years, and hence there is more or less danger in planting potatoes oftener than every fifth year on the same soil, in no case should they be planted oftener than every third year. "The greatest losses from scab may be expected in alkaline soils, while some other diseases are more common in acid soils. In some of more important potato producing areas scab is kept under control by plowing under green manure crops, but that practice cannot be followed in Box Butte county due to the limited rainfall, and hence we are compelled to resort to crop rotation and seed treatment to control potato scab.

"The department of agricultural botany recommends the following treatment for potato diseases:

"Formaldehyde
 "Pour one pint of formalin (37-40 per cent formaldehyde) into 30 gallons of water in a barrel or tank. Soak potatoes in this solution for two hours. Spread the potatoes out on a clean canvass or floor to dry. When dry, the potatoes should be cut and placed in sacks which have been disinfected. Care should be taken to see that the formalin is proper

strength and that the solution is made according to directions. This solution is not poisonous. Recent experiments indicate that the time of treatment may be reduced, though such reduction is not yet recommended.

Corrosive Sublimate
 "Dissolve four ounces of corrosive sublimate in two gallons of hot water, add enough water to make thirty gallons. Potatoes before being cut are to be soaked in this solution for one half hour. This can be done in any wooden vessel, such as a barrel or tank. Corrosive sublimate should not be used in metal containers. Spread the treated potatoes out on a clean floor to dry. When dry, the potatoes should be cut and placed in sacks which have been disinfected. Precaution: Corrosive sublimate is very poisonous and care should be exercised in its use, treated potatoes must never be eaten nor fed to stock.

"In irrigated sections where rhizoctonia is an important factor the corrosive sublimate method is recommended, but in Box Butte county the formalin treatment may be expected to give equally good results.

"Further information may be had from the county agricultural agent. Demonstrations will be given where desired."

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CHADRON NORMAL

The Chadron normal orchestra gave a concert at the Pace theater Friday evening, April 19. It was received with great enthusiasm by a full house. The class in public school music methods have been writing original melodies for verses assigned them and harmonizing them. The model school is working on their commencement program.

There were several people from the normal school in the cast of the play "All of a Sudden Peggy," given under the auspices of the Woman's club for the benefit of the Red Cross Monday night. Those from the normal in the cast were: Miss Peterson, George Costly and Prof. Clark. Miss Cowan coached the players, assisted by Miss Pearson, of the high school, and Miss Paine, of the normal school.

The Zeta Alpha club are selling tickets for a "Margaret Fisher" picture at the Rex Friday night. The proceeds go to the French orphan fund. Besides the pictures there will be music by the Zeta Alpha orchestra, a vocal solo by Gladys Bailey and a reading by Lucile Scott.

Earl Sly, a former student of the normal, arrived home Sunday from Camp Funston on a ten-day furlough.

At the regular meeting of the Y. M. C. A. Thursday, Jean Bligh played the prelude, Ursula Miller gave a vocal solo and Miss Clark spoke on "The Lesson of the Hour."

On Wednesday of last week during the chapel period a very clever burlesque of the normal orchestra was given by some of the students.

C. Gordon Beck and family are visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Beck, this week. Mr. Beck has just completed his course in the officers' training camp at Funston, graduating as second high man out of his company of 200 people. Peruvians will hear with pride that he is also one of the ten men highest in rank in the whole training camp.