

The Alliance Herald

Official Paper of Box Butte County

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SUMMARY OF THE POTATO CROP FOR THE PRESENT SEASON

AN INCREASED ACREAGE, BUT SLIGHTLY LOWER YIELD.

Cheaper Farm Labor and Somewhat Better Prices During Digging Time Than in 1920.

Olin D. Miller, special representative of the federal bureau of markets and marketing, who was stationed in Alliance at the beginning of the potato shipping season and sent out a daily market report to the growers, and is now in the office of the state bureau of markets, where he is continuing this service, has issued a summary of the western Nebraska white potato crop for the season. Mr. Miller says:

The planting in western Nebraska in 1921 were considerably larger than in 1920. The average in the important counties raising potatoes on a commercial scale was reported by assessors as follows: In the dry-land area, Box Butte 17,774, Sheridan 11,266, Dawes 3,763, Brown 3,797, Kimball 1,463; in the irrigated area, Scotts Bluff 6,520, Sioux 5,135, Morrill 3,299. The increase in the dry-land area amounted to 65 per cent over that reported for 1920, and was almost all in Box Butte and Sheridan counties. In irrigated land it was more than 40 per cent and showed mostly in Sioux and Morrill counties. Although at the beginning of the digging it was the general opinion of growers that the large acreage increase in the dry-land districts would be counterbalanced by the poor stand resulting from unfavorable conditions at planting time and the use of cull stock as seed, it developed that the average yield was nearly up to normal. Yields on dry land ranged from 20 to 175 bushels an acre and averaged slightly better than 80 bushels, compared with 90 for the previous season. On irrigated land they ranged from 50 to 450 bushels an acre and averaged about 155, compared with 150 for 1920.

The quality of the 1921 crop was somewhat below normal. The extremely hot summer weather, together with considerable rain, caused an unusual amount of fusarium wilt (developing as "stem-end rot"), and this disease disqualified for seed much of the stock raised for that use. The percentage of growth cracks and second growth in all districts, and scab as well, in the central and northern districts, was too high for much of the stock to meet No. 1 requirements. Of the shipments to November 15 (tabulated by grade on page 4), shipping point inspection showed 16 per cent of the dry-land stock to have rolled as No. 2 grade. This does not mean that all the potatoes in the cars so graded were necessarily No. 2's. Since the state grading law requires that all carlot shipments of potatoes meet the requirements of at least the No. 2 grade and must be so designated unless they make the No. 1 grade, a car of No. 2 potatoes may contain stock which is anywhere between the No. 2 and the No. 1 requirements. Because size was rarely a disqualifying item in (Continued on page 5)

Local Men Are Chosen Inspectors for Federal Loans

Three new inspectors have been appointed to see that security offered for war finance loans is as represented. They are Oscar Braman and E. A. Hall of Alliance and Ode Black of Lakeside. The board in charge of the loans, of which Dr. H. A. Copey is president, is at present engaged in inspecting the security for former loans and it is not taking any new paper. About \$110,000 has already been loaned. Before the appointment of the new inspectors it was necessary to bring inspectors from other towns to do any business. The inspectors for this district are all cattlemen and land dealers of wide experience and are well able to look after the board's interests.

Methodist Church to Have Special Musical Program Sunday Eve

A special musical program will be presented at the Methodist church Sunday evening, when the choir of thirty voices, in oriental costumes, will tell the "Story of the Orient." The following numbers will be included: Musical prelude, "Birds and Flowers." Chorus, "The Rose of Sharon." Quartette, "At Eventide." Solo, "Living Water." Chorus, "Disciple's Song." Chorus, "Beatitude." Ladies' two-part chorus, "Scatter the Seed." Chorus, "The Tempest." Duet, "Peace Be Still." Chorus, "Bread of Life." Full chorus, "Ready to Serve."

Alton Slaten of Hemingford was operated on for appendicitis last Friday.

THE WEATHER

For Alliance and vicinity: Fair to night. Somewhat warmed.

