

The Alliance Herald

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

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REVISING THE STUDENT CODE.

Five high school students, youths prominent in athletics and leaders among the student body, were caught late Wednesday when they broke into the principal's office at the high school. Their intent was to steal copies of the questions to be asked at the examinations on the following days. It wasn't a new stunt—this sort of thing has been done several times in the past, but on this occasion elaborate plans were made. The principal's keys were borrowed, and a duplicate was made of the one opening the cabinet where the questions were kept.

Due to the queer code of honor among boys and girls, it has been possible for this sort of thievery to happen time and again. The student body generally has known of the theft of questions in the past, although many to whom copies of the questions were offered have declined to use them. However, so greatly does youth hate a "snitcher" that the culprits have heretofore escaped detection, even though the knowledge of their acts was not hidden from their fellows.

There are those who will say that this act of thievery represents the tendency of the times, and to a certain extent this is true. The attitude of everybody, after the war, has been, as one man expressed it, to "get something for nothing." Some laborers during the high price period soldiered on the job; some merchants charged robber profits; all of us were inclined to drift with the current and hard work wasn't popular. Small wonder that the students, bright boys and girls quick to learn and quick to react to outside stimuli, should get the same slacker notions in their heads. There have always been that type of students in school, but, until the past year or so, they have not included the highest type of our youth. It isn't a pleasant thought to realize that the best we have, the fellows that we have cheered to victory, the boys we've admired most, are the ones to prove false to the trust placed in them.

It will blow over, of course, in time. Such things always do. The mistakes of youth should not be held against them. There'll be punishment, of course, and it should be solely at the hands of the school authorities, the men most concerned with the problem presented for their solution.

But it is to be hoped that the other students will profit by the lesson. There is need for a change in the code of student ethics, and the adoption of some features of the adult code. It isn't honorable to remain silent while your chum does a mean and dishonorable act, unworthy of himself and his alma mater. It isn't noble to protect anyone at the loss of your self respect. Boys who steal examination questions and take credits they have not earned aren't cheating the teachers—they're cheating themselves.

No glamor of false admiration for the boy with "nerve" can hide the fact that cheating is cheating, and that it is a dishonorable thing. An honor system may solve the present problem, but there needs to be a strict definition of honor, and a genuine desire for every student to act honorably in all ways. When cheating becomes popular, schools can be made into prisons, with lookouts and guards; but let's hope that Alliance students haven't fallen so low.

MR. JOHNSON'S STATEMENT

State Engineer George E. Johnson has written a statement for publication in the country newspapers of the state, in which he defends his administration of the office of state highway commissioner, and of the state and federal funds expended under the direction of his department. Inasmuch as The Herald has been among the newspapers of the state which has believed that money was being wasted because of methods of Mr. Johnson's department, it has given him full opportunity to defend himself.

The state engineer takes a few of the many complaints that have come in, and disposes of them in his customary manner. He refuses to admit that the department of which he is at the head has been in any way at fault, but for the most part answers charges with counter-charges. This system may prove effective in some cases, but with the dissatisfaction over the state so general, it is unlikely that it will have its old-time effect. This

is a time for promises and performance, not squabbling and recrimination. The state highway department is on trial, although Mr. Johnson may not realize it.

The treatment of the charges made by Commissioner Bowring of Cherry county is especially noteworthy. Mr. Johnson was present at the state meeting of commissioners, and made an address. The day following his departure, Mr. Bowring made some severe charges against the department. Mr. Johnson simply states that these criticisms had already been answered by him in a personal letter to Mr. Bowring, but that, due to the Cherry county man's cowardly and unjust actions, he does not see fit to make a public reply. Perhaps, being unable to silence Mr. Bowring, he fears the effect on the public. At any rate, this is not defense or argument.

The state engineer proposes that a statewide investigation be made, not of a few projects, although it was individual projects that caused the criticism, and a good average for the state does not excuse carelessness on any one road. It should be done. If, as Mr. Johnson charges, the counties are unable to show where they have expended 50 per cent of their money, it is worth knowing, even though such laxness is no excuse for Mr. Johnson's department. If there is any way that a non-political, statewide investigation can be made, let's have it. If there is inefficiency, waste or bull-headedness by either state or county officials, now, in these days of high taxes; is the time to uncover it.

