

State Historical Society

# THE ALLIANCE HERALD

OFFICIAL ORGAN NEBRASKA STOCK GROWERS ASSOCIATION. REACHES EVERY MEMBER

OFFICIAL ORGAN NEBRASKA VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. IT REACHES EVERY DEPARTMENT. HEADQUARTERS FOR 15,000 VOLUNTEER FIREMEN

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## IN DEFENCE OF DEMOCRACY

Notorious Combine Runs County Convention and Forces Adoption of Mitchell's Resolutions Bristling with Falsehoods.

By JOHN W. THOMAS, Editor



Where Am I At?

Like Finnegan, I'm "out agin' and in agin." I thot I was a democrat, but the notorious Mitchell-O'Keefe combine, after running their well oiled steam roller over me, back and forth, seven times, kicked me out, threw me over the transom, ehucked me in my political grave, at the democratic county convention in Alliance, July 7, 1914. But the dead shall rise again.

If I were as young and as inexperienced in such matters as I once was, I would feel bad; as it is, I am glad. I feel like saying, "O goodie," or "Glory" or something else expressive of my feelings. I am proud of the distinction that has been conferred upon me.

I have seen steam rollers before. I have seen them operated, too. Some of those who engineered the running of the steam roller over me are not inexperienced. I remember very distinctly seeing them assist in that kind of work once before. One day four years ago this summer I was down at Grand Island, Nebraska. There were quite a number of people in the old town that day, and they were mostly democrats and near-democrats. It was the occasion of that long-to-be-remembered democratic state convention of 1910. I went out to the big tent in the grove where the show was staged. During the proceedings of that day, I saw stand on the platform before that throng of people a man who for many years had been my political idol. While he sat in that convention and when he stood before that crowd, a giant of manhood and courage, a lot of rufnecks on the outskirts of the crowd, joined by some who were delegates to the convention, jeered the man whom I respected. I saw and heard some of the men who took a leading part last Tuesday in trying to discredit me, laugh in derision and hoot when the name of William J. Bryan was mentioned in denunciation by the notorious Mike Harrington, who was cheered by the rabble.

I felt bad then; I feel good now. Can I forget these things? Will I keep quiet about them now? Will I, while these same men, joined by a few others who are crazy for an appointive office, are resorting to barefaced falsehoods and other Tammany methods to drive me out of Alliance in order to save themselves from exposure? Will I keep quiet? Watch me.

I anticipate that some at a distance from Alliance who read this will be horrified to see William Mitchell and T. J. O'Keefe referred to as "notorious" and "infamous", not so much in regard to Mitchell as when applied to "Two-faced Tom". Let them come to Alliance and investigate for themselves and their horror will be on the other side. There are some things in regard to these two men that I will not publish now. The code of political ethics which I follow will not permit me to relate them while in the position of an opposing candidate, but any one who is sufficiently interested to come to Alliance and make an investigation can easily find out what those things are.

I am aware that an honest man cannot but become indignant when contemplating the unfair and dishonorable means employed by hypocritical politicians to accomplish their purposes, but in writing an account of these things I shall endeavor, as always, to proceed "With malice toward none, and charity for all; doing the right as God gives me to see the right."

Because W. J. Bryan has for many years followed his convictions in regard to his personal life and has opposed political corruption in public life, he has been accused many, many times of hypocrisy by politicians in whose breasts the spark of sincerity has long since been snuffed out. Moving as I do in a smaller sphere, exactly the same conditions have obtained on a smaller scale.

As has been pointed out thru The Herald since I have been editing it, opponents of Mr. Bryan raised the false cry of "prohibition" against him in order to influence a class of voters, in whose interests he was really working but who were too ignorant to reason for themselves, hence were controlled thru their prejudices by political heelers. The same is true concerning me and the treatment I have received. When I came to Alliance, I formed the acquaintance of a leading business man who was then and is still a lead-

er in the temperance movement. I prized his friendship then, as I do now and always shall. I believe that a more honorable business man never set foot on Nebraska soil. Mitchell hated him, of course. It is natural for him to hate a decent man. It was because of the friendship of that man, according to Mitchell's own statement, that he began his fight on me; but I would not part with the good opinion of a man like the one Mitchell so much hated, even if by so doing I could get the highest office on earth.