Charles Peltz Draws Fine of \$200 for Illegal Possession

Charles Peltz was fined \$200 and costs in county court this afternoon on the charge of illegally having in his possession and transporting liquor. The witnesses in the case, Thomas R. Manion, John J. Watson and Max Mucker all agreed perfectly on their story which was that they had attended a dance at the home of Watson and that some of the guests seemed to be intoxicated. On deciding to stop this the three witnesses searched Peltz's car and found in it two quarts of what they took to be high test moonshine. This they took to the house and locked up in spite of the protests of the defendant who was in the car at the time. The next day these men brought the liquor to town and turned it over to the sheriff.

Peltz, who acted as his own attorney, averred that he had found the fire-water in Watson's milkhouse and had decided to take it away and throw it in a gulch and had carried out his intention only so far as putting it in his car when the other men had taken it away from him.

Judge Tash ruled, however, that which ever story was true that Peltz had had in his possession and transported the liquor and assessed a fine of two hundred dollars and costs.

Charity Ball to Be Held Saturday Eve at the Roof Garden

The ball for the benefit of the local charity council will be held at the roof garden on Saturday night of this week. First plans were to hold the dance at the armory, but so many tickets were sold that this was found to be impracticable. There will be a huge attendance, and it will be a great evening's entertainment.

FRIENDS HOPING TO ARRANGE FOR GRAY'S RELEASE

RUMOR THAT PROBLEM WILL BE PUT UP TO WESTOVER.

Say They Can Raise \$500, and Want Balance of Fine Remitted—Failure Forecasted.

Friends of Tom Gray, self-confessed bootlegger, who was arrested November 4 in the act of operating a moonshine still in a cave thirteen miles southeast of Alliance, and who was sentenced three days later to a month in the county jail and a fine of \$1,000, has visions of liberty. Some weeks ago the county commissioners were approached by an attorney, who wanted them to pass a resolution requesting District Judge W. H. Westover to reduce the fine to \$500. The commissioners refused to take this action, but Tom and his friends have not given up hope.

According to fairly reliable rumors, the friends of the prisoner are planning another similar attempt. This time, it is said, they will make their appeal direct to the district judge. Judge Westover didn't impose the sentence, as he had traded benches with Judge Harry Stuffer of the Omaha district at the time.

Gray started immediately serving his fine out, at the rate of \$3 a day, with the prospect of spending at least a year in the county bastille. He has steadfastly kept a stiff upper lip, and has refused to implicate any of his friends in the moonshine traffic, but the last week or two he is said to have intimated to the officers that he believed his friends had forgotten him. This, the county authorities believe, will result eventually in Thomas spilling the beans unless his friends come to the rescue. The fact that they have not been idle is looked upon as evidence either that they are most loyal friends, or else they are getting a trifle worried.

Tom has told the officers that "some of his friends were standing by him," and he is apparently cognizant of the fact that some efforts are being made in his behalf. The rumor has it that they can still raise the \$500 they had in mind at the time the county commissioners were asked to intercede, to save the county a big board bill. Tom has served just three months, and there are nine months ahead of him unless the court relents or his friends dig down deeper into their jeans.

It is fairly probably, however, that Tom and his few loyal friends are doomed to disappointment. Attorneys say that Judge Westover will in all probability not look kindly upon the application. In the case of a similar application made while he was holding court in Chadron, Judge Westover ruled that his hands were tied, and the matter of release of reduction of fine was wholly up to the board of pardons.

READY TO FIGHT INEQUALITIES IN LIVESTOCK RATE

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ATTORNEY COLLECTS DATA.

Dale P. Stough May Meet With Interested Ranchers and Business Men Saturday.

Dale P. Stough, Grand Island attorney, who has been retained by the transportation committee of the Alliance chamber of commerce and other commercial organizations in western Nebraska, plans to stop over in Alliance the latter end of the week, and if possible, a meeting will be arranged for at the chamber of commerce rooms, at which Alliance business men and interested stockmen and ranchers may learn of the evidence he plans to present.

Some weeks ago, a Washington dispatch brought the news that a special representative of the interstate commerce commission would visit Omaha to hear evidence in connection with alleged discriminatory rates on livestock charged by the Burlington railroad between various Nebraska points and Omaha.

Through an order of the federal commission, rates on livestock in Nebraska were nominally reduced 20 per cent. The order, as relating to the Burlington, covered only towns 500 miles distant from Omaha, and there is but one town in the state—Henry, on the Wyoming line—which benefited from the cut. The Union Pacific and Northwestern roads, however, reduced rates 20 per cent over the entire state. The result has been that shippers have been trailing their cattle overland in order to ship on the Union Pacific or Northwestern, to the detriment of the Burlington towns. Several of these united and have employed Attorney Stough to present their case to the commission's representative.

