

The Alliance Herald
TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

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THE MANAGER'S SALARY

The petition requesting the council to reduce the salary of City Manager Kemmish has been circulated, signed, presented to the council and tabled without discussion. Which is just as it should be. The Herald would rather it had followed this course than that the matter had not been brought up at all. It has been known, of course, for months—in fact, ever since the city manager plan was put into effect in Alliance—that there is a certain portion of the taxpayers who are not satisfied. Despite the fact that, had they a mind to investigate, they could have discovered that the manager's salary was inconsequential in view of the economies he has effected and the business methods he has installed, a few irreconcilables have done their best to stir up a strife and have taken advantage of every opportunity offered. These have been few—so few, in fact, that they have had to capitalize the general feeling against salaries paid to any official.

The important thing about the petition is that it shows clearly that these irreconcilables—men who have once commanded a considerable political support, have lost much ground since their authority and system have been supplanted. There were less than 550 names attached to the petition.

Many who signed the roll were sincere in believing that a further reduction in city expenses could be effected by cutting the manager's salary. Others sought only to embarrass the city administration, for reasons best known to themselves. In addition to a lot of men and women who were undoubtedly sincere, there were some others who have had trouble of one sort or another with some department of the city. There were also a long list of the fellows who sign any petition as the easiest way to get rid of the solicitor. There were also a large number of men who hope to get their own group into power some day. Also there was noted pages of signatures of the voters who used to be herded into the polls on election days in the years gone by. The large taxpayers are conspicuous by their absence.

Instead of being a cause for regret that there is dissension in Alliance, the petition shows clearly that there should be rejoicing that the harmony is so nearly universal. There is little question that the 550 names represents the full strength of the irreconcilable element. This isn't sufficient to elect even one councilman, for under the city manager plan councilmen are elected from the whole city, and not from the wards. Instead of showing that a small element is dissatisfied, the petition shows clearly that the majority of the citizens of Alliance are behind the city government.

It was a happy circumstance that City Manager Kemmish had compiled a preliminary report on his first year's work just when he did. He didn't know that the petition was coming up at that time. It was presented a few

minutes before the council meeting. Mr. Kemmish's report answers every argument made by the petitioners; it effectively silences every objection. When, over the period of the six years before the manager plan went into effect, it is shown that the city officials spent an average of \$12,000 a year more than they had to spend, with the exception of one year following the voting of about \$50,000 in bonds to pay for deficits, and it is discovered that the first year of the manager plan sees the new officials start out with \$500 cash in the treasury and end up with \$9,000 to the good, with the "excessive" salary paid to the man who accomplished such a result, it doesn't leave the irreconcilables a leg to stand on.

The same petition, if passed tomorrow, wouldn't get any such number of signatures. No one who really wants to cut down taxes and expenses would consider for a moment hiring a cheaper man and taking chances with results. Only those who want jobs which they cannot get under the city manager plan would consider for a moment going back to the old, unbusinesslike system. Mr. Kemmish's figures were intended only as a report of what has been accomplished the first and hardest year under the new system. They have served to confound the "outs" who want to get back "in."

Now, there is but one thing left to accomplish. The men who have sought to embarrass the city administration and to wreck the city manager plan will do well to take a tumble to themselves. There would have been no petition save for the activities of a few leaders. Most of those who signed the document were talked into it. The leaders can see plainly that their chances for ultimate victory are very slight. If they read the cards correctly, they will realize that the thing to do is to stop the present tactics and get into the band wagon. The city manager plan already has sufficient support to make it a success in spite of them. They can still save their influence if they will turn it into the right channel. But it may be safely predicted that the city manager plan will go on without their support if they do not see fit to give it. Coming years will show the wisdom of the majority.

