

The Alliance Herald

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A CHANGE OF SENTIMENT IS NOW APPARENT

MORRILL COUNTY BOARD NOT SO STRONG FOR TRACK ROAD.

Indications Are That the Bridgeport-Alliance North Star Road Will Go North From Bonner.

A small delegation of Alliance citizens, comprising J. S. Rhein, W. E. Spencer and Charles Brittan, attended the meeting of the Morrill county commissioners at Bridgeport on Tuesday of this week, and on their return say there is perceptible a change of sentiment on the part of that board, which, a few weeks ago, was apparently strongly in favor of building the North Star highway between Bridgeport and Alliance alongside the Burlington tracks. Just what is responsible for the change of sentiment is not known, but the impression gained by the Alliance men was that it had taken place.

The Morrill county commissioners took no official action of the matter. There were but two of the three commissioners present, Commissioner Devault of Bayard, who succeeded Commissioner Osborne, and Commissioner Garvey of Bridgeport doing the honors. Neither of these men had been out over the proposed road, and decided that before taking any action in the matter they would have to view the various routes. Next Monday, providence and the weather permitting, was tentatively set as the date for the inspection trip. The Alliance men were assured that they would be notified of any future meeting at which the question would be discussed.

What Alliance Wants.

Alliance, it will be recalled, was a strong factor in getting the Morrill county commissioners together on any road. There were three of them, one from Broadwater, another from Bridgeport and the third from Bayard. All three of them wanted the North Star route to pass through their home towns. Alliance road boosters, following a natural course, succeeded after a series of meetings in getting the three commissioners to try to get together and a compromise was effected by which the North Star route was to go through Bridgeport and the Broadwater road, on the rival G-P-C highway, was listed as second for construction and state aid.

Bridgeport men interested themselves in getting the most direct route from Bridgeport to Alliance. There was no question as to the route of the road so far as Angora, but from Angora to Alliance was the rub. The farmers west of the Burlington track favored a route that would go almost straight north from Angora. It was argued that this road would serve more farmers than the other suggested route, on the east side of the track. The Bridgeport boosters, acting with Alliance men, secured a right-of-way following the Burlington tracks to the county line, thus saving several miles and making an ideal location for a transcontinental road. The Morrill county commissioners, it was understood, favored the track road, and the Box Butte commissioners agreed to meet it at the county line.

The Wires Get Crossed.

In some manner, however, the wires got tangled up, and the road as now projected doesn't follow any of the suggested lines. It isn't the road favored by those east or west of the track. Instead it follows the Burlington as far as north through the sandhills. If Box Butte county connects up with it at the county line it will strike that line at a point nine miles west of Alliance. As a road between Bridgeport and Alliance it is a joke, for it hits Box Butte county with practically a straight shot to Hemingford. It's the Bonner road that will be built, apparently, judging by the sentiment they discovered at Bridgeport. The road boosters of that city are apparently satisfied with the situation, having won their point and secured the North Star road for their city. Some of them were considerably surprised when told that the road was being planned to go north from Bonner. They had understood, they pointed out, that it was all settled that it was to go up the track. None of them seemed to be fretting about it—their worry being apparently to get the main route, and the least of their troubles being the route that it took between Angora and Alliance.

The commissioners, which letting it be known that they rather favored the Bonner route, explained that this was to be only a "temporary" route and that later on, when funds permitted, they would work for the cut-off along the track. The Alliance boosters, however, make no secret of their doubts that the cutoff will ever be built if the temporary road is ever completed.

Gaddis' Position.

The Bonner route, it is understood, is favored by Division Engineer Gaddis. In a statement made recently to County Highway Engineer R. E. Knight, he is quoted as saying that the track road is too expensive, and that he will so report to the state de-

THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nebraska. Partly cloudy and colder tonight and Saturday. Cold wave east portion tonight with temperature ten above zero.

PROSPECTS AT LAKESIDE ARE LOOKING BETTER

DRILLERS ENCOUNTER A FAIR-SIZED GAS POCKET.

Not Positive Indication of Oil, But Considerably Better Than No Sign at All.

Happenings in the western Nebraska oil world has been looking better than ever the past three or four days. The good news began with the striking of oil bearing sands at the Big Chief well, north of Rushville, just over the South Dakota line. Due to the fact that no casing had been put down for the last 135 feet, the drillers were unable to get down any farther than six inches into the sand when a cavern resulted, which will materially delay proceedings. This leaves the Rushville syndicate, consisting of 425 stockholders, up in the air as to the value of their find, as it was impossible to accurately estimate the yield of the well.

