

Random Shots

There is one young lady in Alliance who has passed the twenty-year mark without knowing what it means to stand under a mistletoe.

Some folks lead uneventful lives.

This is a world of misunderstandings. We are all too much inclined to add up two and two and make it six or eight, when it comes to the little personal things.—Scot. abluft Star-Herald.

If it weren't for the last clause of that sentence, one Alliance editor might be inclined to take offense.

The old-fashioned serving girl is coming back, they assure us, and soon it will be possible to hire a maid-of-all-work for \$7 a week. There are boatloads of Scandinavian, Irish and Italian girls now on the way.

Won't it be fine when, for the measly sum of a dollar a day, a girl can be secured who will cook, sweep, mind the baby, wash dishes and darn socks in her spare time?

Of course, we'll have to put up with hair in the custard pie, bum cooking and other evils, but think of the money that will be saved.

The prospect ought to encourage any bachelor who gets hooked during leap year.

We never did like hair in custard pie—unless it was a blond hair.

You're more likely to notice the brunette kind.

Another example of the way in which capital grinds down labor is seen in the new regulations adopted by the Pennsylvania railroad concerning language of brakemen.

Cusswords are forbidden from now on. Further than that, the railroad lists the words that may be employed to relieve the feelings. And this is the list: Gosh, darn, fudge, shucks.

And yet they say railroad men have no provocation to strike.

The Omaha Bee has just discovered that Alliance is to have a packing plant.

Which is somewhat of a slap at the power of the press. Both Alliance newspapers have been shouting the news for several months.

Oh, well! It may be an indication that the Bee is sleeper than usual.

Anyhow, America was here a long time before Columbus discovered it.

Let's have some poetry. Here is a gem that was translated by Aurora Mardiganian from the original Armenian: It's a romantic love tale, of a sort somewhat different than some you may have read lately.

The Tree Toads

A tree toad loved a she toad
That lived up in a tree
She was a three-toad tree toad
But a two-toed toad was he.

The two-toed tree toad tried to win
The she toad's friendly nod:
For the two-toed tree toad loved the ground
That the three-toad tree toad trod.

But vainly the two-toed tree toad tried—
He couldn't please her whim;
In her tree toad bow
With her V-toe power
The she toad vetoed him.

—Gleaned.

More heart-throb stuff: A Louisville, Ky., dispatch states that 120,000 gallons of whiskey, valued at over six million dollars, is on its way to the seaboard.

Even if it were to come through Alliance, there would be no use hoping. Each car is protected by an armed guard of secret service men. The secret service will soon be flooded with new applications.

The Germans get it. And yet many folks risked their lives to kill the Hun!

Why didn't the W. C. T. U. and the prohibition party tell us to wait and let our distillers win the war?

You may tell everything but your troubles to the census-taker. He has troubles of his own.

Whisky, like sympathy, may soon be found only in the dictionary.

Here's one you can get off on your worst enemy: A man was lynched down in one of the southern states (Rufe Jones didn't tell this story) and pinned on the lapel of his coat was a card on which the mourners read: "The deceased was a very bad citizen in some respects, and a d—t sight worse in others."

This story reminds us, somehow, of a dinner we once ate in a restaurant in Phillips, Nebraska.

What a blessing is the ability to forget.

Phillips has no restaurant now. There's a reason.

Once we sniffed at statistics. We still sniff occasionally. But it cheers us up to know that there are now seventy thousand centenarians in the United States.

Two months, three weeks, three days.

Eighty-four days—time for a revolution in Mexico.

Do you wonder that we feel Chile?

There's a lot of joy in mathematics, if you are loose enough to enjoy that science. For instance, in eighty-four days there are 2,016 hours. Again, in 2,016 hours there are 120,960 minutes. And in 120,960 minutes there are 7,257,600 seconds.

And every second, somewhere, a man dies.

We should fret.

But the doctor said he couldn't live.