Soon after I began editing this paper, I began advocating the holding of an election for the purpose of adopting the initiative and referendum, as the city had the right to do under the Nebraska law as it then stood. I desired particularly that the question of license should be settled by that method, in a peaceable and orderly manner, instead of causing strife and turmoil such as I had known in other Nebraska towns where the decision of the question hinged upon the election of "wet" or "dry" candidates. William Mitchell securing the co-operation of others who got scared at the suggestion, raised the false cry of "prohibition" and thereby deceived many voters. In vain I told them that the city could continue to have saloons, if a majority wanted them. The proposition was defeated. Since then the privilege of deciding municipal questions by direct vote has been given the cities of Nebraska by legislative enactment. It has been tried twice in Alliance and is so much better and more satisfactory, just as I said it would be, that no one now, so far as I know, openly opposes that method here.

In order to make sure of controlling the convention of the bosses held last Tuesday, Mr. Mitchell previously raised the false cry of "prohibition", publishing it in connection with a number of barefaced falsehoods in the Alliance Semi-Weekly Times, the standard republican paper of this city and county, altho I had previously stated in print that the issue was not the wet and dry question, that no matter how "wet" or how "dry" a man might be, he would be acceptable if only fair. But the dodge worked for the time, as it usually does for a while, and gave him a cinch on some votes that might otherwise have been doubtful.

### The County Convention

In giving a truthful account of the county convention at which resolutions were passed reading The Herald out of the democratic party and endorsing T. J. O'Keefe, I am not "casting aspersions upon the democracy of Box Butte county." I am defending the rank and file of the party in the county outside of that convention, and a considerable number of those who were delegates, and I will try to make this plain enough to be understood. I state my deliberate conviction in saying that had the proceedings of that convention been submitted to a vote of the democrats at a general or primary election at which there was a full or nearly full attendance, they would have been voted down by an overwhelming majority. The reactionary paper above referred to has already published the names of the delegates to the convention and the secretary's minutes that the proceedings were unanimous throat. Of course, "unanimous". If upon convening the assemblage had turned the proceedings over to William Mitchell and adjourned, the result would have been exactly the same.

There were quite a number of delegates permitted to sit in the convention and give it somewhat the appearance of being a representative gathering, who detest William Mitchell and his methods and do not endorse the resolutions that were passed concerning The Herald and O'Keefe, and other proceedings of the so-called convention.

It is defending these men and not casting reflections upon them to publish these facts.

It is standing up in defense of the rank and file of the democratic party of Box Butte county to publish the fact that scarcely one-tenth of them were at the caucuses where delegates to the county convention were named and that in some instances the attend was defeated by trickery.

It is defending those men who were permitted on some of the delegations to give them the appearance of fairness but were kept safely in the minority on each delegation that was controlled by the machine.

I wish to request that Box Butte county readers who are interested in the matter, to keep this paper for reference, and when some henchmen of Alliance's "Little Tammany" makes the statement that I have

cast aspersions upon the democracy of Box Butte county, or indiscriminately upon the members of the notorious convention, pull this on them and show them that what they say is false.

Not only was trickery and politically dishonest methods used in controlling the selection of delegates, but that contemptible dodge, working upon religious prejudices, was resorted to in order to insure a larger attendance than could be mustered by the opposition. I dislike exceedingly to mention matters of this kind—it is repugnant to me—but I cannot give a fair account of the way in which this Tammany machine has been run without doing so. What's the use in mincing matters, anyway. Some people know the facts, why not let everybody know them? I am a local preacher. For three years, since being a resident of Alliance, I was president of the Box Butte County Sunday School Association. At present I am acting superintendent of the Methodist Sunday school of Alliance. These facts, coupled with numerous misrepresentations, trying to put into my mouth things that I have never uttered, have been worked overtime upon the prejudices of persons of a different religious faith. This in spite of the fact that as editor of The Herald I have taken particular pains to treat fairly and well those who might differ with me on such matters. I have testimonies to the fact that my efforts in this direction have been appreciated.