Shortly after the good news from Rushville, word reached Alliance from Lakeside that the drillers at the Lakeside Development company's project had struck a gas pocket late Thursday. Alliance stockholders of the company this morning verified the report that gas had been struck, but declare that there was only fair-sized pocket. The pressure of the gas was sufficient to force it way through two thousand feet of mud when the tools were hauled up.

The striking of the gas pockets is regarded as a distinctly favorable indication, although it is by no means proof positive that oil will be found lower down. The drillers are now working in which is known as the Pierce shale, which is also found in Wyoming. They are down a trifle more than 2,000 feet, and are three hundred or more feet into the Pierce formation, which is estimated to be about a thousand feet in thickness. The Rushville drillers found oil at 1,196 feet in the Lakota sandstone. Some of the more enthusiastic are expecting the discovery of oil at almost any minute, but this attitude of expectation is not general. There are those who recall how the Crawford oil well gassed for several days and filled the breasts of the promoters with wild hope, only to fizzle. At another Nebraska project, gas pockets were struck on several occasions, and the final result was a splendid artesian well which gushed forth gallons of pure, cold water. The old proverb of counting chickens goes well with the oil game.

The Herald has at no time printed information concerning the Lakeside project without giving the source and dependability of its information. Several times it has published exclusive stories that told of definite progress. Fact has always been plainly stated, and rumor with equal frankness. There is a tremendous interest on the part of all western Nebraska in the Lakeside well. This newspaper has at no time desired to create any false hopes or enthusiasm, and has particularly careful to publish nothing that would lead to any wild-eyed actions on the part of men who read only two or three words of a headline and guess the rest of the article in accordance with their desires.

St. Agnes Academy Making Plans to Build in Spring

St. Agnes Academy of this city is making plans to build a \$50,000 addition to its plant in Alliance early in the coming spring. For the past two or three years, the institution has been badly crowded for room for its out-of-town students, and has been compelled to refuse from twenty-five to fifty applicants each year.

There are now about one hundred boarding students, largely from four states, Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado and South Dakota, as well as some two hundred day students, who live in Alliance and board at home. Alliance people who have been interested in the effect of the schools on taxes have, for the most part, failed to take into account what would happen if the academy did not accommodate these pupils. The original plans for the academy provided for a main building and two wings. The main building and one of the wings has been constructed and it is planned to complete the structure as soon as possible. A recent bazaar for the benefit of the school realized between \$2,500 and \$3,000, and it is probable that a campaign for funds will be made when building operations are in progress.

POSTPONE DISTRICT COURT.

The attorneys of Alliance have petitioned District Judge Westover to postpone the December term of district court until some time after the first of the year. The request was made because certain prominent members of the Alliance bar had cases before the federal court of appeals at St. Louis at the same time. Judge Westover has not yet notified the bar of his decision, but it is expected that he will accede to the request.

PLAN STATEWIDE INVESTIGATION OF HIGH PRICES

GOVERNOR ARRANGES FOR AN OFFICIAL INQUIRY.

Hearings Will Be Held in Principal Cities of the State Beginning at Once.

To find out whether prices of commodities, rents, wages, interest rates, freight rates, and other things which enter into the cost of living are being artificially held up, while prices that the farmer receives for his products are at their lowest level in years, is the announced purpose of an inquiry which Governor McKelvie has arranged for to be made, beginning next Monday, by three of his code secretaries in conjunction with Attorney General Davis and Dean J. E. LeRossignol of the college of business administration in the University of Nebraska, says the Lincoln Star.

This investigation will be a more extensive one, the governor says, than that undertaken two years ago into profiteering and the high cost of living, which was conducted by Secretary L. B. Stuhr of the agriculture department, and which brought no tangible results.

Witnesses are to be subpoenaed and examined under oath, the same as if they were called on to testify in court. The board of inquiry, comprising Agriculture Secretary Stuhr, Trade and Commerce Secretary J. E. Hart, Labor Secretary F. A. Kennedy, Attorney General Davis, and Professor LeRossignol, will proceed under authority of the code law, which authorizes the department of agriculture to make such investigation.

Publicity Chief Remedy.

Disavowing any intention to pre-judge matters which will come within the scope of the official probe, Governor McKelvie says that the principal benefit accruing from it will be to inform the people as to what the facts are. He relies on public opinion as the most potent force through which wrong conditions can be righted. High taxes are included among the things enumerated by the governor as subjects of inquiry. His own administration has been somewhat scathingly criticized because of a large increase in state taxes.