—The Rocky Mountain News of December 30 carried the story of the purchase of a large farm near Colorado Springs by William Milliken and two sons. Mr. Milliken at one time was a resident of Alliance, and is well known here. He invested his savings in land near McGrew, and the profits from this investment enabled him to handle the Colorado Springs proposition. The reported consideration was \$125,000.

—We pay cash for second-hand suits and overcoats. The 164 Cleaners and Tailors. Our phone is our name. 213 Box Butte ave.

—Rough Dry, 8c per pound. Alliance Steam Laundry.

—Art Bald was down from Alliance to visit the home folks and went on to Central City on Monday to visit there. He says that the Home Builders' organization there have sold \$60,000 worth of stock and plan to build about three hundred houses the coming season. The new packing industry at an early date will add that many families and they think they have a population of 12,000 in sight within the next five years, the railroad shops budget having been approved for an investment of \$300,000 the coming year. This plum was desired by other western towns, who made a good scrap for it, but it appears that Alliance has won out. Last year the Burlington bought back a right of way to Casper that they had once before owned and allowed to lapse, and it appears that the prospects of the oil industry will make expansion west and north a necessity. The Thomas-Bald company have two surface oil wells that are yielding about ten barrels each per day, and they think they have got into a good field on the ground floor. Art is not now engaged in the law business more than to take care of the business of his own and a few other companies, but considers it a good field for general practice, and may devote himself thereto somewhat later.—Aurora Register.

—Vitality borrowed from the eyes in early age will bankrupt the vision in later life. See Bauman and See Better.

—Black double-breasted ulster, extra heavy, for sale, size 42. Call 164 Cleaners & Tailors, 213 Box Butte Ave.

—The thermometers, a part of the equipment to be used in connection with the wire weather service that Secretary Jones of the Commercial club has had restored, arrived Tuesday morning and are installed at the city's power plant. There isn't much work to taking the temperature for the government records, but it has to be done every day. The instruments include one maximum and one minimum thermometer, and one of the city's employees will keep the records. City Manager Smith suggests that Rufe Jones take a little walk out to the power house at midnight each day and in the interest of science and Box Butte county keep an additional record. We'll pass it on to Rufe the next time we see him.

—Rough Dry, 8c per pound. Alliance Steam Laundry.

—H. Hirst on December 31 opened the Fourth Street Market in the old Eagle block. He had advertised extensively under the name of the "Kash-Karry" and a short time before the date set for the opening discovered that this name was registered in the patent office by a chain of stores in the east and that he could not legally use it. Mr. Hirst has had a number of years' experience in the business in Missouri, and is opening his store here with an entirely new stock. His advertisement, which appears in a former issue, says that he guarantees to meet any mail-order competition, and this means that he will have to make some attractive prices. The grocery will be conducted on the "self-serve plan," the customer waiting on himself.

—Do not measure eye comforts by dollars. Say, "I want my eyes properly fitted"; then See Bauman and See Better.

RECRUITING OFFICE BREAKS ALL RECORDS

Men in Charge at Alliance Enroll a Total of 161 Men Since Office Opened in April

The Alliance recruiting office has been doing some real, honest-to-gosh recruitin' in its nine months of existence. The military authorities had considered doing away with the Alliance station, but the men in charge, Sergeants Farrell and Henry T. Ryan, convinced them that it was worth continuing, and the figures justify them. These two men have been making hay at a rapid rate, and we hear that a prospect is lost if he stops to listen. One indication that these two men are genuine spellbinders may be seen in the fact that both of them have been married since they arrived in the city.

The year 1919 has been one of the most successful in the history of the Alliance recruiting office. Since the opening of the office in April there have been 161 examinations made in the Alliance office. Of these 104 men were accepted. Two-thirds of the enlistments were for a period of three years.

Enlistments at the Alliance office when compared with the other offices in the district of Iowa and Nebraska have been exceptionally high. The record of the local office exceeds the sum total of the offices at Creston, Ia., Hastings, Neb., and Norfolk, Neb.

