

The Alliance Herald

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ALLIANCE READS HER TITLE CLEAR

The editor of the Bennett Sun, who is probably a pretty good man at heart, and kind to his family, is apparently subject to fits of temper. A week or so ago, Herald readers will recall that we saw some humor in Editor Hartley's remarks concerning fiendish vandals who had been operating in the vicinity of his town, doing such devilish things as untying horses, throwing tin cans on porches and the crown prince of all these ruffians broke the glass in the town's only thermometer. These "acts of vandalism" seemed to us to be mere childish pranks, and we gently kidded Mr. Hartley for getting so worked up over them. He retaliates by the following editorial utterance, which is nearly as humorous as the first one we commented upon. Our sole fear now is that if Mr. Hartley uses such extravagant language in describing the antics of a few practical jokers, he is likely to run out of phrases should anything really important happen, and with an excitable nature such as he possesses, it might prove fatal. Read what the Bennett editor thinks of this fair city:

The editor of the Alliance Herald speaks rather lightly concerning the "vandals" of Bennett as described in a recent issue of The Sun, which is not to be wondered at by those who have been reading newspaper accounts of the activities of that community the last year or so. Alliance will be remembered as that quiet municipality controlled mostly by the kind of coons that make a white man's life almost as safe as a bottle of Bill Bryan's liquid enemy would be on Jim Dahlman's operating table. It's open season the year round for the thugs of Alliance. In fact there has been some agitation of sending convicted murderers in the first degree to Alliance incognito to spend the rest of their days as a substitute for the electric chair, but the more humane of our lawmakers maintain that it would be more merciful to kill them outright. Truly the trials of a civilized world must appear trivial to the dwellers of the Modern Dante's Inferno.

THE IMPETUOUS REFORMER

The Herald has, from time to time, had a few words to say concerning the dangers of moving picture censorship, not alone because the bill which is under consideration by the legislature is a vicious one, but because censorship is wrong in principle. Among other things, we pointed out that a film which might pass muster in Arizona would not pass the Colorado censors, or that a picture which seemed highly moral to the Iowa board might be deleted when it hit Nebraska.

The most amusing instance of this sort happened right in our own legislature. Representative Webster undertook to make a hit with the "child welfare" enthusiasts, and so, at a hearing on the censorship bill, denounced in unmeasured terms a production now being shown in Omaha under the title of "Wild Oats". Mr. Webster grew quite oratorical when he criticised the advertising for the show, which announced separate shows for men and women. He read a sentence from one of these advertisements: "If you are too modest, don't come to this picture." Mr. Webster shouted: "What do you think of that?"

Then somebody told him. The entire committee had a long laugh at Mr. Webster's expense, and the wind was taken quite out of the reformer's sails. For they told him that "Wild Oats" was a government film, produced for the public health service and exhibited under its authority, and that the public welfare commission of Omaha had endorsed it.

It's fortunate for all concerned, perhaps, that the state senate has already taken a test vote on the movie censorship bill, and has gone on record as favoring national supervision for the film makers. Incidentally, this is another illustration of the value of a bicameral legislature. If there were only one house to pass upon these questions—if the senate were not at hand to hang a monkey wrench on the safety valve—there's no telling what idiotic laws might not be passed. There is enough ill-advised legislation now on the books, placed there by solons who have gone off half-cocked.

RESPONSIBILITY IN THE HOME

Scottsbluff, during the past summer, was visited by the Rev. Mr. Theodore Hansen, who organized a welfare committee very similar to the one in Alliance, which has been attempting to get the city council to put through a welfare ordinance. In Scottsbluff, as in this city, opposition to so drastic a measure has steadily grown, until the city council there has decided, apparently, to make it a campaign issue, for the matter will lay over until after election, when it will go through triumphantly or be decently interred. The Scottsbluff ordinance is practically the same as the one proposed for Alliance, and therefore the comment of the Star-Herald is appropriate:

Although there were rumors that the proposed "welfare ordinance" was to come before the special meeting of the city council on Tuesday evening, it failed to materialize and it is whispered that it may not be presented until after the April disturbance otherwise known as the city election. There is no question but that the proposed ordinance possesses many excellent features, and on the other hand there is little doubt that it also possesses certain features that will make it an immediate target for a referendum vote should the ordinance be passed as it is now drafted. The chief complaint is that certain of the clauses tend too much toward a soviet form of government in that all the parents would have to do would be to look after the danger and trouble of bringing a child into the world and then practically turn him over to the state for religious, ethical, and medical care. While it is too true that there are some children to whom such a fate would prove a blessing, it is also just as true that there are parents who believe that it is their privilege to raise the child themselves, free to decide as to his religious and physical needs. Betterment of the human race and of living conditions is naturally desired by all who have taken time to give the subject a thought. It is the best method by which we may obtain these ends wherein the problem lies. We wish to benefit the children and make each coming generation stronger and fitter, but in our endeavor to do this let us remember that too much self-centered zeal sometimes leads to intolerance, because in our earnestness we forget how "the other fellow" may

feel about it, and the forgetfulness of other people's rights and feelings is intolerance in the real analysis. Too drastic a measure would therefore really defeat the beneficial ends desired and for that reason the proposed ordinance should be given much careful study and consideration by those interested in its provisions before being presented for passage. Let us help the children in every way we can, but let us not in so doing be led by enthusiasm into the error of attempting to rob of its responsibilities that bulwark of this nation—the great American home.