If the investigation should develop knowledge of the laws being violated it will then develop upon prosecuting officials and, perhaps, the coming grand jury in Lancaster county to take such action as the facts may justify. The initial inquiry will be held in Lincoln, probably at the house or senate chamber in the capitol, starting next Monday. Volunteer witnesses will be heard and the sitting board will call in representatives of various lines of business and industry. Any phase of profiteering or other interference with the natural course of trade will be looked into, if brought to the attention of the state officials, Governor McKelvie says.

After the hearings in Lincoln are finished the investigating body will go to Omaha for further sittings. It may visit other cities of the state and inquire into local conditions at each place. All sessions will be open to the public.

Governor Explains Undertaking.

The following statement was given out by Governor McKelvie announcing the investigation and outlining what it is expected to accomplish:

"Any intelligent study that is made of present-day economic conditions reveals the wide disparity that exists in prices between the raw products of the land and finished products of the factory. The normal and equitable values of exchange that existed before the war have not been restored and the burdens of readjustment are falling with uneven weight upon the people. The question that agitates the public mind now is whether this condition is merely an aftermath of the war or whether it is being maintained by arbitrary and unjust means.

"The simple truth is that the facts should be known, for the situation is a serious one and practical remedies must be found. With the prices for certain staple agricultural products at the lowest ebb they have been in years, and with the purchasing power of these products reduced to an even lower level, it is apparent that there must be a readjustment of values. The one who arbitrarily stands in the way of readjustment defeats his own best interests, for every one of the losses resulting from the world war.

"Judged by retail prices, freight rates, wages, taxes, rent and other items that enter into the cost of living, one would scarcely know that the war is over, and while this condition exists, agriculture, an industry that is of the most vital importance to the national prosperity, is prostrated by the tremendous burdens of readjustment that it is obliged to bear.

Wants Facts Shown.

"It is not my purpose to pass hasty judgment upon this question, nor to indict anyone without cause, but I am determined that if there is any way to accomplish it, the facts shall be known.

I do not believe that remedies of permanent value can be effected through the making of ill-founded charges or the application of artificial methods, but I do believe that the full rays of publicity will have a most salutary effect.

"Farmers, merchants, bankers, laborers, landlords, commission men and others who are able to throw any light upon this subject will be called before this board of inquiry and every practical effort will be made to deduce the facts.

"Therefore, I have decided that through the power given the state under certain sections of the civil administrative code, an investigation will be made to ascertain the essential facts regarding the causes for the present economic conditions. This investigation will be conducted by the departments of agriculture, trade and commerce, and labor, in co-operation with the attorney general and aided by the department of business administration of the state university.

"The inquiry will be started in Lincoln Monday, November 21, and will be carried on in several of the other principal cities in the state. It is not our purpose to embarrass anyone unduly, but it is our intention to turn on the light so that the people will know who, if any, are contributing to the delay of the orderly processes of readjustment."

ALL SET FOR RUSH OF BUYERS FOR NEXT WEEK

ALLIANCE MERCHANTS MAKE ATTRACTIVE OFFERINGS.

Free Theatrical Performance Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday Afternoons.

Everything is in readiness in Alliance for the buyers' carnival on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. The merchants have sized big chunks off the prices and the profits, and every visitor who brings his pocketbook to the city on those three days will feel good over his savings for the rest of the winter.

In addition to the low prices there will be other attractions. The merchants are now giving away a number of free prizes, particulars concerning which will be found in another part of this paper. With every purchase chances are given on the various articles of merchandise and the lucky purchaser may receive in addition to his bargains some handsome gift.

Last, not by no means least, there will be a free performance at the Imperial during the three days. A bewitching chorus and some other actors will stage an entertainment that will just naturally draw the men down to the front rows, if their wives aren't along. It will be a good entertainment, and the merchants are giving it away. Better arrange to visit Alliance all three days of the carnival and help yourself to the bargains and enjoy the free entertainment.

John Dill Given Parole by State Board of Pardons

After a number of appeals to the state pardon board, John A. Dill, sent to the penitentiary from Box Butte county in February, 1920, has been granted a parole. County Attorney Bayse approved the application.

Dill was convicted on a charge of forging a check for \$20 on M. Nolan. This was cashed at the Alliance National bank and Dill had spent only \$6 of the money when he was arrested. He was a stranger in Alliance and had been a sailor, but had received his discharge. The authorities believed he has received sufficient punishment.

