

The Alliance Herald

Twice a Week—Tuesday and Friday

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ALLIANCE, BOX BUTTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1920

No. 74

ANOTHER CASE OF NO QUORUM

For the Fifth Time in Three Months the City Council Fails to Meet

For the fifth time in three months, the city council has been compelled to postpone a regular or called meeting because not enough members turned out to make a legal quorum. Under the rules, there must be six of the eight councilmen present or the meeting cannot start. Mayor Rodgers last Tuesday evening did his best to get the councilmen out, but even with the assistance of the city clerk and the chief of police wasn't able to make the bill.

Undaunted, however, Mayor Rodgers has called another meeting for this evening. A councilman or two who were out of town have returned, and it is reasonably probable that the legal number may be gathered together long enough to call the roll. Once that is done, business can proceed.

Tuesday a nice night for a council meeting, too. The weather was favorable. Perhaps it was too favorable. At 9 o'clock, with only five members on deck, the recall was sounded and the retreat began. It was the regularly scheduled August meeting. There were a raft of bills to be allowed, two or three ordinances were up for consideration, and a bunch of special business was due to come up, but nearly half of the councilmen remained away.

If a quorum had been present, several important matters might have been disposed of. Take the telephone franchise, which has been hanging fire for about two years. E. K. Haldeman of Grand Island, district commercial manager of the Nebraska Telephone company, came down prepared to have the agony over. From hints that he dropped, he was prepared to make practically every concession the council might desire. But, as it turned out, he had a nice trip, all for nothing. The mayor couldn't even guarantee him that he would be able to get a quorum out the next night, or any night this week, for that matter.

This telephone franchise has been a regular Jonah. It expired during the administration of Mayor P. E. Romig, away back in 1918. The company didn't rush about getting a new one through, and about the time they were ready with a proposed draft, Romig's term expired. This delayed matters some months. By the time a successor had qualified, the influenza epidemic hit Alliance, and the city officials were busy, along with every other citizen, in caring for the sick. Along in the spring of 1919, the company again brought up the question, but the council was busy in a mass of paving and storm sewer data, and the company felt there really wasn't much need of hurry. By the time it had operated for a year without a franchise, however, the Nebraska Telephone company got on the job in earnest. An ordinance was drafted and given to the council for approval.

Then the real fun began. The council appointed City Attorney Metz and H. A. Johnston to draft a substitute, and they framed a franchise that has kept three or four telephone company officials on the anxious seat ever since. No less than half a dozen times have officials of the company come to Alliance, either to meet the cold shoulder or to argue to deaf ears. And now, when the company is ready to make almost any concession in order to gain a franchise that the council is ready to grant, when the tracks are fairly well greased for its passage and everything is logey, it's impossible to get out a quorum.

Mayor Rodgers and several of the council members who have been coming out regularly are beginning to feel peevish. Some of them suggested that councilmen who couldn't attend the regular meetings might be given hints that they didn't have to hang on to the jobs and that resignations had been accepted.

The telephone franchise wasn't the only interesting matter that would have come up at the Tuesday evening meeting. J. M. Weaver, who represents a bunch of irate east siders, was on deck with a petition that was almost a yard long. It was signed by east side residents who are weary of waiting for water and other improvements that have been slow in coming. Mr. Weaver once told the council that this section of the city would up and withdraw from the corporation unless some head was given to their pleas, and he had the petition with him to show that he wasn't alone in this attitude.

This petition, dated August 10, reads as follows: "We, the undersigned residents of Belmont and Dun-

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Alliance and vicinity: Fair and Saturday; warmer Saturday; west and north portion tonight.

ask to have an injunction filed. City of Alliance to prevent the levying taxes on us, as we do belong to the city, having been taken in unconstitutionally, costs of such action to be paid jointly by us."

There are over fifty signatures to the petition. Mr. Weaver had intended to read this to the council and give them an opportunity to hand out a few definite assurances before placing it in the hands of the proper authorities.

However, all these things will come up at some future meeting when luck is with the mayor and the faithful few.