Hearing Postponed.

According to a letter received from Mr. Stough by Mrs. L. C. Thomas, secretary of the chamber of commerce, the hearing has been postponed, but Mr. Stough plans to pass through Alliance and talk over the case with interested parties. The chamber of commerce has requested Mr. Stough to attempt to be in Alliance Saturday, and has invited interested parties to talk with him.

The following letter received from Mr. Stough, outlines the result of some of his investigations:

"After the live stock rate case was postponed beyond today, I came to North Platte for a term of court and probably will be here until I go to Hyannis for court on February 6. If I get through here with proper time that I can make Alliance in the daytime, I may stop there a few hours, even if it should be on Sunday, the 5, and might get an hour or so for an interview with Mr. Lunn and Mr. Hampton and a chance to show them some of the interesting evidence and data already gathered.

"I will outline briefly some of the data I have at hand. A comparison of live stock rates from the point of origin on the Burlington to Omaha, with rates of equal distant points to Kansas City and St. Joseph. This comparison includes, say, the rate from Anselmo to Ashby, ranging from 401 to 492 miles from Kansas City and St. Joseph (taking a halfway point as the average) with Antioch, 397, to Marland, 432, to Omaha. For instance—Natick to the lower river markets, Kansas City and St. Joseph, on cattle—385 per cwt; Alliance to South Omaha, 413 miles—415 per cwt, showing the present discrepancy in favor of the Missouri markets and against Alliance.

"My data also includes different tables showing earnings in cents per car miles, covering Angora to Crawford and down to Scottsbluff and Morrill, comparing the Omaha and Missouri markets, with Union Pacific stations for comparisons. There are several hundred tabulations in this collection of data and only by going over it thoroughly personally, if I can get to Alliance in the daytime, could I give a real idea of it."

The Rotary Club Held Interesting Session Wednesday

The Rotary club met Wednesday evening at the Alliance hotel with Arthur Melville as a visitor. Mr. Melville recently purchased the Fowler Lumber company and he stated in a short talk that he considered Alliance one of the best business towns in the state. He also said that the people of Alliance did not realize this as well as people in other places. Mr. Melville is a member of the Rotary club of Broken Bow. Brown's Saxophone Six, which appeared later in the evening at the Imperial theatre, gave a concert which was greatly enjoyed by all. F. C. Prince, principal of the high school and former army officer, was to have been present to demonstrate some setting up exercises, but was detained.

J. P. Jensen of Hemingford was in Alliance for a few hours Thursday.

EXTRA SESSION OF LEGISLATURE COMES TO END

ADJOURNED THURSDAY AFTER NINE DAYS' WORK.

Appropriations Cut \$2,051,755, Or \$21,000 More Than the Governor Suggested.

The special session of the legislature ended Thursday afternoon, after working nine days. Appropriations were reduced \$2,051,755, a total of \$21,000 more than the cuts recommended by the governor. The expenses of the session were \$17,710.

It was the sentiment of the special session that road construction with federal aid shall be continued this year in accordance with the pledge of the state for a five-year program of road work, but both houses passed a resolution as a sort of an aside saying that in the future the policy of matching dollars with Uncle Sam shall be frowned upon and the Nebraska representatives in congress are asked to do their blindest to stop the flood of federal money into the state, says the State Journal.

Any number of members of the legislature insist that Governor McKelvie didn't have the gasoline tax in the front of his mind at all when he made the call for the extra session. Their theory is that he put this forward to be shot at while he secured other things that he wanted a good deal more. They give the governor credit for being a deep political strategist, when those closest to him think that he is as transparent as plate glass.

Bills Passed.

Eleven bills were passed by the special session, including two appropriating a total of \$19,040 for the expenses of the session. Five bills introduced in the house and six in the senate became laws. It was announced that Governor McKelvie would sign those sent to him late Thursday afternoon. These include the general appropriation bill, H. R. 1, reducing appropriations.