THE EDITOR OBLIGES

At the request of Rufus Jones, who seems to be getting somewhat harder to live with as editor of the Minutary Free Press than in the palmy days when he was in charge of the destinies of the Alliance chamber of commerce, it becomes necessary to diagram and otherwise explain a recent editorial in these columns, the title of which was "The Persistence of Error," and which had to do with the erroneous belief, held generally by members of Alliance labor unions, that the chamber of commerce working against labor's interests.

In that editorial, The Herald editor explained the persistence of this pernicious belief by saying that it arose from a mistaken idea, held by the labor unionists, that the chamber of commerce is affiliated with the United States chamber of commerce. The national organization has, as one of its aims, the spread of the so-called American plan, the un-American open shop. In referring to this belief, we used the words: "The labor union men never believed this fake until, a couple of years ago, the secretary of the Alliance chamber of commerce brought up the matter of affiliation with the United States chamber of commerce."

Mr. Jones has looked long and earnestly at these words, and has convinced himself that The Herald is attacking him by innuendo, and seeks to create a prejudice against him in the minds of Alliance unionists. He asks us not only to publish his denial, but to go further and absolve ourselves publicly.

The United States chamber of commerce, about every so often, forwards an invitation to the Alliance organiza-

tion to affiliate with it. Mr. Jones, in the months he spent here, recalled two such invitations. Others preceded them, and have followed since he departed. We have known of several. We recall that the first time we heard the charge that the Alliance chamber of commerce was affiliated with the national organization, came many months ago. We estimated it at two years. Frankly, the thought never crossed our mind that Rufus was secretary at that time. We knew that the subject had been brought up at some meeting which we attended, and that shortly afterward the word went abroad that the chamber of commerce was out for the open shop. Had we said a year, Mr. Jones could not conceivably have been aggrieved. If it will make him feel any easier, we will cheerfully accept a correction. Call it a year, instead of two years. The important thing is not the particular day when the belief arose, but the persistence with which it clings.

Mr. Jones goes farther. He says the prejudice existed when he came here, and was due to an entirely different cause. In this he seeks to discredit our own knowledge of the situation, which is, we believe, based on fairly accurate information. Mr. Jones came to Alliance but a few months ahead of us, and left about a year ago. We have had at least twice the opportunity to study local conditions and ascertain sentiment. With all due credit to Mr. Jones' powers of apperception, which are mighty, we desire to justify ourselves in the minds of our readers and Rufus himself.

According to Mr. Jones' theory, the cause of the ill feeling was a merchants' retail association, a "thinly veiled collection agency." Officers of the chamber of commerce at the time tell us that it was a cause of adverse comment, but that the labor unionists, who paid their bills as promptly, on the average, as other classes of citizens, were not as a class opposed to it. It created resentment on the part of every man with whom it had dealings. It was abolished, but its discontinuance was not based on the antagonism of labor, any more than the antagonism of anyone else.

So far as the belief that the chamber of commerce is affiliated with the national organization is concerned, it does exist. It is the chief talking point against the business men's organization today. President Glen Miller of the club, some months ago, thought it of sufficient importance to issue an official denial. The Rev. B. J. Minor, who conducts a labor column in the newspaper published by Mr. Jones' partner, has attributed the present antagonism to this cause.

Mr. Jones is a southerner, and possesses, to the full extent, the sensitive temperament and the hair-trigger sense of honor which is characteristic of the sons of the south. The whole trouble will doubtless be traceable to an extra cup of coffee for breakfast, or a pied form at the Free Press office. Unless suffering from some emotional strain or digestive disturbance, Rufus would never see in such a remark an attempt to wreck his prestige with the labor unionists of Alliance, or with anyone else. In calmer moments, Mr. Jones will realize that did The Herald editor desire to destroy his prestige in this city, which probably would be difficult, we

would hardly be chump enough to strike a blow from this particular angle. Unless Rufus plans some day to return to Alliance and set up a labor paper, his friendliness or unfriendliness to the labor union movement is a matter of small moment, inasmuch as it has been over a year since he was a member of this community. It is interesting, of course—anything that Rufus sees fit to do or write is interesting—but may we not suggest that it is comparatively unimportant, and that no matter how he stands, it has little bearing on the situation in Alliance.