YOUTHFUL ROMEOS ARE DISCOVERED

The unhappy plight of Mr. Bill Shakespeare's engineer, who was "hoist with his own petard," is brought to mind this week in the embarrassing situation in which at least two employees of the local express company have found themselves. In this instance a crate of peaches and some affectionate missives, together with another employee of the company, furnished the materials for a Romance Gone Wrong.

It seems that some fifty Campfire girls are camping at Belmont. It further appears that two of these express handlers don't exactly dislike some of these same Campfire girls. Monday morning the fond father of some of these girls decided to spring a little surprise on the campers, so he brought into the express office some crates of peaches.

This was an opportunity for the Romeos. They couldn't go to Belmont, and they couldn't get anywhere if they did go, what with four or five fierce guardians of the fire on the job. The crate of peaches gave them an idea. With pencils poised, they toiled for half an hour—probably on the company's time—and wrote letters to a couple of the Campfire queens. These they sealed in envelopes and jarring of a board or two, concealed them in the crate of peaches.

So far, all was well. They forgot, however, what they should have remembered. Express handlers don't deal quite as gently with the stuff in their care as do the baggage smashers, but they don't use gloves all the time. Some other employees were detailed to put the crates on the vanishes cars. And they delivered the goods in a characteristic manner. And this same crate of peaches was smashed to smithereens. Right on top of the wreckage were two letters.

Their fellow employees broke the sacred seal and read the screeds. After that, they were too good to keep. Other employees at the express office were let in on the secret. The girls clerks were the worst, they tell us.

If your expressman, when you look at him steadily for half a minute, should blush clear behind the ears, you can draw your own conclusions. Incidentally, we understand that there are two express employees who now handle every package as though it contained dynamite. It's too bad that more of them weren't interested in the Campfire girls.

"MOLLIE AND I" AT IMPERIAL TONIGHT

The feature at the Imperial tonight is "Mollie and I," in which Shirley Mason, the youthful star, takes the leading part. The story is one which the press agents say appeals to husbands, wives and sweethearts, with a different thrill for each. A Billy West comedy and the latest current events complete an enjoyable program.

A Bill Hart photoplay, "The Bandit and the Preacher," is the Saturday attraction, and it is one of the most interesting of the Hart production. Hart's sweetheart, Rhea Mitchell, is a dance hall girl. The mannerisms and traits of the new Preacher, Robert Edeson, attract her, though at first she ridicules him. Later, however, through his teachings, she reforms, and their association gives birth to love for each other, resulting in their marriage. The bandit, who is also in love with her, nevertheless becomes the Preacher's friend, and in a series of thrilling incidents protects his wife through some very trying situations.

Silk and Cotton Hosiery at 20% discount at Highland-Holloway Co.

WIFE WANTED TO BUY A \$100 COAT

One Thing Led to Another, and Lillo O'Neal, Colored, Let Her Have It

Lillo O'Neal, colored, was given the minimum fine of \$5 and costs by Judge Tash in county court Tuesday afternoon when he pleaded guilty to striking his wife, Mrs. May O'Neal, on the jaw, jarring loose "a tooth," as well as inflicting a bruise or two. After talking the matter over with the warring couple, the judge was convinced that it was only a slight domestic tiff, and on O'Neal's promise to refrain from emphasizing his complaints in the future, the culprit was let off with light punishment.

Complaint was entered by Mrs. May on Tuesday morning, the chief charge being that her husband had "knocked out a tooth." She admitted that it was a rotten tooth, and probably should have come out anyway, but she objected to his careless methods of dentistry. Tuesday afternoon Lillo, looking sheepish, accompanied the sheriff into the court room. The complaint was read to him, and the judge asked him to plead guilty or not guilty. And in this wise Lillo made his plea:

"Judge, I've a wukkin foh de railroad. I gets \$160 a month and we pay \$25 a month foh rent, and about forty dollars foh groceries. It takes about all the money I gets to pay the bills. She's been wantin' to buy a hundred dollar coat for de las' three weeks. She keeps talkin' about it all de time. We can't afford it, and I done tole her so. We been a-argy-fying about it, but I couldn't convince her."