The political hyenas have howled "preacher" and multiplied their falsehoods in order to prejudice and frighten timid voters who would be my friends, if they knew the truth. Thru The Herald I have already given the public some truth regarding political conditions in Nebraska that have not always been truthfully reported. I expect to keep at it. As long as I do I expect to have the opposition of corrupt political machines and receive unfair treatment from them; but I know I have the endorsement of a large part of the people, in fact I firmly believe that an overwhelming majority of the people of western Nebraska who know what is transpiring here are backing me with their sympathies, and I am encouraged to go on.

### How It Was Done

To begin with, the chairman of the state central committee recommended that the county conventions be held on Saturday, July 25, 1914, and that the precinct caucuses be held on Thursday, July 23. Every other county in the state will probably follow the state chairman's recommendation. Why not Box Butte county do the same? The reason is very easy to see. The Mitchell machine was in working order. At any time he can summon practically his entire strength within twenty-four hours. The opposition was unorganized and needed time. Mitchell took advantage of the position he held to not permit the time designated by the state chairman.

If you want to know more about the strength of Mitchell's influence, watch the primary election in August, and particularly the general election in November.

Notice this: The state chairman recommended that the precinct caucuses be held at the usual voting places. Were they? In the first ward of Alliance, the precinct having the largest delegation of any precinct in the county, the precinct committeeman, acting under instructions from Mitchell, called the caucus to be held in Mitchell's office, a room not large enough to accommodate one-fourth of the democrats of the precinct if they attended. The caucus for that precinct was called to meet at 7:30 p. m., an unusually early hour for summer evening meetings in Alliance. Prior to that time, a number of men appeared in Mitchell's office with names typewritten on slips which they carried. Before 7:30 p. m. had arrived the eight delegates for the precinct had been elected. As they were elected by acclamation after being named from the slips of paper carried by a few persons, I cannot say definitely how many participated in the caucus. From the best information I can obtain, I am confident that not more than eighteen were there before the adjournment of the caucus, and probably not more than fourteen or fifteen. The business of the caucus was completed before the time set for it to convene. Persons leaving the caucus after it had adjourned met others coming at exactly 7:30 o'clock. We hear about the political corruption of New York Tammany, and of the New Jersey machine that Woodrow Wilson helped to clean out, and in Chicago and various other places, but did any one ever know of anything more rotten than the stunt that has been pulled off in Box Butte county?

The precinct committeeman of one of the county precincts, that was allotted four delegates, was told by Chairman Mitchell to select three other men and for him and the three he selected to be the delegates from that precinct. Whether he did this I do not know.

The second ward of Alliance is an example of the Mitchell forces securing a part of the delegation by being organized and the opposition not organized, altho the opposition had an overwhelming majority in the precinct and a majority of about two to one in the caucus.

## BOUND OVER TO DISTRICT COURT

George Smith and T. E. Williams, Charged with Robbing Olds Drug Store, Plead Not Guilty

Alva Moon, alias George Smith, formerly a convict in the Joliet, Ill., penitentiary, and Thomas E. Rodgers, alias T. E. Williams, who were brought back to Alliance last Thursday from Council Bluffs, Iowa, where they were captured last week, charged with robbing the Olds drug store at Hemingford of jewelry valued at over \$500, were given their preliminary hearing before Judge Berry Wednesday afternoon. Both men plead not guilty and were bound over for trial before the district court this fall.