Midnight Belles To Play Alliance Next Friday Eve

The "Midnight Belles of Gering" with a cast of sixty, forty of which are pretty girls and stately matrons, will show in Alliance next Friday evening at the Imperial theater, under the auspices of the Alliance Volunteer fire department. The show is an entirely home talent production, trained by Frisco Henry Hart, and was staged in Gering Monday and Tuesday evenings of this week.

Arrangements for the production in Alliance were made by Mayor A. D. Baker of Gering, J. C. Pedersen, president and Otto J. Prohs, secretary of the Gering Fire department, which sponsored the show in that city.

The "Midnight Belles" is a musical comedy in two acts, with two good hours of the best of fun. There are special comedy characters, including a souse act which is so well put on that it is possible that the actor may have had previous experience.

The troupe comprises the leading lights in Gering, who are coming to Alliance to pay a friendly call and have some fun out of it. At the prices, \$1.00, 75 and 50 cents, the house ought to be packed.

TAXPAYERS ARE BESIEGING THE COUNTY BOARD

HEART-BREAKING APPEALS TO THE COMMISSIONERS.

Several Complaints About High Taxes, But Commissioners Hold Out No Hope.

The Box Butte county commissioners, after establishing a speed record at the October session, when they finished all business and were off home within a single day, this month suffered a relapse. The board started sitting Tuesday and expects to be through some time today. All three members are on deck and if it weren't for the fact that there are so many complaints from taxpayers, might have equalled last month's record.

Outside of the regular grip of claims, there was little out of the ordinary. A number of taxpayers, including representatives of two Alliance banks, dropped in to register complaints about the size of the taxes charged up against them, but the commissioners told them their sole hope was the county assessor. "If we started at this late hour making changes," said one of them, "there's no telling when it would stop. The taxes are high, all right—too high, but there's nothing that can be done about it this year. We made the levies as low as possible, and the new method of valuation and increases on the part of the state and city helped to swell the total."

There are some cases, this commissioner said, where there was undoubtedly an error in the assessment. One farmer had a two-year-old Dodge car assessed at \$1,400, when a new one sells for less money. There are other instances of inequalities, but these, it was pointed out, should have been placed before the board while it was sitting as a board of equalization. It's now too late to expect relief at the hands of the commissioners. "The only remedy is to put such cases up to the county assessor for correction," was the word which went out from the county board.

One Bright Spot.

There was but one bright spot to enliven the proceedings, and it concerned roads. Talking roads to the commissioners the past two or three months has had a result something like pouring gasoline on a coal pile. There is a flare-up.

Commissioner Carrell of Hemingford, it appears, suggested that the board adopt a resolution in which they would agree to meet the Morrill county commissioners, who are building a road to the Box Butte county line, at any place where they happened to strike the line. The other two members of the board at one time signed an agreement to meet such a road if it struck Box Butte county at the same place where the Burlington tracks strike it, and these two say they still favor the track road.

Commissioner Duncan objected to adopting any more resolutions on roads, especially on a south road, upon which a resolution had already been adopted. The commissioner from Hemingford sought to argue him into it, but after some minutes gave up the task.

Funeral Services for Mrs. John Lawrence Were Held Thursday

Funeral services for Mrs. John Lawrence, of the Fairview neighborhood, who died suddenly Monday morning, were held Thursday afternoon from the Fairview church at 1 o'clock, with Rev. Stephen J. Epler of the Alliance Christian church in charge.

Mary Ann Davis was born at Tredegar, Wales, November 15, 1845, and died at her home near Alliance on her seventy-sixth birthday. She came to America in 1863 and settled at Massillon, O., where a brother lived. Later she came to Johnstown, Pa., where she was married to John Lawrence, July 27, 1867. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence moved to Terra Haute, Ind., and lived there until in 1875 when they moved to Coalfield, Ia., coming to Nebraska in 1888. They homesteaded in Box Butte county and lived on their homestead for twenty-seven years. For the past two years they have been living in a house built on their son Tom's farm.

To Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence eleven children were born, six daughters and five sons. Only three sons are living, John R., Tom J., and Dan R. Lawrence. In the old country Mrs. Lawrence was affiliated with the Welsh Baptist church but in 1907 she and her husband united with the Fairview M. E. church which is built on the Lawrence property.

Mrs. Lawrence was a kind and loving wife and mother and was faithful to her Lord until the last. She leaves to mourn her death, her husband with whom she has been a loving companion for over fifty years, her three sons, other relatives and many friends.

County Attorney Lee Bayse left for Morrill this afternoon on legal business.