

RETIRING COUNCIL PASSES THE BUCK TO ITS SUCCESSOR

DELAYS ACTION ON WELFARE AND OTHER ORDINANCES

Plans to Purchase New Pump for Waterworks Among the Last of Its Official Actions

The present city council, which is due to feature in a graceful fadeout scene shortly after the first of April, held its last regular meeting at the city hall Tuesday evening. It was a most satisfactory meeting, in several respects. It started pretty nearly on time, and there was a quorum present without sending the chief of police out to drag in a recreant councilman or two to make the proceedings legal.

The council devoted a good share of its meeting to that great army game known as "passing the buck." This was accomplished by failing to take action on half a dozen ordinances, realizing that the new council will come at its task fresh and ready to tackle anything. Besides that, it will have the counsel and advice of a city manager.

The welfare ordinance, the now almost historical document, was the first to be laid away on ice. City Attorney Metz, to whom had been given the responsibility of revamping the document and removing therefrom half a dozen illegalities, made a report that he had waded into everything that seemed to him to be beyond the pale of law. He stated that if it were his ordinance, there were a number of other sections that would have been eliminated, but that he was the servant of the council and that he had followed their instructions. He presented a neatly typed ordinance, one which he believed would pass the test of the courts.

Unfortunately, the newly drafted ordinance had not yet been presented to the welfare committee, composed of citizens who were appointed by other citizens to see that the measure became a part of the city's law. For months representatives of this committee have attended every council meeting in the hope that definite action of some sort would be taken. Each time they were doomed to disappointment. The idea has been to draw up an ordinance that would satisfy the welfare committee, and yet would not mortally offend every merchant or person to which its provisions referred. The welfare people have been worried considerably because they feared the council wanted to ruin the effectiveness of the ordinance, based on one now in force in Fremont. The council, on the other hand, apparently hasn't been fretting particularly whether the ordinance ever was passed.

A New Found Friend.

The ordinance found an unexpected friend last Tuesday evening in the person of Councilman Fuller. Mr. Fuller has been on leave of absence for three or four months, on a trip to England, and the welfare people are regretting sincerely that he ever went to sea. No sooner had the discussion started last Tuesday evening than Councilman Hill moved that the ordinance be tabled. This motion was enthusiastically seconded, and it would probably have been dropped right there, had not Mr. Fuller risen to his feet and objected.

Mr. Fuller's support of the ordinance was apparently most sincere, for not a single member of the welfare committee was present. It resulted in a failure of the motion to table, but consideration was delayed until the welfare committee had been given an opportunity to go over the document as altered and amended by City Attorney Metz. It is just barely possible that it may come up for action at the meeting on March 24, when the council will gather together in a farewell session to count the ballots and to finish up any stray matters of business.

The buck was also passed on several other ordinances, among them being one setting the amount of the occupation tax for moving picture shows; another one setting the license fee for carrying on a plumbing business; a third dealing with the license for electricians; a fourth setting the amount of tax on each billiard and pool table, and one or two others along similar lines. The council debated these for a time, but decided that inasmuch as the new council would have the opportunity of making a levy, it would be just as well to let them fix the amount of the tax on these various businesses.

The council allowed the usual grist of claims, holding up one claim from St. Joseph's hospital for \$140 for an itemized statement of the charges; and cutting \$3 from a claim presented by J. E. Henneberry, because of the fact that one of the city employees had to make two trips to set a meter.

Plan New Sewer District.

An ordinance creating sanitary sewer district No. 39, in the territory just north of district No. 12, and including blocks H and E in Nebraska addition, was presented, but action was delayed on it until the council will have an opportunity to see how the voters act toward the proposition to issue \$10,000 water extension bonds, which will be voted upon at the same

time and on the same date as the primary election.

Mr. Gadsby, representing the Bankers' Trust company of Denver, has, during the past week, submitted a bid for the water extension bonds, ten-year securities paying 7 per cent, of \$94,500. This figure includes attorney's fees, which will total 6 per cent. No action will be taken on this until it is known whether the voters will approve the issue.

Councilman Harris reported that the light department is ahead something like \$14,000, of which \$4,335 is invested in the city's intersection bonds. These figures fall to jibe with some that were circulated during the campaign for the city manager plan, when it was represented that the light plant was rapidly going to the demitition bowwows because of the laxness of the old council system.

To Purchase New Pump.