For the past three months the Alliance office has doubled the number of men enlisted in Lincoln. Of the 104 men enlisted here thirty-seven were sent to attend the government schools, some of them taking courses in the electrical line, gas engines or the clerical course. Of the remaining number twenty-five were sent overseas with the American forces in France and Germany. There were six men who decided to winter in sunny Panama, two who desired service in the Philippine Islands and one man is doing the hula-hula in Hawaii.

This record is correct and may be seen upon application at the office at 101 Box Butte avenue. These figures, together with the splendid manner in which the office is conducted by the local recruiting officers is quite sufficient to substantiate the fact that the office here is "doing business."

—Mrs. Thomas Kelley entertained at an 8 o'clock dinner New Year's evening, there being present Mr. and Mrs. Lape, Clifford Sward, Miss Meta Koester, Glen Wilt and Miss Chloe Richards. An elaborate dinner was served after which they had a musical program.

—John Gill, who has been held in the county jail for some weeks on a charge of forging checks on M. Nolan & Co., will be taken to Rushville some time this week, where he will be sentenced by Judge Westover.

—The name of the new night watch, who will fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Calvin Cox, is Albert Roland, who has been on the job since the first of the month.

—Wiley Taylor, a brother of Chief of Police Nova E. Taylor, is in the city visiting his brother. He comes from the chief's home town, Milan, Mo., and expects to remain here for several weeks. The chief's brother served in France almost long enough to get three gold service stripes, but was discharged last March, a few weeks before completing eighteen months of foreign service.

SECRETARY DANIELS URGES U. S. HELP NAVAL MILITIA

Federal aid for the rehabilitation and maintenance of state naval militia organizations, which lost their identity during the war, has been recommended by Secretary of the Navy Daniels. He urges that congress act immediately.

The naval militia was superseded by the national naval volunteers which, in turn, were transferred to the naval reserve force. The act providing for this transfer had the effect of repealing the permanent character of the appropriation provided in 1914 for supplying arms and equipment to the militia organizations.

Some of the states are reviving the naval militia, but there is no money with which the navy department can assist them. The secretary's recommendation is expected to give encouragement to these states and result in a bill providing the funds.

She (refused a new hat): "I cook and cook for you and what do I get? Nothing!"

He: "You're lucky. I always get indigestion."—London Opinion.

A summer girl has many engagements, but the telephone girl gets the most rings.

When a bachelor meets the right girl he is apt to discover that he is the wrong man.

Some people are always complaining about their poverty who are rich without knowing it.

When a man says he "means business" it will depend on whether he has any business in him.

Never eat pie with a knife. It's all right to eat pie with cheese, but knives should be eaten alone.

WORLD'S BIGGEST NITRATE PLANT

By GARRET SMITH.

Lifting the ban of war secrecy has just now brought to light for the first time one of the most stupendous feats of construction in history—the planning and building in less than one year of the largest ammonium nitrate plant in the world and of a city around it for the housing of its 25,000 workmen and their families. At the same time it revealed one of the chief reasons why Germany suddenly surrendered a year ago. The German high command knew that the United States was ready at Muscle Shoals, Alabama, to manufacture 13 per cent of all the high explosives needed by all the Allied armies on all fronts in the expected drive of the following spring.

The first person on construction work reached Muscle Shoals on November 20, 1917. On February 16, 1918, ground was first broken for a permanent plant building. On October 26, 1918, eight months and eight days later, the manufacturing plant had begun the production of ammonium nitrate.

When America entered the world war in April, 1917, she had no means of producing the enormous quantities of high explosives necessary to provide the huge army she planned to raise. The very fact that our industries were already worked to capacity providing ammunition to the allies seemed to make further production for our own use impossible.

Fertilizer Process Turned to War Use.

At this juncture the Ordnance Department turned to cyanamid, a commercial fertilizer, which had for some years been produced successfully at Niagara Falls, by a process the American rights of which were obtained in 1907 from Germany by Frank Sherman Washburn, head of the American Cyanamid Company.

