

THE ALLIANCE HERALD

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A DISEASE THAT SHOULD BE CURED

Alliance is again this week afflicted with that disease from which we have suffered for the past three years—chronic streetshowitis. The Herald was "accommodated" this year with the usual free pass to the "attractions" which now line our main and side business streets and which are to continue with us until the end of the week. We haven't had time to look over the aggregation ourselves but some of the force have. To be frank about it, if they hadn't been admitted free of charge we would have asked for their money back. In our opinion, and in the spoken opinion of many of our business men to whom we have talked this week, the carnival outfit which now adorns the town is taking money out which has not been earned.

The personnel of the Wortham Shows is excellent and the crowd of camp-followers usually found with a circus is absent. The show management and the employees are as a rule likeable, well-mannered and courteous people. But that does not make up for the lack of attraction furnished by the shows. Omaha and other cities have learned their lesson. It is time for Alliance to do the same and hereafter eliminate this feature of the yearly entertainment which takes out of the city from \$6,000 to \$10,000 each year and leaves nothing substantial in return.

The Commercial Club and those in charge of the week's entertainment are devoting their attention to the furnishing of clean, wholesome and desirable entertainment at the fair grounds in the afternoons. They have arranged a program that is well worth attending. Alliance people and visitors are urged to take the afternoon off and attend the entertainment being offered at the fair grounds. You don't want to miss it.

In our opinion the investment of the admission price at the fair grounds will be worth more to the spender than to help the carnival outfit by paying to see or take part in the "cabaret" dance tent with the "Hip, Hip, Hooray Girls", or gazing on the "three-legged girl" or listening to the sound of the husky gent who hour after hour pulls on the rosined rope at the snake tent. "Gosh," said an Alliance business man whose place of business is near the snake tent, "I wish that rope would break or that man's arm would get tired. That rosined rope sounds like the final wail of a sick cow."

This year should be the last one for things of this kind. Rather take the thousands of dollars paid to the carnival company and spend them in putting on the genuine, old-time wild west performances that we used to have before the disease which now afflicts us was forced upon us—chronic streetshowitis. Larger and more contented crowds can be secured with a big annual entertainment at the fair grounds in which all have a chance to participate and enjoy themselves.

TALK IS CHEAP—AND SOMETIMES HORRIBLE

About the most interesting (?) kind of entertainment, in our opinion, is to sit around a barber shop or similar place where men congregate (we have no saloons now in Nebraska) and listen to a group of men discuss the problems of the day or tell the latest indecent story. You are at first interested in wondering how long it will continue; then you begin to grow tired; then disgusted; and finally you begin to wish that the conscription act was stretched to cover this class of almost worthless citizens who seemingly have nothing else on their mind but mild cuss words and talk, talk, talk. Thank goodness, this class of parasites is becoming scarcer year after year. We enjoy a good story, we enjoy a visit with the boys, but we at times get rather disgusted with the person who enjoys this kind of thing during his entire day. We often wonder if he talks and cusses in his sleep. It is pleasing to know that all barber shops and other public places are not conducted on that plan. We certainly have high regard for the proprietor or manager of a public place who realizes that his place of business is there for some other purpose than that of entertaining his customers (or letting them entertain him) with loud and boisterous talking.

RED CROSS OVERRAN THE MARK

To say that the campaign was strenuous is to put it mildly. To say that it was short and fast is correct. For the Red Cross campaign last week was a success. The Alliance district, of which the sum of \$7600 had been asked as a contribution towards the one-hundred-million-dollar fund, overran the mark and subscribed not only the amount allotted but several hundred dollars more, running up to \$8500.

It took work on the part of the committees, of whom there were five. It took generalship on the part of the leaders. It took a keen, live wire like Frank Was at the head of things to push the campaign through to success. But all of these qualifications were there and we made it. And last, but not least, it took the co-operation of the people in this part of Nebraska to make a success of the campaign.

To Harry Highland, president of the Alliance chapter of the American Red Cross, belongs much credit for his wisdom and foresight in selecting the right men to place at the head of the campaign. Without proper organization the magnificent showing made could not have been accomplished.

Speaking for the newspapers, we thank the leaders for their acknowledgement of the valuable assistance rendered in the campaign by the papers. This campaign has shown those interested that newspaper publicity is a necessary part of any campaign—be it Red Cross, or be it a business campaign.

"OUR BOYS" ARE NOW IN TRAINING

Did you for a moment imagine that Alliance was not patriotic? Did you think that we would allow "our boys" who have volunteered for service in the army to leave without showing them that we are with them in every way? If so, and if you attended the farewell reception for them Sunday evening at the city hall you were quickly disillusioned. More than two thousand Alliance, Hemingford and Box Butte county citizens gathered there Sunday evening to say good-bye to our boys and to wish them God-speed on their journey to the training camp and thence to service in "sunny France."

Never before in the history of Alliance has there been a gathering just like this one. Rich and poor, young and old, all gathered to show our soldier boys that they have a place in our hearts and that our purse strings are ready to be opened to them when necessary.

It wasn't the ordinary crowd of citizens out for a good time on a holiday or there out of curiosity. No, no. Every man, woman and child within sound of the voices of the speakers listened intently from

the start to finish of the program. Tears came to the eyes of hundreds when Captain Jack Miller, for the boys, with a voice filled with emotion, endeavored to thank the assembled hundreds for their interest and feeling of friendship. And did you notice the feeling of pride which pervaded the assemblage when the fife and drum corps, composed of veterans, struck up a martial air?