The feature of the session was the decision of the council to enter into a contract with the Ingersoll-Rand company for the purchase of an air-lift pump for the waterworks. At present there are two steam pumps in use on the two smaller wells, and there is being produced something like 200 gallons per minute from each of these. The Kelly well, the largest belonging to the city, is not now in use. The new pump will be able to draw water from all of the wells.

The council apparently did not figure with any other pump manufacturers in making the purchase, acting on the recommendation of Mr. Rickman, the superintendent of the plant, who visited Hastings some time ago and came back exceedingly enthusiastic over the operation of the air-lift style.

The Ingersoll-Rand company has submitted a bid of \$3,400 for the pump. This figure is exclusive of the cost of installation, which means \$12 per day for the man doing the work and the cost of certain pipe and other needed materials. Mr. Rickman, it is understood, will save the city a considerable part of this expense by doing the work of installation himself.

The council was all ready to close the deal and accept the bid, when it discovered there was no guarantee enclosed with the contract. Mayor Rodgers took the matter up with the company by wire, and has received their assurance that a new contract, satisfactory to the council, will be forwarded without delay.

P. E. Romig reported for the fire department the appointment of V. E. Byrne, as driver of the fire truck, replacing A. C. Sitzman, and the council confirmed the appointment.

Groom Misrepresents Age of Bride—But Gets Away With It

The course of true love again failed to run smoothly yesterday. Paul E. Roe applied to Judge Tash for license to marry Mary E. Underwood, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Aleck Underwood, living 12 miles from Alliance, and the license was granted and the ceremony performed. In his application for a license, the groom stated that his bride-to-be was 18 years of age, when, in fact, she lacks three or four months of it.

Relatives of the girl came to Alliance yesterday in search of her, and the couple were located by Officer Stillwell last evening, within a short time after the ceremony had been performed. Judge Tash advised the girl's relatives that in the event they do not approve of the match, the proper procedure was to take the girl home and bring action to annul the marriage. However, by the time district court is in session in June, the girl will have reached the proper age. No action to annul has yet been brought, and it may be that Cupid will come out winner.

C. S. Mooney Given a Fine of \$50 on Charge Violating Booze Law

C. S. Mooney, former proprietor of the Alliance bakery, was fined \$50 by Police Judge T. D. Roberts following a hearing Wednesday afternoon, on a charge of having intoxicating liquor in his possession in a place other than his dwelling house. The fine was levied under city ordinance, which saved the defendant exactly \$50, as the state law provides a punishment for the same offense of \$100.

A hearing was had at the same time on charges of intoxication against Mr. Mooney, H. P. Coursey and Ed. Brennan. After listening to the evidence, the court found the men not guilty of this charge.

Alliance Team Loses Out in First Game at The State Tournament

The Alliance high school basketball team is out of the running for state honors, having lost the first game to Stanton by a score of 11 to 6.

According to reports of the first series of games reaching Alliance this morning, only one team in western Nebraska, the Kimball high school, survived the first onslaught. Every other aspirant in this league was laid out cold.

GLEN MILLER CHOSEN AS PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

DIRECTORS HOLD AN ELECTION WEDNESDAY NOON

Annual Meeting of Commercial Organization Held at Armory Tuesday Evening

Glen Miller was unanimously re-elected president of the Alliance chamber of commerce at a meeting of the directors of the organization held in the Palm Room of the Alliance hotel Wednesday noon. All other officers of the organization were re-elected, including J. S. Rhein as vice president; treasurer, Charles Brittan; secretary, George M. Carey; chairman of the auditing committee, Charles Brittan.

The board of nine directors now consists of the following: Glen Miller, J. W. Guthrie, Charles Brittan, J. S. Rhein, A. T. Lunn, True Miller, Lee Moore, W. R. Harper and W. M. Bevington.

Committee appointments have been announced by President Miller as follows:

Finance—Glen Miller, Charles Brittan, Lee Moore.
Membership—W. R. Harper.
Farmers' co-operation—J. S. Rhein, R. M. Hampton, George Duncan.
Traffic—A. T. Lunn, L. E. Highland, Otto Zamzow.
Good roads—True Miller, J. M. Miller, Percy Cogswell.
Civic affairs—J. W. Guthrie.

The Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting and dinner was held at the armory at 6:30 p. m. Tuesday, over a hundred members and their ladies being present. The dinner was served by H. F. Thiele, and between the courses J. P. Mann led those present in community singing. Special music for the occasion was furnished by Harling's orchestra.

Following the dinner, President Glen Miller and Secretary George M. Carey gave a review of the work of the organization during their connection with it.