A PLEASING CONTRAST

Those members of the Alliance chamber of commerce who attended the last two meetings of that organization held with the Hemingford men could not but wonder at the contrast in the attitude of both Alliance and Hemingford. On the first occasion, the representatives of the cities behaved exceedingly like naughty little boys, who make faces at one another, stick out their tongues and say "Yah, yah!" in the tones that are intended to infuriate. At the Friday evening session, the men resembled two friendly school girls who place two straws in one dish of ice cream soda. It was a pleasant session and it is hoped that it is but the forerunner of dozens of others.

Just what has brought about the change in attitude is a matter of small moment, although their curiously inflexible will stretch their heads and wrinkle their brows. The most important feature is that a change has come about, and that it seems to be genuine. Instead of flying at each other's throats, the representatives of the city and the town vied with each other in saying friendly things and offering helpful suggestions. The desire for mutual co-operation and helpfulness was evident. The closing feed did a whole lot toward cementing the friendship.

There isn't a single reason in the world why Hemingford and Alliance

should not be friendly and co-operate for the good of themselves and the entire county. Either place can be snippy and self-sufficient, but there isn't a thing to be gained. Alliance business men need the support of Hemingford buyers. Hemingford buyers need a market so near and so complete as Alliance. The two cities are not competitors for anything as yet. The time may come when there will be enough tourist trade to justify a little rivalry, but as yet the tourists are a more or less mythical quantity. When the number of them is sufficient excuse, there can be friendly rivalry as well as the other kind.

And in the meantime, Hemingford and Alliance are alike interested in the good roads movement. The present road program will benefit the neighboring town fully as much as Alliance, and the co-operation of both is needed to insure the right amount of progress. With a war on, the prospects are that little will be accomplished. There will probably come a time when the one or the other will have to give way in little things, but it's surprising how easily this can be done and how little real pain there is in deferring when the request is made in the right spirit.

Another thing that requires the united effort of both Hemingford and Alliance is the certified seed potato movement. The biggest opportunity that confronts Box Butte county right now is not oil or cattle or manufactures, but the humble and lowly spud, which is found on every dining table in the land. With two chambers of commerce united in a campaign to put Box Butte spuds on the map, it won't be long before results are apparent.

The spirit of co-operation spreads rapidly. Hemingford and Alliance will discover a hundred ways in which they can render friendly help to one another. Best of all, there will be an end to jealousness and suspicious and needless spites and rivalries. The men who met at Hemingford Friday evening were friendly, and the oftener they get together, the better they will like it and the more they will accomplish.

THE CLOWN TAKES THE RING

The man once known as Crown Prince Wilhelm is now writing his memoirs. In all probability, some magazine writer is doing it for him, and is making the best of a bad job. The world has never been much interested in the clown prince, and now that his illustrious father has received a portion of what is coming to him, the theories of the son concerning his father have no more weight than did the son's opinions during the war. However, the eagerness with which certain newspapers seize on the opportunity to print the series shows that it will be possible for Willie to get by without working for some time to come.

The photographs of Wilhelm the Son show a rather weak-faced man, who is gathering about his belt-line the characteristically German "gallery." So far, the face has proved a remarkably accurate estimate of the charac-

ter. Without the prestige of his father to help him, he could make a fairly good living as a laborer, perhaps, after his muscles got accustomed to the hard work. The big fees he will receive for the memoirs will stave off the evil day somewhat.

If one could forget the Lusitania and a few other "incidents," it might be possible to feel sympathy for the clown prince and his father. Reports from Doorn are to the effect that the ex-emperor has turned toward religion. He is said to be spending the

greater part of each day in reading the Bible, religious commentaries and sermons. It makes one regret that he didn't do it sooner. Grave doubts for his mental condition are entertained. The burden of his conversation is the injustice of the world and the false accusation that he "willed the war."

Why can't the newspapers, in their search for something new and something to stir up fagged reader interest find something more pleasant to print than the moonings of the clown prince and his father. Hasn't the world suf-

fered enough from the two of them without stirring up any more unpleasant recollections? We ought to be glad that the fortunes of war were such that we can take them or leave them, the yellow newspapers permitting.

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