

THE ALLIANCE HERALD

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OSTERMAN MADE AN ENVIABLE RECORD

It was our pleasure, during our recent stay at Lincoln, as a member of the state legislature, to become intimately acquainted with a member who has before him, if he stays in politics, a future that is indeed bright. We refer to Hon. Theo. M. Osterman, state representative from Merriek county. Mr. Osterman is a farmer, and lives at Central City.

Mr. Osterman became famous because of his introduction of House Roll 349, known as the "Union Pacific Right-of-way Bill." The bill was designated to compel the Union Pacific Railroad company to relinquish lands which they are said to be illegally holding from the owners of lands along their right of way. The matter has been in the courts for years. The bill passed the House by a good majority but was smothered by the senate machine. Had Mr. Osterman been a member of the Senate with the opportunity thereof of presenting the unanswerable and brilliant arguments presented by him in the House we believe that we would have made things so uncomfortable for the machine there that the bill would have passed.

Although Mr. Osterman was unsuccessful in getting passed another bill designated to leave the granting of franchises to the people by their votes he did succeed in helping kill all bills which were favorable to the public service corporations and which would have undoubtedly taken away some of the control now exercised by the people over these companies.

Representative Osterman's record as one of the live-wire Democrats in the House the last two sessions proves that he is the proper man to go to the state Senate next session from his district. We hope to see him make the race and believe that the voters of his district will place him in the senate by a strong majority. The following article is taken from a recent issue of the Central City Republican, and tells more of his work:

Following a long, drawn-out session of the state legislature, our representative, Theo. M. Osterman, plans to return to his home near this city Saturday. Despite the serious handicap of being troubled with his eyes, which necessitated his absence at the beginning of the session, Mr. Osterman has achieved a remarkable record. No little amount of work was necessary to secure the passage in the house of the state hall insurance measure and the right-of-way bill, together with leading the fight against the desire of telephone, electric light and power interests to come under the protecting wing of the railway commission.

The fate of the Hall bill is not yet known, although it is very uncertain of passage in the senate, due to the fact that it fell into the hands of the reactionary sifting committee, which reported it out among the last bills, where adjournment may kill the most progressive measure of the session.

Although the fate of the right-of-way bill is to be deeply regretted, there is yet a little humor in the methods employed by the brewery and Union Pacific interests, there being disclosed the machine agreement to stand by the sifting committee. Had once the bill reached the floor of the senate, it would have mustered twenty votes, or three more than the constitutional majority. Nothing during the whole session had so caused a deep resentment against the dirty bunch, who have constituted the machine in the senate, and from one end of the state to the other they have accomplished the task of blacklisting themselves. Every representative and twelve of the senators were open in their denunciation of a method whereby a bill that had been so warmly contested was denied a hearing on the floor of the senate, after the judiciary committee of the senate had considered the bill and turned it out on general file. At no time during the whole procedure did the Union Pacific succeed in establishing a single point in their favor. Their plea that the bill was unconstitutional was exploded at every turn of the road. It is a lamentable fact that the cut and dried machine lifted over the heads of the sifting committee should be all that stood in the way of the Union Pacific being compelled to let the disputed land come in under the provisions of the Norris act. A number of senators have openly declared that they will put the bill across so quick at the next session that the special interests will have no opportunity of defeating it by the application of dirty methods now familiar to the voters of Nebraska.

The people of Merriek county are familiar with the right-of-way bill and now that the voters of Nebraska are fully awake to the injustice wrought land owners adjoining the Union Pacific, the next session will find the measure enacted as a law without delay.

Mr. Osterman's opposition in the senate has been the direct result of his firm stand for a bone-dry Nebraska.

SELECTIVE CONSCRIPTION

Proposed by the government and backed by the army staff to a man, the selective conscription method of raising troops now has been formally approved by both houses of congress. America, says the Sioux City Journal, at the very outset of her participation in the world war is resolutely and with considerable calmness scuttling the old fashioned, inefficient and unfair volunteer system. The men we are sending to the firing line in Europe, if the war lasts long enough for them to get there, will be selectively conscripted. That is to say, they will be picked from all the manhood of America as being those best fitted for military service at least cost to the nation's economy.

Conscription means, first of all, recognition of the principle of universal liability for national service in time of war. It means that every man, woman and child in America is considered subject to the national will in the great business of defending the nation. It means that the government may go to any man and say to him, "You come" and that he must go. That is conscription.

But this is to be selective conscription. It contemplates a picking and choosing. The government will exercise the right to say to one man, "You come," and to another, "You stay," regardless of the individual's wishes in either case. This discrimination will be applied in such a way that only those of certain ages, of satisfactory physical fitness, and of economic freedom shall be sent to the front. It will be used to keep in their civil pursuits all those who can be of greater service to the nation in that capacity than carrying a bayonet. Those with valid moral or religious objections to military service also will be exempted.