The address of the evening was given by O. S. Spillman of Pierce, Neb., who spoke on the "Tendencies of the Times," and gave one of the best forty-minute talks ever heard in the city. Mr. Spillman summed up the present conditions in the country, told of the need for an Americanization program, discussed the preservation and purity of the ballot; urged the necessity of restricting immigration; and discussed the bolshevist movement, as well as touching upon a number of other problems. Mr. Spillman paid a nice compliment to Judge H. H. Hewett, with whom he served in the recent constitutional convention.

Following the speeches, the election of directors was held. The terms of five members of the old board expired, two of these having been appointed to fill vacancies. Ten names were placed in nomination, F. A. Bald, Floyd Lucas, W. M. Finnegan, P. E. Romig, Glen Miller, True Miller, J. W. Guthrie, W. R. Harper and W. M. Bevington. The five men receiving the highest vote were declared elected, the three highest being given the three-year term and the next two the one-year term. True and Glen Miller and J. W. Guthrie were selected for the three-year, and W. R. Harper and W. M. Bevington for the one-year terms.

Legion Urging the Consolidation of Three Government Bureaus

One piece of legislation backed by the American Legion, the consolidation of the three government bureaus which handle all relations between the government and former service men, is sure to be brought at the coming session of congress, according to word received by the Nebraska state legion office. The authority given is to be Burton E. Sweet of Iowa, chairman of the sub-committee in the house on international and foreign commerce, which is considering the matter.

This legislation was introduced in the last session of congress too late for action. It is considered by the American Legion leaders to be the only method to eliminate the red tape through which disabled veterans have to wade in order to get compensation and hospitalization from the government. The original bill has been somewhat revised by the house committee.

The legislature of six states have petitioned congress to pass the measure, as have many organizations throughout the country. A flood of petitions for its enactment have been sent to Washington by American Legion posts.

Postmaster Robert Graham has received notification from the postoffice department that bids will be asked for the construction of a cement sidewalk around the postoffice. The new paving is believed to be the cause of this excess of generosity on the part of the government, inasmuch as the edge of the present sidewalk fails to jibe with the curbing.

Mrs. W. M. Shean is visiting friends in Crawford.

DECISION IS GIVEN IN POTASH SUIT IN PROBATE COURT

MRS. MARTHA PATMORE GIVEN JUDGMENT FOR \$1,609

Appeal Will Probably Be Taken to the District Court by the Claimant

Mrs. Martha Patmore was given judgment in probate court Tuesday afternoon by County Judge Tash against the estate of John H. Krause for \$1,609 and interest at 7 per cent for three and one-half years, making the total something in excess of \$2,000. This was the sum attorneys for the estate had offered her.

The action arose in August, 1917. John H. Krause owned eleven-fifteenth of Bennett lake, situated some twenty-six miles east of Alliance, and the remainder of the lake was upon land owned by Mrs. Patmore. Mr. Krause entered into a contract with the American Potash company which permitted the company to pump water from the lake. For this privilege he was to receive a 20 per cent royalty on the finished product from water pumped from the lake.

Mr. Krause received from the potash company, on statement of account which was conceded to be correct, the sum of \$6,821.85. Attorneys for the Krause estate admitted that four-fifteenth of the lake was the property of Mrs. Patmore and that she was entitled to receive that proportion of the money received from the company.

Mrs. Patmore entered a claim for \$12,000, basing this claim upon the estimated amount of water in the lake, which a preliminary survey showed to be 8,220,000 cubic feet. It was declared that with a potash content of 30.46 per cent, if the potash sold at \$4.25 a unit, her share would be equal to that sum.

Hearing was held before Judge Tash Tuesday afternoon, after various continuances. The claimant was represented by Attorney Earl Meyer and the Krause estate by Attorneys Basye and Fred A. Wright. The case was closely contested, the lawyers presenting numerous decisions and quoting various authorities.

The deposition of A. J. Dunbar, superintendent of the American Potash company, was presented. This deposition showed the amount of potash taken from Bennett lake. There were pumped 4,932,000 gallons of water, which tested 17.64 per cent and sold for \$4.25 a unit, or \$74.97 per ton. After deducting freight and other expenses, the value of the potash was given as \$34,109.25. The agreed 20 per cent royalty paid to Mr. Krause was \$6,821.85.

The claimant submitted the evidence of W. G. Haldane, civil engineer, as to his survey and measurement of the water in the lake. According to Mr. Haldane's computations, if all of the water pumped from the lake tested that high, Mrs. Patmore's share would have been in excess of \$13,000.