H. R.'s 5 and 6 were duplicates of bills passed by the senate and were therefore indefinitely postponed. H. R. 7 was the ill fated gasoline tax bill. Senate file No. 1 by Warner of Lancaster, relating to proof of publication of legal notices was indefinitely postponed at the request of the introducer to make way for the passage of S. F. 7, a bill on the same subject.

Senate file No. 3 was indefinitely postponed in the house. It was one of the bills authorized by the governor to correct the Omaha charter relative to payment of assessments for benefits accruing to property from widening of streets. It was found impossible to correct another section of the charter which provided for the payment of damages accruing from the same cause, so it was sidetracked.

The following are the bills passed and signed by the governor: H. R. 1, the general appropriations bill carrying a reduction for the current year, in appropriations, of \$2,051,755. Emergency. H. R. 2, appropriating \$5,000 or so (Continued on Page 8.)

R. M. Hampton Talks to Alliance Lions on Business Conditions

R. M. Hampton was the principal speaker at the Thursday dinner of the Alliance Lions club. He discussed the present business outlook, largely following the same line of thought as in an address to the Rotary club last week.

Future prosperity, Mr. Hampton said, is not a matter of law, but of individual effort. Whenever the country as a whole, turns seriously toward conservation and economy, the effect will be instantaneous. The same remedy will apply to foreign nations, he declared, for as soon as the citizens individually turn toward production and economy, exchange values will rise.

Normal business conditions are headed this way, Mr. Hampton declared, and by the latter part of 1922, there should be business as usual.

Dr. J. H. Jeffrey was a guest at the dinner, and contributed a brief talk on the advantages of Lionism and the need for a spirit of toleration in business and social life.

Express Company Is Moving to Its New Quarters at Depot

The work of moving the express company headquarters from the Masonic Temple building to the maintenance building, just west of the Burlington station, began on Wednesday. It will take at least two weeks to complete the job.

W. R. Harper writes from Chicago that he is busy buying and some of his purchases in the way of spring goods are already arriving.

Alliance Elks Plan Vaudeville Show for Friday, February 10

Under command of A. H. Harper, members of the Alliance Elks lodge have perfected a vaudeville program consisting seven numbers that are far above the average. The program is quite varied, and all of it is good, according to the report of a committee called in to pass judgment. The committee unanimously decided that the show was just the kind that the Alliance Elks want to sponsor, and the program will be put on at the Imperial next Friday night, and possibly taken to Chadron later. Further announcement will be made later. The admission will be comparatively low, and it is expected the house will be packed to the guards.

Two Fire Calls Last Night From Railroad Yards

The Alliance fire department was called out twice last night. The first call came at 8 o'clock on account of a fire in a refrigerator car loaded with potatoes. The fire was in the packing between the outer and inner walls of the car. After the blaze had been extinguished, the city fire boys left it to the railroad fire department to look after it and see that it didn't break out again, but another call came at 8:30 when the car again broke out in flames.

Burlington Adds New Train Crews to Present Force

Two new train crews have been put on this week and while it is not definitely known whether they will remain permanently the prospects for this seem good. Business has been picking up some lately and it is hoped it will not be long before all the men laid off at present will be back on the job.

HEARING ON THE PHONE INCREASE WAS INFORMAL

CITY MANAGER KEMMISH APPEARED FOR ALLIANCE

Commission Agrees to Accept Company's Book Values, But Alliance May Make Valuation

City Manager N. A. Kemmish, who left Alliance Tuesday noon for Omaha and Lincoln, to attend the hearing before the Nebraska railway commission yesterday, called his office force by telephone this morning and reported the results of the hearing. The meeting, he said, was informal, and the commission did not attempt to go into the arguments for and against a rate increase at that time.

The commission, Mr. Kemmish says, decided to accept the book value of the Northwestern Bell Telephone company, and will not conduct an investigation at state expense to determine whether the figures submitted by the company are correct. News reports recently have indicated that the commission would take this attitude, one of the members having stated that a similar investigation in another state had cost \$205,000, and there were not sufficient funds at the commission's disposal to permit an expenditure of this size.

