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The Alliance Herald



BURR PRINTING CO., Owners

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The American civil liberties union is the name of the newest organization to assist in filling the editorial wastebaskets of the land. The union is now engaged in ruining tons of perfectly good white paper, that might be used for the dissemination of news and information, in an attack on the department of justice and a veiled defense of the "reds" who have been deported. The center of the attack is, of course, A. Mitchell Palmer, attorney general, and the department of justice. The civil liberties bunch confines its publicity to instances where aliens were imprisoned wrongfully and treated cruelly. It is possible, of course, that in a country-wide campaign against anarchy, some mistakes were made. It is possible that, now and then, some police officer or department agent lost his head and didn't show that quality of mercy for which police departments the world over are famed. The civil liberties union doesn't put up any howl about cruelty in penal institutions; it has nothing to say about miscarriages of justice anywhere else. Only when the poor "reds" are maltreated is there cause for complaint. There are plenty of cases nearer home where a real civil liberties union might bring about some needed reforms, but somehow we can't manage to find much sympathy for abused alien radicals. We're getting rather tired over the splitting of hairs where un-Americanism is concerned. What difference does it make whether some

man deported was a member of the federated union of Russian workers, the communist party, or an anarchist? If he was lined up with any of them, he should have been sent to some other place. There isn't any choice between rotten eggs. It is better that five thousand aliens be deported wrongfully than that one "red" remain. Somehow, we have an idea that America should stand first for Americans, and someone ought to impress on these alien brothers that they are here by sufferance, and that it would be just as well if they should wait until they are naturalized before spouting about "their rights."

Warren G. Harding, the republican nominee for the presidency, fulfills the requirements for a compromise candidate. He has never been a commanding figure in politics, and therefore is more or less of an unknown quantity. The trouble with the three leading candidates was that they were too well known. Leonard Wood would, in all probability, have received the nomination had it not been for the campaign expenditure disclosures. These same disclosures also hurt Lowden's chances. Johnson, because of his stand on the league of nations and radical views on other subjects of political importance, was distasteful to most of the delegates, including a number who were pledged to him by the votes of their states. Senator Harding is known as a standpatter. He has followed the voice of the party in all things. He favored the peace treaty with reasonable reservations.

The republican ticket, as a whole, is a disappointment to union labor. Governor Coolidge first came into prominence through his activities in the Boston policemen's strike, which he handled admirably from the point of view of the public, but he won thereby the enmity of union labor. Senator Harding's attitude on the labor question is not known—indeed, his attitude on most questions is unknown—but his supporters say that when the time comes, the public shall be told of the way he gets along with the workmen in his own factories, which ought to be a reasonably fair test.

Say what you will, there is a dislike, almost a distaste, for military candidates. Despite his splendid civil administration record, and despite the fact that he was not a West Pointer, nor a prominent war figure, Leonard Wood lost ground because of his uniform. General Pershing didn't get to first base in his own (adopted for the occasion) state. It's unusual when the voters won't rally when the flag is waved, especially at the close of a great war, and may be explained by the fact that some many of the voters were in that war, and don't fancy that style of government.

Alliance citizens who have been inclined to look on clean-up campaigns in the light of a joke, so far as actually cleaning up was concerned, are due for a great shock, if they haven't already received it. City Physician Hand isn't putting on his campaign to oblige a newspaper friend by furnishing a basis for securing advertising. He's putting it on to make the town not only slightly, but sanitary. He knows the law fairly thoroughly, and is prepared to lay it down on occasions. Incidentally, he interprets it most strictly, and the average business man will find, on inquiry or sooner than that, that he has transgressed in some way. It comes, as we say, with considerable of a shock, but Alliance ought to be a cleaner city when the city physician and his aide-de-camp get over the ground. Better begin to mop up the back yard and paint out the flyspecks before you are told to tell it to the judge. This isn't a make-believe campaign. It will come hard after several years laxness in enforcing the regulations, but it ought to make Alliance a City Sanitary, and likewise a City Beautiful.

There is almost civil war at Chadron, where the struggle between the city manager and the mayor has lined the town up into two factions, each intent on victory. The mayor is unfortunate in that the council is with the city manager, but the law appears to be slightly in his favor, which fact seems to hearten him wonderfully. At a recent meeting the council voted down each proposal made by the mayor with a clocklike regularity, and overruled his every objection. In short, the proceedings remind one very much of a democratic governor and a republican legislature. The mayor's adherents have finally dragged the matter into court by means of an injunction suit. The city manager idea is fine, no doubt, but in cities like Alliance, the safest way to work it is to make the mayor the city manager. Otherwise, there'll be war, judging from the experience of the two cities nearest home. Whenever too much power is conferred in the name of efficiency, either by a city ordinance, state legislature or congress, there's always a good deal of competition to see who can exercise the most of it.

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