In announcing his decision, Judge Tash declared that his task was not to determine as to the credibility of the witnesses, all of whom were unimpeachable, but rather to determine as between various kinds of evidence. His decision was that the evidence of Mr. Dunbar was the more competent, his conclusions being based on concrete facts, while the evidence of the claimant was necessarily hazy, the latter being compelled to go into the domain of speculation, conjecture and guesswork. Taking this as the determining factor, he allowed a judgment based on Mr. Dunbar's figures. An appeal to district court will probably be taken.

Baseball Enthusiasts Will Meet at C. of C. Rooms This Evening

A meeting of Alliance men who are interested in baseball has been called for 8 o'clock tonight at the chamber of commerce rooms over the Brennan drug store. At this time plans will be discussed for getting a live baseball club for Alliance this year, and the meeting will be open for all sorts of discussion. The public has been invited.

Business Girls' Club To Elect Its Officers At Meeting Monday Eve

The Business Girls' club, organized recently under the auspices of the Alliance chamber of commerce, will hold a business and get-together meeting on Monday evening, March 14, at 7:30 o'clock at the chamber of commerce rooms over the Brennan drug store. The chief matter of business will be the election of officers. Light refreshments will be served. All business women and girls have been cordially invited to attend.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Holch of Chadron are the parents of a baby boy born last week. Mr. Holch will be remembered as a former teacher in the Alliance high school.

THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nebraska: Probably snow tonight and Saturday; colder tonight in east and south sections; fresh northerly winds.

Declamatory Contest Held at the Imperial Theater Thursday Eve

The annual declamatory contest of Alliance high school was held before a packed house at the Imperial last evening, following the first show. There were eight contestants, all of whom showed the results of careful training, and the following were the winners:

Oratorical—Sterling Harris, first; Robert Lawrence, second.
Dramatic—Violette Walker, first; Mildred Pate, second.
Humorous—Francis Fletcher, first; Margaret Schill, second.

Superintendent DeBolt of Crawford, Superintendent Novotny of Bridgeport and Superintendent Linder of Bayard were the judges.

The following program was presented:

Oratorical:
"Liberty or Death," Sterling Harris.
"Lincoln, the Mystery of Democracy," Robert Lawrence.

Dramatic:
"A Few Bars in the Key of G," Lois Boyer.
"The Greatest Gift," Mildred Pate.
"Mistress Penelope," Violette Walker.

Humorous:
"Rejuvenation of Aunt Mary," Eula Barranger.
"Coming Out of Miss Cummings," Francis Fletcher.
"Who's Afraid," Margaret Schill.

Judge Westover Will Close Packing Company Affairs Tomorrow

District Judge W. H. Westover will make a special trip by automobile to Alliance some time today, and will Saturday morning hear the application of the stockholders of the defunct Alliance Packing company for an order of dissolution. Judge Westover has for two or three weeks been trying to find time to come to Alliance to issue this order, but court business in other parts of the district has been so brisk that he has found it impossible.

Until the court order is issued, it will be impossible for the present officers to return to stockholders the money paid for stock and held in reserve under the orders of the state bureau of securities. There has been considerable interest on the part of these stockholders in getting this order issued.

H. O. Condit Elected Exalted Ruler By The Alliance Elks

H. O. Condit was advanced to the position of exalted ruler at the annual election of Alliance lodge No. 961 B. P. O. E., at the Elks home last Friday evening. Other officers elected were: Esteemed leading knight, Earl Meyer.
Esteemed loyal knight, E. O. Strand.
Esteemed lecturing knight, Edwin M. Burr.
Secretary, Percy Cogswell.
Treasurer, Frank Abegg.

A. V. Gavin was elected to a three-year term as trustee, in place of E. D. Mallery, the retiring member. The other trustees are W. R. Metz and B. J. Salloway.

R. O. Reddish, the retiring exalted ruler, was selected as delegate to the 1921 grand lodge convention, which meets at Los Angeles this year.

John Gill, Convicted of Forgery, Applies For Parole From Pen

John Gill, convicted at the last term of district court in Box Butte county, is listed among some thirty applicants for a parole from the penitentiary this week. The state pardons board has not passed finally upon the application. It is reported that the application was favored by County Attorney Basye, but that the trial judge, W. H. Westover, did not approve of granting the young man his liberty.