Monday night, O'Neal came home after a hard day's work. He made the error, so he told the court, of inquiring about supper. Something in his tone angered his wife. She showed her resentment in a characteristic way, and "I slapped her and broke that ole rotten tooth out," O'Neal concluded.

At this juncture P. E. Romig, attorney, appeared and informed the court that he was present as O'Neal's representative. The judge informed him that he was a trifle late, inasmuch as his client has just pleaded guilty.

Whereupon, after discussing the matter with husband and wife, the judge decided to let the defendant off with a light fine, Lillo promising faithfully to confine his argument to mere words. The judge delivered a lecture on the best way to preserve domestic peace, and the couple left the hall of justice arm in arm.

WANTS NEIGHBOR PUT UNDER A PEACE BOND

Frank Matousek, who lives some forty-two miles northwest of Alliance, Tuesday afternoon swore out a complaint against a neighbor, Albert Hovorka, charging him with using threatening language, and asking that he be placed under bonds to keep the peace.

Matousek has a homestead up near the edge of the county. His nearest neighbor is Hovorka. In fact, Hovorka's land practically surrounds the Matousek plantation. In order to get to Alliance, it is necessary for Matousek to cross this land. There are no established roads in that part of the county, and this is the best and only thoroughfare.

Several times during the past few weeks, Mr. Matousek says, Hovorka has intercepted him while he was driving across the latter's land, and has used language unbecoming a good neighbor. On Tuesday, when Mr. Matousek was bringing a small daughter to Alliance for medical treatment, the complaint alleges that Hovorka met them at a gate, held them up for some time, abusing Matousek and frightening the little girl who is afflicted with infantile paralysis.

Mr. Hovorka will be brought into county court and Judge Tash will, if the circumstances warrant, take appropriate action.

CUSTER COUNTY FAIR A BIG ONE

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, August 25-26-27 are the dates of the fair at Broken Bow, and it's a big one. Grand racing events. Splendid free open air attractions. The Patterson-Kline Show, with a special train of twenty cars will be a big feature. A mammoth display of fireworks every night. This will be the best county fair in Nebraska. Every day will be a Big One, and it's too good to miss.

ERNEST CHARLES SENT BACK TO K. C.

Man Arrested on Drunkenness Charge Turned Out to Be a Plain Nut

Ernest Charles Henry Stevens, alias Lemuel Johnson, alias Franklin Gerard Jackson, alias any other name that happens to come into his head, is again occupying apartments at the city bastille. Ernest Charles was picked up by a special Burlington officer last Tuesday morning. He was discovered sleeping sweetly somewhere on the right-of-way. At the city jail, his ailment was diagnosed by the city physician as an over indulgence in lemon extract and Jamaica ginger, but it seems that this diagnosis was all too kind.

Friday morning Chief of Police Reed made arrangements to return Mr. Stevens to Kansas City, procuring from the Burlington a charity pass for that purpose. Stevens will be placed in charge of a conductor and passed along the line until he is handed back to the Greer labor agency, perhaps, to have the insanity board hold a hearing on the case and commit him to a state institution, but such a procedure would set the county back several hundred dollars, to say nothing of the expense of keeping him in the hospital, which is also charged to the county in such cases.

It is perfectly true that Ernest Charles has been indulging in stimulants—any kind that has a kick. While employed at the Lee McFall ranch, east of Alliance, he got on several gorgeous spree. It is a habit with him. Since his arrest he has been entertaining the city hall occupants. He sings "Sweet Marie," in a way that brings tears to the eyes.

Ernest Charles, bright and early Thursday morning, had a lucid interval. He spoke to Chief Reed in a pleasant way, telling him that he had been drunk, but was then sober, and that if released he would leave town on the next rattler headed elsewhere. This line of talk sounded good to the chief, and the cell doors opened for Ernest Charles.