Sheriff Cal Cox and Chief of Police Ovide Vine of Council Bluffs both deserve credit for the way this case was handled. As soon as the robbery was reported, Sheriff Cox immediately got busy and sent circulars throughout the country, with a description of the men and of the jewelry stolen. The men were arrested in Council Bluffs while trying to pawn some of the stolen jewelry. On one of them was found an express receipt for a package shipped from Long Pine, Nebr., to Moon's mother, at Mobile, Ala. The sheriff in Alabama was notified and sent the package to Council Bluffs, where it was found to contain most of the stolen jewelry.

The men put up the claim that they bought the jewelry from a tramp at Long Pine, but gave no reason for shipping the jewelry out of the state. They had on them two of the watches and part of the jewelry. They were placed under bond of \$1,000 each, which they were unable to furnish. The reward of \$100 offered was sent to Chief Ovide Vine this morning.

## STUDY MUSIC IN CHICAGO

Directors of the Alliance School of Music Preparing for Enlargement of School This Fall

The Herald is in receipt of a letter from Mrs. Edith Swan Zediker, one of the directors of the Alliance School of Music, written in Chicago, July 3rd. Mrs. Zediker said: Just a line to inform you that Miss Burnett and myself are settled in Chicago for a short period of study under the best teachers available. We are registered at the Cosmopolitan School, Miss Burnett with Mrs. W. S. Bracken and I am with Henry P. Eames. Both of us are delighted with our work so far.

We gave a program at Grace Episcopal church on June 30, and we were very well received. We are investigating material for our new department of Expression and Dramatic Art. It is our aim to establish something very fine in this department next year, and the outlook for someone who will give us the very best is very good indeed.

Very soon we will be able to announce thru your columns definitely who our faculty for the ensuing year will be.

Kindest regards to the Herald family, and Alliance.

Very sincerely,

EDITH SWAN-ZEDIKER.

Chicago, Ill., 804 Michigan Ave.

P.S.—We spent a very delightful day in Des Moines on our way here, guests of Mr. W. M. Robinson and the Haddorf Music House people. We were very agreeably surprised at the splendid equipment of the Haddorf House both in instruments and sheet music.

## LANDS RESTORED PUBLIC DOMAIN

Lands Will Be Subject to Settlement, Under Homestead Laws, after August 17, 1914

By order of the First Assistant Secretary of the Interior, issued June 18, 1914, the following described lands were restored to the Public Domain and the same will be subject to settlement, under the public land laws on and after Aug. 17, 1914, at 9 o'clock a. m., and will be subject to entry, filing or selection, on Sept. 16, 1914, at 9 o'clock a. m. S½ SW¼ Sec. 8 and the N½, N¼ SW¼, SE¼ Sec. 17, Tp. 23 N., Rg. 54 West of 6th P. M.

All these lands appear vacant on the Land Office Records except the W½ NW¼ and NW¼ of SW¼ of Sec. 17, which is covered by homestead entries.

Miss Ida Buss, of Ravenna, who has been visiting Mrs. Louisa Fawcett since Sunday, returned to her home yesterday.

## NEW LIGHTING FOR STREETS

City Council Gives Superintendent Hughes of Electric Light Department Permission to Install New System for Lighting Streets.

At the regular meeting Tuesday evening, the city council gave permission to Superintendent Hughes of the electric light department to install a complete new street lighting system in all sections of town now covered by the cluster lights, which are installed on part of Box Butte avenue and one or two side streets. The cost of the new system will be approximately \$2,000. It will be what is called the series Mazda system, one light of approximately 100 candle power to be placed at each street intersection. Mr. Hughes is planning on removing the present small lights stationed on poles from 81 intersections and replacing them with the new lights which will be hung over the center of the intersection. Work will be started as soon as the material can be secured.

Transacted Much Business The council transacted a great deal of business during the session. Councilmen Fleming, Snyder and Swan were present, Councilman Romig being absent on a trip inspecting auto fire trucks.

Report of Police Magistrate The report of the police magistrate for the month of June showed receipts from fines of \$53 and from marshal fees of \$42, making a total of \$95. Fines were paid in 20 cases.

Report of City Treasurer The report of the city treasurer was as follows: City Treasurer's Report for month of June, 1914.