The list of occupations which will exempt men from the trials of the firing line is subject to revision at any time. The idea of occupational exemption, however, is basic. It is founded on the experience of every power in the present war and is due to the modern condition of warfare in which organization of a nation's industries is as important as formation of its armies. Because of failure to select properly, France and Great Britain were compelled months after war began to send back from the front hundreds of thousands of workmen whose services were vitally needed in the industries that fed the war machine. In the case of Great Britain no record had been made of the qualifications of the men enlisted, so the job of getting the right men out of the ranks and into the factories was a wracking one. Not only was the time and the effort and expense of training these men wasted, but the country suffered and the army itself suffered through their absence from the factories, where all the time they belonged.

The government will cause all young men within certain age limits to register. The age limits may be expanded at any future time if that is deemed necessary. After they are registered, the government will apply its standardized exemption rules. The married man and the man with dependents will be stricken off. The religious scruples of some against war will be investigated, and if found to be genuine will entitle those men to exemption. The men needed badly on the farms, in the munition factories, on the railroads or in other important lines of industrial work will be eliminated. Then the physically unfit will be moved aside. And the remaining young men will have to serve in the army. If not all of them are needed at once, the required number be filled out by lot. That is what selective conscription means.

THE REASON FOR ADVERTISING

Do you know why commodities have names on them? Do you know why these things are advertised? There was a time when few manufactured products carried names or brands. They were not advertised then.

Men bought oatmeal by the pound and flour by the barrel or had their wheat ground and took home the flour. Their farm implements were made by the village blacksmith.

That was all right when the only trade was between neighbors. Your Grandfather or my Grandfather or our great Grandfathers and great Grandmothers could go into the mill and see their wheat ground into flour, or could go into the blacksmith shop and see their farm implements hammered into shape by men they knew.

But after awhile railroads and steam ships brought into their towns the products of mills and factories located in distant places. Our ancestors did not know the people who made these things. Some of them were honest and sold honest merchandise but others were dishonest and offered inferior goods for sale at the same price as the reliable merchandise.

As there was no name on either the honest merchandise or the dishonest merchandise they could not be sure of their quality until they had used the articles. Then it was too late or at best it meant trouble and an argument with the man who sold them.

Finally this situation drove the honest manufacturer who made honest goods to the point where he had to identify his product so the buyer could tell it when he saw it.

Men who made poor merchandise very seldom used a trade mark. They were not anxious to have their product identified because if our Grandmothers bought a sack of flour bearing a certain brand and the flour was not good, then they would not buy any more of that kind of flour. If our Grandfathers bought a knife bearing a certain brand and it did not hold its edge, then they would not buy any more knives bearing that brand.

So you see the man who makes things that will not stand the test of actual use is ordinarily careful to see that his name is not marked on it in any way so that it can be identified.

The dealers soon found that merchandise bearing the brand of an honest manufacturer gave satisfaction to the merchants' customers, and the customers came back and asked for more of that same article because the first had been satisfactory, and they felt sure that the man who put his name on his product would make it all as nearly alike as he possibly could.

It was natural that the manufacturer who made his product should tell the users of those goods that he had decided to identify them so the user could always get the same kind of goods. After that, when he made more than his first customers needed, he told other people about the articles that carried his brand or trade mark. Eventually, he found that he could tell more people and do it cheaper by advertising than in any other way.

So you see it was really the dishonest manufacturer who made it necessary for the honest manufacturer to mark his goods and advertise them and this marking and advertising helps the consumer to guard against loss which they would otherwise suffer from time to time if they bought things that were not good enough to be marked or advertised.

There is another question that will have to be settled. It is, "What is the world going to do with its dethroned kings?"

"Norway is building submarines for Germany and German submarines are sinking Norwegian steamers," says the Omaha World-Herald and then continues with the question, "Why does not Norway blow up her own ships?"

This would be a good year to demonstrate the truth or falsity of the assertion that if every able-bodied person was employed in useful labor only three hours a day would be required to do the nation's work.

Looks like the people of a number of Nebraska towns have been doing some hoarding—of contraband goods.

ALLIANCE, THE CONVENTION CITY

Alliance is fast becoming known as one of the leading convention cities of Nebraska. In the past such towns as Omaha, Fremont, Lincoln, Hastings, Norfolk and Grand Island have been known as ideal or desirable places for the annual meetings of state-wide organizations. But during the last four years our bustling little city has pushed forward into the limelight, due in a large measure to the good work done by our bustling commercial club and to the hospitality shown to visitors by our citizens.

This week Alliance is host to the Knights of Columbus, one of the strongest fraternal organizations in the state. We believe that those who attend this convention, or "council" as it is called have thoroughly enjoyed themselves and learned many new things about Western Nebraska and its metropolis—Alliance.

Another convention to come soon will be the annual meeting of the Nebraska Association of Commercial Clubs. A few years ago Alliance was practically an unknown quantity to them. Now they are coming from over the state to fill upon the enthusiasm and "pep" with which our citizens are always plentifully supplied.

As long as our citizens continue to work together and boost; as long as our newspapers continue to lend their influence towards the advancement and building up of this end of the state; just so long will our city continue to advance and hold its place in the front line of progressive, live, Nebraska cities.

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