Once outside, however, Ernest Charles changed his mind. On second thought, the rods looked less inviting, and the city appealed to him. He was hungry, and so he dropped in at the Mooney bakery. Here he purchased three jelly rolls, two jars of jam, a sackful of cookies, two loaves of bread, a pie or two and a few other things that would appeal to a hungry man. He wrote out a check for ten dollars on the Alliance National, received his change, and left. Then there came to him the thought that he needed a haircut and shave. He cashed another ten dollar check at the Nation barber shop, after having been given nearly everything on the card except a bath.

Ernest Charles next was traced to Roy Beckwith's establishment. Here he placed an order for a suit of clothes, thoughtfully ordering a second pair of trousers; he selected three silk shirts, a few neckties and some silk collars. Again he produced his handy checkbook—but this time he met with failure. They declined to honor it. He moved on—and the police were notified. They took him in tow about 4 o'clock.

At the jail he is pleasant enough. He suffers from all sorts of delusions the chief one being that he is being starved. Each visitor is told that he has been given no food and that the chief won't even come across with a match so he can smoke. One of these visitors, a girl reporter, was so touched by the recital of his sufferings that she went over to Harvey's restaurant and procured him a whopping big dinner and had just shoved the last plate between the bars when the chief appeared. Ernest Charles then acted as though he intended to throw the plates at his benefactress, and the girl reporter beat a hasty retreat.

He is under the impression that he has been robbed of a couple of drafts for a thousand dollars each, and blames two negroes. He says he was hit on the head by a coupling pin, and exhibits some bruises. He appears to be in pretty bad physical condition, and admits that booze did the damage. Chief Reed's suggestion that he was a dope fend as well brought forth an indignant denial.

H. E. GANTZ CHOSEN TO FILL VACANCY

Attorney H. E. Gantz was selected as a member of the board of directors of the Alliance chamber of commerce, at a special meeting held Wednesday evening. Mr. Gantz will

HARD JOLT FROM CENSUS BUREAU

District Supervisor Sends in "Unofficial" Information Concerning Alliance Recount

Like a clap of thunder from a clear sky, a letter arrived at the chamber of commerce office Thursday morning which fairly took away Secretary Guthrie's breath. The secretary has been working night and day organizing the city into districts and securing volunteers to take a census recount. Two weeks ago the count was completed, showing nearly seven hundred more citizens than the government enumeration gave us credit for. Mr. Guthrie wired to Washington to get details concerning the proper procedure to get the recount officially recognized, and rushed up the typing of the list to send in to headquarters. Everything looked rosy, and everyone concerned was feeling cheerful over a difficult job well done.

ROTARY CLUB TALKS OF CITY COMMISSION

The Rotary club, at its regular weekly meeting at the Alliance hotel Wednesday evening, again discussed the city commission form of government, and by unanimous vote the members recorded themselves in favor of the five-commissioner plan. Under the statute, a city of this class adopting the commission form is given two alternative plans. Under one, three commissioners are elected, one of whom is made mayor. Under this plan the commissioners each draw a salary somewhere near commensurate with the work they do.

Under the five-commissioner plan, the salaries of the commissioners are nominal, and a city manager is chosen. The Rotary club, which does not pretend to speak for the entire city, will sponsor the latter plan, and presumably will see to it that it is put up to the voters.

City Attorney Metz, president of the club, explained the two plans to the membership. There were some who expressed themselves in favor of having but three commissioners, provided the city manager could be had under this form.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MAKE GOOD RECORD

The audit of the books of the city treasurer and city clerk, filed this week, emphasizes the fact that the past year has been a successful one, from the standpoint of the mayor and city council, who have been kept busy trying to make both ends meet. They met with hard luck at the first of the year, for the city's property valuation failed to come up to the amount estimated by nearly a quarter of a million dollars, which cut down revenue from taxation considerably.

The audit, which was made by Wiggins & Babcock of Lincoln, discloses the fact that for the second time in years and years, the council ends the year with a balance on hand. There was \$300.22 left over after all expenses were paid, which amount has been transferred to the general fund. This is over \$50,000 less than two years ago, when it was necessary to float bonds to wipe out the deficit left at the close of the fiscal year.