THE RETORT COURTEOUS

In last Sunday's issue of one of the Omaha daily newspapers there appeared an advertisement that is worthy of especial note. The outstanding feature is a couple of clippings from papers in that same city. One of these bears the information that the associated retailers of the metropolis are roused because outside firms send representatives, who took their samples to the Hotel Fontenelle, notified many of the society women of the fact, and then proceeded to sell these women wearing apparel to the tune of \$10,000. The second clipping bears the same sad story, only in this instance it was a wholesale grocery house which sold directly to the consumers, the amount of the sales being about the same as in the first instance. There is no question, from the tone of the clippings, that the associated retailers are peeved because the wholesalers are poaching upon their preserves.

The body of this exceptional advertisement consists of a straight-from-the-shoulder letter from the president of an Omaha fire insurance company. He points out that the offending women, forty-four in number in the case of the groceries, are the wives of Omaha bankers, insurance men, grain dealers and wholesalers, but declares that not one of these women was the wife of a fire insurance man whose home office is located in Omaha. Then he proceeds to hand a package of the associated retailers, and these are the facts that he presents: Although the Nebraska company received over a million dollars in premiums last year, only one per cent of this total came from Omaha, although more money has been spent for advertising in Omaha than in the other twelve states in which the company does business. The retailers who are letting out the big howl about money for groceries and wearing apparel going out of Omaha permit outside men to write their insurance in a company whose home office is in New York or Hartford.

There is no double standard to loyalty. Any man who buys out of Alliance anything that can be purchased in the city is helping to cripple his own town, the place from which he expects to gain his livelihood. So much preaching has been done on that subject to the farmers and townspeople that sometimes the potent fact is overlooked that the merchants are equally guilty. The man who sends out of town for a sign; who buys his printing out of the city; who fancies that doctors in Omaha must be superior to Alliance doctors, because they live in a larger place; the woman who thinks that shoes or dresses are more stylish because they come from a metropolis—each of these is equally guilty in injuring the city in which he or she lives. The merchant who howls when a farmer buys a dress pattern from Montgomery-Ward has no kick coming if he buys his furnace from the same sort of a firm. There's only one way to build up a city, and that is real co-operation. Co-operation doesn't mean that while others are morally bound to patronize you, you may spend your money where your fancy dictates. If you do not know the meaning of loyalty, you'll have a hard time teaching it to others.

A COUNTY FAIR

Box Butte county will, in all probability, have a county fair this year, provided the farmers at their meeting at the court house tomorrow decide to go ahead with the proposition. Enough of them are enthusiastically in favor of it to insure that it will go through if they decide to tackle it.

County fairs are not the greatest drawing cards from the standpoint of amusement, but there is no question that they are a vital factor in improving the quality of crops and livestock. Box Butte county cannot afford to do without an annual competition of this sort any longer, and if the committee of farmers want assistance and co-operation there isn't a merchant in Alliance who will withhold his support.

As originally planned, the farmers expected to go through with it without asking the advice or support of the business men. There is no doubt that they will be able to do it, if they so desire. On the other hand, they'll find just as much interest in a fair on the part of Alliance business men as among the farmers. It is a matter that should appeal to all classes and any man who is interested should be allowed to help put it across.

LOOSEN THE BRAKES

(Hamilton County Register)

Just suppose that a section in Nebraska has a big crop of potatoes. Also suppose that there are some railroad companies running trains every day at very high prices, but getting little to do. The potato grower says to the railroad owner, "we have the produce but there would be nothing left in it for us to pay your rates. Just drop them a few notches, and we will both get something out of it." The railroad manager is willing and sees the point but first must take it up with the railway commission who is prone to think that to lower freight on one class of goods would be discriminatory, and talks the matter over a long time before deciding on it. If the debate continues too long the potatoes rot and that much wealth is permanently wasted. It is difficult to set hard and fast rules for transportation business that will not do more harm than good. We are regulated to death, and rates were never as high nor service as unsatisfactory. Might not the business wagon travel a little easier if we would take off the brakes?

CHILDREN AND LAWS

(Nebraska City Press)

A "social welfare worker" informs us that chastity is about 50 per cent of what it used to be. Great Scott! Are we to have the legislature do the things which we parents are required by the laws of common decency to do at home? Are we so infernally lazy that we would rather put the responsibility of parenthood on the members of the state legislature than on the mothers and fathers of Nebraska? Children are brought into the world without their consent, frequently without the full consent of those who are responsible for their being here. Isn't it rather shameful to refuse to take care of them after they come and to expect the "government" to look out for them. Law won't make a child better or worse. It's up to the mothers and fathers to make or break them.