George M. Carey, secretary of the chamber of commerce, will leave for Gering this afternoon, where he will be one of the speakers at a meeting there this evening at which the formation of a Lions club will be discussed. Orlando Jones, who organized the Lions club in Alliance, is now engaged in forming similar clubs in the valley cities and towns.

TEACHERS' EXAMINATION

Regular teachers examinations will be held at the court house March 26, 30-33. OPAL RUSSELL, County Superintendent.

Dick Strong returned Wednesday to his homestead in Wyoming, after a short visit with relatives here.

BOX BUTTE COUNTY NOW REPRESENTED IN STATISTICAL REPORT

SECRETARY LEO STUHR'S PRO- TEST BROUGHT RESULTS

Figures on All Sorts of Agricultural Activities in County in State Report

The protest of State Secretary of Agriculture Leo Stuhr three or four months ago to the effect that Box Butte county should furnish agricultural statistics for the state report was productive of results. The report issued this week, contains a full assortment of figures on the county's agricultural activities, a number of which place this county in a surprisingly favorable light.

For the past several years, Box Butte figures have not been included in the report, and it was long past the limit when Secretary Stuhr, in a visit to Alliance, made it plain that he thought the county was missing out on an opportunity for some good advertising by its negligence in this respect. The county realtors' association, among those most vitally interested, got the precinct and county assessors together, and within the short space of two or three days a whole lot of accurate statistics were compiled.

Box Butte county has the distinction of having more resident landowners than any other county in the state. Only 16 per cent of the farms in the county are occupied by renters. In some of the counties in the eastern part of the state, the number of renters runs as high as 55 and 60 per cent. There is but one other county in the state that is in Box Butte's class in this regard, which is Cherry, where the percentage is 17.

There are 678,418 acres in farms in the county, of which about one-seventh, or 101,735 acres are in cultivation. The estimated number of horses in the county is 8,000; cattle 21,000, of which 2,800 are milk cows; hogs, 5,000, valued at \$52,600; sheep and goats, 1,114, valued at \$9,170; poultry, 3,271 dozen; dogs, 490. During the past year, livestock losses were as follows: Horses, 306 head; mules, 16; milk cows, 87; other cattle, 958; sheep, 157; swine, 392.

The value of farm machinery in the county is given as \$63,026. At the time the figures were compiled in April, 1920, there were in the county 27 trucks, 129 gas tractors, 139 gas engines and 931 automobiles on farms. Twenty farms had modern water systems, and twenty-one modern lighting systems. There were thirty-two silos.

Based on prices of November 1, the value of the 31,380 acres of corn in the county, with a total yield of 668,980 bushels and an average yield of 21 bushels, was \$329,490. There were 5,691 bushels of winter wheat, a total of 79,674 bushels, 14 bushels to the acre, valued at \$127,478.40. Spring wheat, 20,396 acres, average yield, 9 bushels; total number of bushels, 183,564, valued at \$275,346. A total of 328,454 bushels of oats were produced from 11,326 acres, an average of 29 bushels to the acre, and valued at \$131,381. The value of the rye crop was \$138,403, and 8,872 acres were planted. The barley figures are quite similar. The alfalfa crop was worth \$187,120, the yield being 18,712 tons from 9,356 acres, an average of two tons to the acre. A total of 9,971.2 tons of wild hay was cut from 12,464 acres, and was valued at \$75,769. Yields of sorghum, millet, red clover, timothy and sudan grass were much less.

The report on the workings of the state hail insurance law during the past year shows that Box Butte county farmers paid to the state \$9,613.25 in premiums, and that losses from this source amounted to \$18,120.70.

Legion Will Entertain Veterans of Civil and Spanish-American Wars

At the monthly dinner of Alliance post No. 7, American Legion, held at the Fern Garden of the Alliance hotel Thursday evening, it was decided at the next monthly meeting to have present as guests veterans of the civil and Spanish-American wars. A special double quartette, under the leadership of Doc B. G. Bauman, will prepare a number of old army songs, in addition to which the gang will sing the usual grist of the newer ones. The legion voted to go in with the guild of the Episcopal church in staging a fair in the Lowry & Henry Roof Garden shortly after the close of the Lenten season.

BIRTHS

March 10—To Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Young, a son.

V. J. Martin drew a fine of \$5 and costs in police court Thursday afternoon on a charge of speeding.

Miss LaRue Haworth of Sidney will be the guest of Miss Grace Shean for the week-end.

Robert Atz and Raymond McNulty left Thursday to accept positions in Chadron. They made the trip by auto.