

The Alliance Herald

BURR PRINTING CO., Owners
Entered at the postoffice at Alliance, Neb., for transmission through the mails as second class matter. Published Tuesday and Friday.
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Official newspaper of the City of Alliance; official newspaper of Box Butte County.
Owned and published by The Burr Printing Company, George L. Burr, Jr., President; Edwin M. Burr, Vice President.

PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT.

The prohibition enforcement problem continues to be the prize muddle of the country. Congress is playing horse with the problem, and in every state and county in the union there is a different attitude toward enforcement of the statutes made and provided to keep John Barleycorn decently buried.

There is no thinking man who will say that he desires the return of the old saloon business. There is considerable growling by those who once rushed the growler, but in the main there is a general feeling that prohibition, if such a thing is possible, is worth giving a tryout.

However, the drays have made such a mess of the enforcement that they have really weakened their cause. A regular army of enforcement officials are drawing money from the public treasury, and each year sees a larger sum appropriated for the employment of more sleuths. Those who have watched these sleuths in operation and have noticed their caliber and the tactics they pursue, are losing faith in great big bunches. It's beginning to be a question as to whether the expense is justified. Nearly every man who really wants booze can get it if he pays the price, and the army of prohibition enforcement agents, instead of stamping out the illicit traffickers in hooch, have simply spurred them on to greater efforts.

The bootleggers on a small scale, or the home manufacturer, is getting caught now and then—the organized gangs, with plenty of capital to pay fines, find that the profits are sufficient to leave a huge margin after all expenses are paid.

In addition to the ineffectiveness of the dry agents, the problem is complicated by the efforts of the wets. They have been working with light wines and beer for their objective, but they never lose an opportunity to make it uncomfortable for the men who are seeking to enforce prohibition. A day or two ago the federal house of representatives virtually sanctioned home brew. They were seeking to make federal officers obtain warrants before searching houses, something that should be done. The amendment, provided, however, that no warrant shall be issued unless there is reason to believe such dwelling is used as a place where liquor is manufactured for sale, or sold. A democrat—mark that, you who believe the democrats were the original blood-brothers of J. Barleycorn—a democrat moved that the word "for sale or sold" be stricken out, but his motion was rejected.

There can be no enforcement of prohibition until the federal, state, civic and county authorities mean business. This sort of horseplay serves only to make the situation worse. If public sentiment is against the law, or the present methods of enforcement, the sensible thing is to proceed along lines the public will sanction. In a campaign of such importance to the race, there should be some way of stirring up public sentiment in the right direction. Once the public conscience is aroused, prohibition can be made a reality. But so long as the enforcement agents, abetted by their supporters, excite the animosity of the average man, just so long will it be considered legitimate game to outwit the law enforcing agents.

MORE ENCROACHMENTS.

One by one our sacred rights are disappearing. For years and years, ever since Hector was a mere pup, the railway companies have been considered fair game. It hasn't been possible to put much over on them, but whenever opportunity has offered, the average free-born American citizen has figured that anything withheld or stolen from the railroads was so much gained, and honor hasn't figured in the transaction at all.

The average man, when a conductor failed to take up his ticket, has calmly waited until he returned home and then turned the ticket back and received the money for it. The average woman has taken little Johnny, aged anywhere from eight to twelve, and with a straight face has declared that son has not yet reached his fifth birthday. This saves purchasing a half-fare ticket. Half-fare tickets cost money.

But the railroads have gradually grown wiser, and some of these days they'll have it fixed so the consumer will be as helpless on the passenger trains as he now is when he consigns

a freight shipment into their hands. The State Journal gives the following instance of the new order which has come to pass, and the experience detailed here shows that some of these days, in order to get by with the lie about little Johnny's age, it will be necessary to bring along two witnesses and a properly attested birth certificate. Read the testimony, and weep for the loss of another cherished right:

The train conductor was smiling. He had just gone through an experience that had convinced him that the world do move and that the movement is in the direction of definite progress toward better days. He recalled how in the days long ago he had argued with fond mothers about the age of their children, and whether they should pay fare or ride free. He had just gone through a more pleasing experience. A lady had said her son was less than five years old. He looked to be eight. The conductor did not argue with her. He produced from an inner pocket a little blank, handed it to her and asked her to fill it out. It was a statement concerning the age of the child. "And after that," the conductor told her, "I will refer this blank to an agent of the government and there is a possibility that he may interview you on the matter of the boy's age." The woman spurned the blank. She dug deep into her purse, paid the fare, and said she would rather do that than to bother about filling out a blank.