Just what effect the hearing has had on the matter of the rate increase asked by the telephone company will not be known until Mr. Kemmish returns, which will be on Sunday. It is understood that the Alliance representatives, Mr. Kemmish and Mr. Romig, secured permission to start work on a valuation of their own and that they would be given an opportunity to present the results of their investigations to the commission. Mr. Kemmish took with him a carefully prepared brief in which he presented arguments against allowing the increase, but it is not known whether it was filed or will be presented later if Alliance is given a separate hearing. At yesterday's session there was considered only matters affecting all of the towns at which the increase was asked.

Plans for New High School Are Nearly Completed

The plans for the new high school building will be completed soon, according to W. R. Pate, superintendent of schools. A small draft of the ground plan was sent last week to the board in order that they might decide just where to place the building on the lot. A decision was reached to place the new structure in the center of the block on which the present high school stands and, to face it to the west.

Deputy U. S. Marshal A. M. Wright of Chadron was in the city today.

CHECK WRITING ROMEO IS AGAIN IN THE LIMELIGHT

DEWEY L. RUSSOM NOW IN BAD AT FAIRVIEW, OKL.

Sob Story Told to Alliance Authorities Evidently Part of His Regular Line.

Dewey L. Russom, twenty-two-year-old Romeo writer of worthless checks, who got into trouble at Alliance the latter part of December, and who was released after a sobbing promise to reform when a letter offering him his old job was received, is again in trouble. The sheriff's office yesterday received a postcard from Sheriff John L. Horn of Fairview, Okl., which bore the heading, in large type, "Escaped," and which contained the following illuminating message:

"Escaped—From the Major county jail, January 27, 1922, Dewey L. Russom, age twenty-six years; weight about 165; 5 feet 10 inches tall; slim built; has black hair and dark eyes; one leg shorter than the other; wears a built-up shoe and limps slightly. He is a bad check artist. Arrest cost wire at my expense."

In all probability, Russom will steam clear of Alliance, where he has a narrow escape from being sent to jail, but the message from the Oklahoma sheriff brings up interesting recollections of his experiences in this city.

The day before Christmas, Russom, who called himself Russell, was arrested by the Alliance police, charged with cashing two worthless checks at the Thiele drug store, and attempting to cash another at the Harper department store. The last session of the legislature was all that saved his bacon, for the legislature changed the law in regard to writing worthless checks and placed this offense on a par with grand and petty larceny, depending on the amount of the checks. Fortunately Russom had not written any check in an amount sufficient to hold him for grand larceny, and so, after a rather dam' session before Judge Tash, in which the crippled boy wept copiously, he was given but thirty days in jail.

Allowed to Go to Work.

A day or two later, a letter came from his sweetheart in his home town, Green River, Wyo., which said that his job as Union Pacific timekeeper was open for him, and the judge released him. It had been supposed that his reformation was genuine, and that he was now hard at work trying to redeem himself in the eyes of his Green River sweetheart, but apparently not. The officers, with later facts to guide them, are now of the opinion that even though Russom was at one time a railroad, he has found the check writing game profitable. His crippled condition undoubtedly won sympathy for him whenever he was caught in one of his attempts to draw money.

Shortly after he was released from the Alliance jail, a message from Cheyenne brought the news that he was wanted there for a similar offense at the expiration of his sentence. The word came too late.

(Continued on Page 8.)

Vandals at City Park Lectured by County Attorney

Half a dozen boys have been called before County Attorney Basye since Tuesday and informed that their behavior at the city park was not approved. The boys say that they may have been rough with the smaller boys, but it is a pretty small skating pond and the little boys naturally get crowded off. They promised to try to do better. Mr. Basye couldn't get any of them to admit tearing down trees to make bonfires, each one insisting that he had brought wood from home for the purpose.

Juvenile Offenders Report Promptly to County Judge Tash

The ten juvenile offenders who admitted in juvenile court that they had entered the Morgan grocery company building and taken therefrom various comestibles, and who were lectured and told to report to Judge Tash on Tuesday of this week, were on hand promptly at the appointed hour, only one missing the appointment. The missing lad had run a nail in his foot and was permitted to stay at home. The boys talked the matter over with the judge quite frankly, one of them saying that every boy, at some time in his life, has to have the lesson brought home to him. The two boys, who were told to attend Sunday school announced they had found one to attend.

Dr. F. M. Knight, president of the Alliance National bank, will leave the last of the week for Decorah, Ia., for a week's visit with his mother, Mrs. Ruffridge.