The last paragraph of his communication, in which he reminds the editor of this newspaper of the requirements of newspaper ethics, is, as Mr. Jones well knows, unnecessary. In the past we have on occasion discussed the ethics of this profession with him, and he knows that we are in full accord with his views. If this were not sufficient, past experience should have

reminded him that so far as publicity favorable to himself is concerned, The Herald has always been ready to oblige. And despite his almost belligerent attitude on the chimerical point he has raised, we are not disposed to deny him now.

And now, without further dragging in newspaper ethics, of which we will concede Mr. Jones has more than a working knowledge, we hope that he will conclude, after cooling off, that his honor has not been impugned. We trust that his influence with Alliance labor unionists is all that he believes, and can assure him that we have neither the intention nor the desire to wreck it.

The latest fad of Parisian women is a handkerchief a yard square. At last, papa can borrow an adequate one when his laundry doesn't come home.

Beauty note—The same ruby tint that is artificially pasted on a girl's face can be put there naturally by a little service in the kitchen every day.

POINT OF ROCK CREEK

Mr. and Mrs. Green and family were Sunday visitors at Roy Nichols'.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jones spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. F. Trine and family.

Leo Hashman motored to Alliance Saturday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Nichols drove to town Saturday.

Mrs. Ivy Essex spent a few days in Alliance this week.

Frank Jones and Ernie Wienell were callers at Fred Nichols' Monday.

Roy Boyer and his daughters, Misses Fay and Francis, were Alliance callers Saturday.

Mrs. Ada Langford and children visited with Frank Vaughn Sunday.

Mrs. Frank Vaughn is having some dental work done.

Earl and Lyle Essex were callers at Cal Hashman's Sunday.

Philip Wills and Wesley Hashman were callers at Wienell's Sunday morning.

The most puzzling thing about the free verse poets is that nobody can tell which is the worst.



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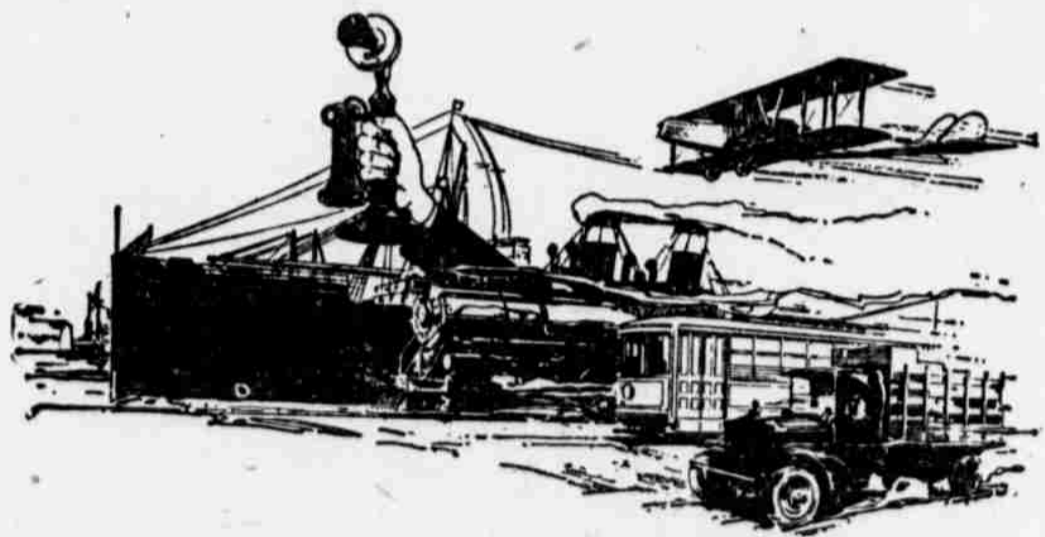
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