The train carrying the boys east didn't leave until nearly two o'clock in the morning but that didn't prevent several hundred people staying to see them off. And it was at the depot that the feeling of parting and the realization of what it meant became apparent. Around the cars were hundreds of young people—comrades of the boys—giving fond farewells. And in the background stood the silent, sobbing groups of fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, watching the short minutes pass until the cry of "all aboard" rang out from the lips of the conductor. One father and mother saw four boys leave with Company G, truly a family parting. One member of the company from our neighboring city of Hemingford, which has done its share nobly in the formation of the company, hobbled about on crutches and was helped aboard when the time came to leave. An injured foot didn't prevent this courageous lad from going with the rest.

To the women of Alliance, the ladies of the Red Cross who have worked early and late in providing comforts for the boys, and who, in a thoughtful manner, provided each one with an "emergency kit", should be given much credit. These noble women have taken on their shoulders a big task—that of seeing that the boys are remembered often and well, and to the women should be given every assistance by the citizens of western Nebraska.

"Our boys" will not be forgotten, now that they have left for service. Week after week and month after month, we will hear from them. And we will watch with pride their accomplishments as a small but efficient unit of the great army which the United States is raising to help rid the world of the German military power which seeks to control the world with a mailed fist and with the bayonet and gun.

REFERRING TO THE SUFFRAGE REFERENDUM PETITION

The Herald in its news columns last week referred to the petitions which are being circulated for the purpose of securing enough signatures to invoke the referendum against the limited woman suffrage bill passed by the last Nebraska legislature. We stated in the article that we had been advised of the intention of the W. C. T. U. to publish the names of the voters who signed such petitions in Box Butte county and offered the free use of our columns for this purpose.

Referring to the circulation of these petitions the Nebraska Woman's Christian Temperance Union, by its president, Mrs. Mamie E. Clafin, and its secretary, Mrs. Lela G. Dyar, issued the following statement: "You are no doubt aware that the anti-suffrage forces are circulating petitions to invoke the referendum upon the limited equal suffrage bill recently passed by the legislature. This attempt is being made mainly to prevent women from voting for county and municipal officers whose duty it is to enforce the prohibitory law, and to deprive them of a right given by the legislature.

"The following letter, issued on the eve of the 1914 campaign, is significant. The organization here represented is one of the bitterest foes of equal suffrage. Many voters have already signed the referendum petition through gross misrepresentation. The enlightenment which can come only through the state press is greatly desired."

The letter quoted, issued during the 1914 campaign, read as follows: (It appears to have been issued at Columbus, Nebraska.)

Appeal to the Members of the Local Alliance of Columbus and Surroundings

Dear Sir: The officers of the local alliance deem it their duty to direct the attention of their countrymen to certain questions which will be decided at the coming election.

We consider the proposed amendment to the constitution granting the right of suffrage to women as the most important of these. Our state alliance took a most decided stand against woman suffrage at its annual convention held in Columbus on August 25. Our German women do not want the right to vote, and since our opponents desire the right of suffrage mainly for the purpose of saddling the yoke of prohibition on our necks we should oppose it with all our might.

In these times, when on account of the European war the English-American press has stirred unpopular sentiment against Germany and Germanism, it behooves us to stand together and to demonstrate to our many envious enemies our political power by giving to those candidates who are German descent our full support, in so far as they are capable of filling the offices to which they aspire.

(Here follows an appeal for the election of various officers.) In conclusion we most earnestly urge our friends of German speech and German descent not to permit business or other considerations to prevent them from going to the polls and casting their ballots as above directed.

With true German greeting,
THE COMMITTEE OF THE LOCAL ALLIANCE.

The editor of The Herald, believing that majority of the people of Nebraska and of the 73rd representative district were in favor of woman suffrage, and being a firm believer in the principle of equal suffrage, voted and worked for the bill, known as House Roll 525, at the last session of the Nebraska legislature. We earnestly hope that those who are endeavoring to defeat the bill and to deny the women of Nebraska the right to use the ballot by invoking the referendum on this bill, will be unsuccessful in their efforts to get a sufficient number of signatures to the petition. It is our firm opinion that the voters of Nebraska, if the proposition is placed on the ballot at the next general election, will vote in favor of unlimited equal suffrage—therefore why should we allow those who oppose equal suffrage to delay the use and benefit of the privilege granted to the women at the 1917 session of the legislature.

CHADRON CASE COMES TO ALLIANCE

Alliance is about to be put on the map in a new manner. In the past she has received many and varied forms of advertising—by conventions, by immense crops and shipments of stock, by rapid building achievements, by prominent political leaders, and in other ways, but never before have we been selected as the point for the trial of such a prominent criminal case as that to be tried here in October—the Chadron blackmail case.

It is true that the scene of the plot was at Chadron and that the central figures in the case will come from Chadron and Omaha. And we are glad of it. We have no desire to have our fair city implicated in the Dennison-Lynch fight in Omaha or in the difficulties of an aged millionaire miller and his young wife.

The defendants in the blackmail case asked for a change of venue, arguing that the people of Dawes county were too prejudiced to give the matter a fair and impartial hearing. Judge Grimes of North Platte, who will hear the case, in granting the petition for change of venue, stated that the case would be held in Alliance on account of the "superior hotel and court house facilities." We thank the judge for the compliment and although we presume that our facilities will be taxed to the utmost by the immense crowd of interested parties who will attend, we will endeavor to see that they are granted every opportunity for a fair trial of the case. The date of the trial is set for October 15. All expenses will be borne by Dawes county.

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