The only other time when this sort of a record was made was in 1913 and 1914, during a previous incumbency of Mayor Rodgers. At the time Mr. Rodgers entered upon his duties in 1913, the council was faced with a deficit of over \$21,000. At the close of the administration, twenty-three months later, there was a balance of \$7,500 to the good.

ALLIANCE BRIEFS

Bill Reed, a young man employed on the Rice ranch, was severely injured Monday when his horse became frightened and ran away. Mr. Reed was driving a rake, and when the horses ran they dragged him. The rake ran over him lacerating his right cheek. He was brought to Alliance and Dr. Hersman took several stitches to close the wound.

Suit was filed in county court Tuesday afternoon by Dr. Everett B. O'Keefe against Simon Spry to collect the sum of \$120 for a certain amount of dental surgery. Hearing has been set for 10 a. m. on August 18.

Burlington section hands working on the tracks between Ashby and Hyannis Tuesday morning came upon a body from which the head had been severed, by a freight train. A letter in the clothing was addressed to Clarence Conklin, and was from a sister in Des Moines, Ia., who has been notified. It is believed that Conklin had fallen from the train, on which he was borrowing a ride.

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Thursday morning, however, there arrived a letter from W. M. Stewart, assistant director, bringing the news that J. J. Tooley of Broken Bow, supervisor of the census for the Sixth Nebraska district, had been "unofficially" advised that the Alliance recount showed a gain of an even dozen. The bureau figures it all out neatly that if this is correct, a recount would not be worth the expense, inasmuch as the possible gain would amount to only a trifle more than one-fourth of one per cent.

Somewhere in the woodpile is a gentleman of color. Mr. Guthrie's original telegram to the director of the census gave actual facts and figures which, to anyone with an ounce of intelligence, would indicate that the gain shown by the recount was not twelve, but very close to six hundred. The bureau, however, overlooks this telegram and its definite statement and on the basis of the rumor that Mr. Tooley has forwarded, assumes that the chamber of commerce has decided to drop the matter.

Mr. Stewart's letter follows:

Gentlemen: Referring to your telegram of July 29 and to the Bureau's telegraphic reply of the same date, confirmed by letter of July 30.

The Bureau has been informed by Mr. J. J. Tooley, supervisor of census for the sixth district of Nebraska, that he has been unofficially advised that your special canvass of Alliance showed a total only 12 greater than the total officially enumerated in January. If this information is correct, the Bureau will not consider itself under any obligation to take further action in the matter, since the difference between your count and the official count would amount to only a trifle more than one-fourth of one per cent.

Since no reply has been received to the Bureau's telegram of July 29 and letter of July 30, it is assumed that you have decided to drop the matter. W. M. STEWART, Assistant Director.

Secretary Guthrie has sent telegrams to Senators Hitchcock and Norris, and to Congressman Kinkaid apprising them of the new developments and requesting their assistance. The lists were forwarded to Washington some days ago, and have probably been received by this time.

Under the procedure laid down by the department, a comparison of the names taken in the regular census and those taken in the recount will be made in the office of the district supervisor. If a comparison shows that the six hundred names are largely additional to those taken by the government enumerators, orders will be given to make a special enumeration of those who were missed. If the two lists show too many different names, the government will refuse to concede that the census was taken as of January 1, and the recount will not be recognized.

HAVELOCK TEAM TO PLAY HERE SUNDAY

The Alliance baseball team will meet the fast Havelock aggregation at the fair grounds next Sunday afternoon, and one of the best engagements of the season is expected. The Havelock nine holds the championship of the Lincoln city league to date, not a single defeat marring their record.

The Alliance team has been doing excellent work since the reorganization. It will cost a raft of money to bring the Havelock boys here, and it is up to the local fans to turn out in large enough numbers to prevent the possibility of a deficit. Save a four-bit piece for the game Sunday and turn out and enjoy yourself rooting for the home team.