CONDITIONS IMPROVING.

(State Journal.) Reports from bankers, grain men and country merchants indicate that general business conditions are slowly improving. Some students of the business situation are inclined to believe that the coming winter is going to bring a squeeze to many business interests. Yet most authorities agree that the present situation warrants the belief that the bottom has been reached and that while the upturn will be slow, it should be nevertheless continuous.

During the past month, country collections have been markedly easier. It is said that this does not mean that all debts are being paid, but it does mean that a great many old accounts are being squared and a new start is being made by the country merchants.

The farmer or the producer owed the merchant. The merchant owed the bank. The bank needed the money and in many instances was forced to pledge its securities to tide it over the lean period. Early in July, the farmer began selling his old wheat. A great many farmers sold a large part of the new crop. The marketing of the new crop had just been fairly started when the prospects of a corn crop became so certain that the farmer began selling his old corn. This brought money to the farmer and he began to pay the merchant. The merchant was able to meet his bills at the bank and because of that fact, banking conditions are said to have been very much improved during the past thirty days.

CUT IN LIVE STOCK RATES.

(Omaha Bee.) A recommendation from the Interstate Commerce commission to the railroads that they continue a 20 per cent cut in rates on live stock is really encouraging. It is not an indication that the question is settled, but actually amounts to an admission that existing rates are too high, even in face of the commission's ruling that the schedule in effect is "not unjust and unreasonable." Shippers have complained for a long time of the charges, and have shown many instances where the tariff to an outsider appears to be too high. Quite likely the commission has reached its conclusion by a process of comparing rates on live stock with those on other commodities. Such a process may warrant such a decision, but it serves also to support the general charge that all rates are too high. A 20 per cent reduction in freight charges on live stock shipments will be of great service to the meat raisers of the west, whose business suffered a serious setback when prices at the yards slumped and portions of shipment slipped to 1500 and went sky-high. When the relief so afforded can be extended generally the reviva in the west will be under way without delay, for, in the language of the A. E. F., the food producers are "fair'n' to go," just as soon as the brakes are off.

SCANDAL AT CAMP JOHNSON.

Shocking disclosures are made in connection with conditions prevailing at the Jackson City home for tubercular soldiers. Such laxity or absolute lack of discipline as is indicated by the reports is incredible. This may be

cleared up, however, by investigation, by removal of the incompetent or dishonest persons who are responsible for the scandalous lack of control that has converted the hospital into a national disgrace. A more serious fact is that the Sweet bill, which was hurried through congress, lies on the table in the vice president's office, waiting for someone to sign it. The president and vice president both are in New England, the president pro tempore of the senate is at Atlantic City, and the law is held up, while the ex-service men who are to be benefited by it are dying. Soon, within a week or two, the officials will be at their places, and the relief measure will get the signatures that are required to make it a law. The hospital at Johnson City can be cleaned up, but the soldiers that are dying because of the delay at Washington will not care a great deal. Our great and generous government does some things in a very peculiar way.

EQUITY IN TROUSERS.

(Leslie's Weekly.) When liquor is seized in transit the car, the boat or truck on which it is loaded is also seized. Getting the vehicle back, the owner finds, takes time and trouble. One of the law's latest wrinkles is to attach the building in which liquor has been illegally sold or kept, thus giving the owner as well as the lessee of the premises something to worry over. And right here our unruly mind gets curious. What about the pocket flask, carried on the hip, if the hip pocket is part of a suit sold, and being paid for, on the installment plan?

We have mentioned before, we think the liability of trousers to seizure as a vehicle, but the question of equity did not occur to us till now. Installment clothing houses should look into this without delay. If the police put a lien on a pair of trousers because it is—or they are—being used as a vehicle for the transportation of liquor, and said trousers are part of a suit costing \$40, on which only \$6 have been paid, the loss falls heaviest on the merchant to whom \$34 are still owing. He has the most equity in them.

Therefore, it behooves every dealer who sells on credit to follow up his suits as far as possible by private detective agencies to see that the trousers are not used in violation of the Volstead law. Otherwise, in the course of a year, he may face serious loss. If the police can attach trucks, boats, and houses, they can attach pants, and pants on which there is first and perhaps a second mortgage will cease to be a desirable form of investment. Perhaps the simplest way out will be to make installment garments without hip pockets.