By this process cyanamid was produced by extracting nitrogen from the air and combining it with calcium obtained from limestone rock and carbon from coke. By putting cyanamid through three more processes both ammonia and nitric acid can be extracted from it and combined into the explosive, ammonium nitrate. Mr. Washburn was invited to present plans and estimates for the construction in the shortest possible time of an ammonium nitrate plant at Muscle Shoals, Alabama, and a contract between his company and the United States was entered into under date of November 16, 1917.

To have general supervision of planning and carrying out the work an organization known as the Air Nitrates Corporation was formed to act as agent of the Ordnance Department. This corporation provided the general designs, supervised all the work and operated the camp, the town and the plant. It also installed all equipment in the chemical plant. The various other sections of the work were subject to organizations that were specialists in the directions in which they were asked to help.

New City Built From the Ground.

It was necessary to build a new town to house the laborers. For this job Westinghouse Church Kerr Company was called in as contractor. This company also built the buildings of the chemical plant. Within four months 12,000 workmen had been assembled and a city capable of accommodating 25,000 inhabitants had been completed, with lodging, restaurants, stores, offices, police headquarters, schools, fire departments, hospitals, motion picture theaters, electric light and sewerage systems.

The construction of the plant proper was begun on February 16, 1918. Just eight months and eight days later the big plant began a steady output of ammonium nitrate. The plant contains 113 permanent buildings, with a roof area of over 26 acres.

To provide the electric current it was necessary to build a steam power electric plant, for it would have taken three years or more to complete the dam and hydro-electric station now under way. This plant, built by the J. G. White Corporation, is one of the largest steam plants for developing electrical energy in the world.

The output of the plant is 300 tons of ammonium nitrate a day, and this can be produced at Muscle Shoals at a cost less than one-half the standard fixed price paid by the Government for ammonium nitrate produced by other methods and one-fourth to one-fifth the cost of other high explosives of equal strength. Compared with the older process of making ammonium nitrate, the savings made by this plant would have paid the \$90,000,000 cost of the entire plant in about one and one-half years of operation.

As a military weapon it is one of the wisest and most economical expenditures that the Ordnance Department has undertaken. As an agent in stopping the war and as a future protection to the country its value is incalculable.

FOUR MILLION WOMEN TO BE IN THRIFT FIGHT

It is expected that 4,000,000 women will take part in the big campaign which the treasury department intends to inaugurate on January 1, to reduce the cost of living. The purpose of this movement will be to induce women to keep careful accounts of their daily expenditures so that they may discover what items may be eliminated. The campaign will continue until April 1.

The discharged soldier hastened gladly home to see his wife. He found her polishing the kitchen stove and slipped quietly up and put his arms around her.

"Two quarts of milk and a pint of cream tomorrow," she said without looking up.—American Legion Weekly.

The cook's assistant was stirring the big pot of stew for the company when he discovered a rat in it.

"Hey! There's a big rat in the soup," he yelled.

The cook stopped whistling long enough to reply: "Take the damn thing out; he don't belong there."—American Legion Weekly.

A Swede came down from the woods and, entering a saloon, called for a drink of good old squirrel whisky. Said the bartender:

"We're all out of squirrel whisky, but we've got some good Old Crow." "Yudas Priest!" exclaimed the Swede, "I no want to fly, I just want to hop around a little."

Two Irishmen prepared for a duel. "O'm twict as large as he is, an' OI should stand twict as far away," protested one.

"Aisy, now," admonished his second, and stepping up with a piece of chalk, he drew two lines down the opponent's coat about as far apart as his own man was wide.

"There, now, fire away, and remember any hits outside these loines don't count."—American Legion Weekly.

To have friends, one must be friendly.

The Importance of Good Silver

Just as good cooking adds relish to the meal, good silver adds beauty to the table. It is indispensable when entertaining, and should be equally so when the family dines alone.

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