RECEIPTS	
Balance	\$4452.12
Interest	11.19
Misc. Licenses	130.00
Light Dept.	2076.27
Water Dept.	728.43
Miscellaneous	28.90
Total	\$7426.91

DISBURSEMENTS	
General fund	\$92.10
Officers' salary	50.00
Water	359.63
Light	1096.69
Interest on Warrants	5.92

Total	\$2404.34
Balance	5022.57
Balance in general fund	165.32
Balance in Light fund	1913.61
Balance in Water fund	2943.64
Amount of registered warrants unpaid for lack of funds	\$1613.69

A. GREGORY, Treas. City of Alliance.

Report of Light and Water Dept. Report of the light and water departments was as follows:

OPERATING REVENUES	
Light & power earnings	\$2462.17
Bal. due for current May 15	236.24
	\$2698.41
Discounts for payment of bill on or before May 22	167.05
	\$2531.36

NON OPERATING REVENUES	
Insurance refund	\$67.78
Service deposits	55.00
Bal due mds. 5-15-24-71	244.71
Charges during mo. 9-25	96.25
Cash sales	41.53
	\$505.27

Disbursements paid by light department from May 15 to 20	1671.26
	\$1365.37
Cash in light dept May 15	912.99
	\$2278.36

Bal. due for current 6-15, deducting crs. \$5.40, pd. in advance	221.85
Bal. due for mds. 6-15	212.85
Cash in light dept.	1843.66
	\$2278.36

KW output at plant	33,950
No. KW sold consumers	15,074
No. KW m. lighting	3,960
No. KW pump. watr	4,840
No. pumping sewer	1,440
No. KW city hall & plant (cont.)	1,400
	26,714

No. meters not read	7,236
No. tons coal consumed	195,375
Approximate cost of coal	\$450.75

WATER DEPT No. gal. water pumped Jan. 1 to Apr. 1, 1914

Jan. 1 to Apr. 1	12,835,500
Sold consumers, 7,757,550	
(Hf. and At)	8,371.0
Use at plant, est	613,912
	8,371,462

Amt. charged consumers, Apr. 1, 1914	\$1,567.95
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Public Library Report To the Honorable Mayor and Council of the City of Alliance:

We respectfully submit the following report of work done in the public library and a statement of the disbursements of funds for the maintenance:

LIBRARIAN'S ANNUAL REPORT	
Circulation	12911
An increase of 1402 over the circulation of the year 1913.	

Average daily circulation	43
Borrowers cards issued	368
Books purchased	184
Fines collected	\$55.60
Incidental expenses	8.43

Twenty-three story telling hours during the year have been held. Since May 1, 1911, 735 books have been given to the library.

453 purchased making total 1188. 186 books, worn out, have been withdrawn from circulation. 21 lost and carried away, 10 being paid for amounting to \$8. 29 have been destroyed in quarantine, 9 of which were paid for, amounting to \$5.26, money being turned over to the city treasurer with the fines.

We have at present time 2179 books in the library.

17 in circulation overdue. 19 periodicals. 1 daily paper. 3 weekly papers.

NELLIE WILSON, Librarian.

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT Warrants drawn on city treasurer

Disbursements—	
Librarian's salary	\$480.00
Janitor service	180.00
Library building	51.35
Furniture	45.83
Fixtures	3.50
Books	74.20
Magazines	38.78
Lights	63.39
Water	26.30
Fuel	173.62
Printing	7.80
Freight and express	11.37
Postage	1.58
Supplies	8.80
Miscellaneous	20.03

Total \$1185.15 MRS. W. W. JOHNSON, Secretary. (Additional reports given next week)



—Photo by Grebe

### FLOAT OF W. R. HARPER DEPARTMENT STORE AT CONVENTION

Above is shown a picture of the float of the W. R. Harper department store, which won first prize in the parade on Saturday morning, June 20. This float was prepared at great expense and much trouble. It was the finest of its kind ever seen in Alliance and was the subject of much comment by those who saw the parade.