We refuse to get all worked up over "reforms." There was a time when we were red-hot for reforms of all kinds. But times have changed. We have reached the age of conservatism, if not of discretion. We refuse to listen to the reformers in fact we shall smite them hip and thigh when they ask us to fight their battle for them. Our opinion of reformers can be summed up about like this: "They are in the game of reforming the world at so much a 'reform.' They are chasing up and down the country working for an ideal as long as the ideal has a paying job attached to it. Paraphrasing "Marse" Henry Watterson's fervent and classical allusion to the Hohenzollerns—"To deal with the Reformers."

AT THE MOVIES

William Farnum in "The Adventure," a romantic drama, is the attraction at the Imperial this evening. It's a stirring story wherein a romantic, ragged hero wins his way to fame and fortune and also to the heart of his fair lady, because his arm is strong and his spirit true. It's a great star in a great feature, and the kind of a tale that will interest every movie fan, from the cook in the kitchen to grandpa.

The Wednesday feature is "Slaves of Pride," with Alice Joyce in the stellar role, as Patricia Leeds, the beautiful daughter of Jason Leeds, a wealthy Boston yachtsman. Her mother is a woman of great social prominence, but possessed of shallow spirit. When Leeds is driven to suicide by financial reverses, the mother auctions off her daughter to the highest bidder. This happens to be Brewster Howard, a wealthy, proud business man of thirty-five. The husband's abnormal pride leads the pair into a remarkable climax of semi-tragedy and romance.

Thursday comes the photoplay done from Ellis Parker Butler's "The Jack-Knife Man." Ellis is a thoroughly qualified author, because, as he says, he has written "Pigs is Pigs," nineteen other classic books, several thousand short stories and eight quarts of opium. The story of the picture chronicles the doings of a strange colony along the banks of the Mississippi river consisting to a great degree of the owners of dilapidated shanty-boats. The central character is old Peter, a strange chap who ekes out a

living whittling spoons and toys from soft pine with his jack-knife. Into his life comes Buddy, a poor little waif, whom Peter fathers and mothers at the same time. Eventually his family is increased by Booge, a singing tramp. Their efforts to take care of the orphan lad and keep him out of the hands of a society for finding homes for orphan children, furnishes a story that is full of quaint humor and pathos.

"All life," says one of our contemporaries solemnly, "is co-operation." Yes, indeed. The birds lay eggs and the snakes eat them.

CONTEMPT

"State why you believe the prisoner is insane," directed the learned judge. "He always bets heavily on two pair in a poker game." "Is a man insane when he bets on two pair?" "In my opinion he is." The judge's face grew purple. "Ten dollars," he roared, "for contempt of court."

The ex-king of Greece has been barred from Italy. In the game of state, kings are no longer trumps.

Announcement



I WISH to announce at this time that I have purchased the interest of my brother, Bliss Sturgeon, and will conduct a general garage business exactly the same as that done by Sturgeon Brothers.

I want to express my thanks to the patrons and friends of the past and assure them that they will receive the same careful and conscientious workmanship and fair treatment.

All persons knowing themselves to be indebted to the firm of Sturgeon Brothers will kindly call as soon as possible and make arrangements for settlement. Money will be especially acceptable at the present time.

Sturgeon's Garage

LEE STURGEON, Prop.

Are You Saving Any Money?

A DOLLAR is a very curious thing. At one time it appears to most of us as of not much importance—oh, well, say, the price of a short ride in a taxicab, or of a box of very ordinary chocolates, or a rose or two, or admission to see a high-class movie.

And again it may seem of most vital importance: Say, the price of a bed when one is homeless, or a meal or two at a "hash foundry."

Its value varies as between individuals; and as to each individual, its value varies at different times according to one's necessities.

But in another sense, the value of a dollar varies in different years and in different periods. It is always, of course, the equivalent of one hundred cents; but at one time it will buy much more than at another time. We call this its purchasing power.

When prices of the things we need and buy are high, the purchasing power of the dollar is low. For example, the purchasing power of the dollar was very low in 1918, 1919 and

1920, which is only another way of saying that the prices of commodities were high.

Today, the purchasing power of the dollar is increasing. Or, in other words, the price of commodities generally is decreasing.

The dollar dollar you put into the savings bank in 1918 has earned you about 13 cents interest, but it has also grown amazingly in purchasing power. And today you can probably buy one and a half times as much with that 1918 saved dollar and its earnings as you could when you put it in the savings bank.

One dollar starts a savings account in our Savings Department. We have a number of classes for our Savings Clubs, but you can start with a dollar deposit and follow it up with deposits whenever you have some spare change. It is a good idea to save a given amount regularly every week, but if you prefer some other method, do it that way. The principal thing is to form the habit of saving something out of your income and not spending it as fast as you get it—or a little faster.

THE FIRST STATE BANK