ELLSWORTH

Sunday, August 23, is a big day in the Sand Hill baseball world, two fast games are slated. Commencing promptly at 1 p. m. Bingham will tangle with the "Oil Magnates" of Lakeside and Antioch, immediately following will be the Ellsworth-Whitman game, which promises to be the best of the season. Ellsworth lost a game to Whitman July 4, and every effort will be made to wipe out this defeat. The Ellsworth fans, led by C. L. Murphy are hiring several fast players for this game and a big day is anticipated in Ellsworth. G. J. Fenning of Alliance will be on the mound for Ellsworth and O. E. Black also of Alliance will play short stop who assisted by seven other picked players will undoubtedly play Whitman the game of their life. Don't miss it. In Friday's Herald the Ellsworth line-up will appear. The proceeds of this game will go to helping the Ellsworth club "out of the hole", and we will appreciate your patronage. A gate admission of fifty cents will be charged, children free. Don't forget the time, 1 p. m. sharp the first game will start.

Owing to the poor markets the Ellsworth cattle are being shipped somewhat conservatively, we having eleven cars ordered for Saturday, only two cars, those of Paul Lineback being shipped. However, we have several cars ordered for the following Saturday and many more will go during the season.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Dingler, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Young were guests at six o'clock dinner at the Kennedy home Saturday evening. An excellent dinner was served.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Schafenburg of the Joy ranch were Sunday visitors at the Kennedy home. Edwards Kennedy and friends working at the Joy ranch visited at the Kennedy home Sunday.

E. B. Jameson and Miss Belle Weibling of Lakeside were Sunday visitors at the Wightman home. Mrs. C. L. Murphy and children motored out to the Spade ranch Sunday afternoon for a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Peterson.

Mike Peterson and Bartlett Richards

were Sunday guests at the home of Mrs. M. H. Kennedy.

Sunday no ball game being lined up for the Ellsworth team, two of our players were loaned to Bingham who journeyed to Whitman for a slug-fest with the Sand Hill Stars. Although Bingham was badly defeated those present reported a very good game. P. E. Law accompanied the team to Whitman. John Schonard on second base and W. F. Seebohmin left field did excellent work for the Bingham team and Schonard made unassisted the first double play of its kind for the season.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Dingler and Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Young spent the afternoon at the Moore home. A most excellent dinner of spring fry and all trimmings was served, all present reporting a most enjoyable afternoon.

W. L. Spurgeon and family of Beloit, Kas., who arrived in our vicinity Sunday by the overland route will spend two weeks at the Ellsbury home. Mr. Spurgeon is a brother-in-law of Mr. Ellsbury.

Thomas Katen and Frank Dillon of Alliance were Ellsworth business visitors the latter part of the week.

Wm. Brennan of the Ellsworth hotel was an Alliance visitor Monday.

Charles Lamb and Ira Croffutt of Spade were Ellsworth shoppers Saturday.

Several of the ball players and local fans have been doing work on the Ellsworth ball park and the diamond is now in excellent condition being judged by all as the best in the Sand Hills. Every preparation is being made for a record breaking crowd at the double-header Sunday. Arrangements are being made for No. 42 to stop at Ellsworth and Whitman, thus a large crowd will be down from both Whitman and Hyannis.

Now that the astronomers have informed this poor world that it is extremely far from the center of the universe, the poets who write about their loneliness will be lonelier than ever.

Do you know you can roll 50 good cigarettes for 10cts from one bag of



GENUINE "BULL" DURHAM TOBACCO

Heavy Fire Loss in Nebraska During the Last Seven Months

Fire losses in Nebraska during the last seven months amounted to \$1,196,927.97, according to a report made Saturday by C. E. Hartford, state fire marshal. The total number of fires reported in that period was 915, more than half of which originated in Lincoln and Omaha.

An outstanding feature of the report is the percentage gain in the number of fires investigated as of incendiary origin. Forty-six fires of this nature are reported in the period from January 1, to August 1, or two more than was reported for the entire year of 1920 and twice as many as reported during 1919. Sixteen of these fires

were investigated and reports made up to August 1. In the seven months' period the report shows 8,729 orders issued by the three regular fire inspectors from a total of 13,314 inspections. Complaints asking for condemnation or repairs—number 786, although the findings have not been announced on all cases, according to the report.

For a real drink, try ORANGE-NIP, out of the ball at Smith's Soda Fountain. 74c

THE WORST SPEED.

"How fast can your car go?" "Just fast enough," replied Mr. Chuggins, "to break the road rules and not fast enough to keep ahead of the cops."—Washington Star.

Herald 'Vant Ads—Results.



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