

16 Pages 2 Sections
Leading Newspaper of
Western NEBRASKA

THE ALLIANCE HERALD

Tell 'Em You
Saw it in
The Herald

VOLUME XXIV

ALLIANCE, BOX BUTTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, NOVEMBER 22, 1917

NUMBER 51

SPUD GROWING ON SCIENTIFIC PRACTICAL BASIS

RESULTS ACHIEVED AT MEETING HELD LAST WEEK WILL MAKE POTATO HISTORY

KIMBALL COUNTY WINS

Crowd in Attendance at First Convention Was Not Large, But Every One Was Here For Business

The business of potato growing will in the future be considered by the individual grower or by the organized growers as an occupation which demands not only the mere and time-worn methods of cutting up a few "spuds" and placing them in the ground—perhaps cultivated, perhaps not—and then harvested at random some time in the fall, as a business requiring forethought, science, skill, and in general the adoption of modern methods applied to all big business, if the desired end was accomplished in the first annual convention of the Nebraska State Potato Association, which was held in this city on Thursday and Friday of last week, November 15th and 16th.

This association was organized at Lincoln last spring by men who realized that Nebraska potatoes, while of as good quality as any of the tubers that are placed upon the market by rival states, have been in the past in far too many instances shunned by the buyer and commanded much lower prices than potatoes from other localities, simply because there was a lack of organization among the growers of the potatoes as to the best method of raising the marketable potato and placing it upon the market in a marketable condition. Some producers of the state were placing upon the market a product which in every way came up to the standard of the modern market. But on the other hand, other growers, perhaps from the same vicinity, were placing upon the market a product which fell far short. What was the consequence? The man who had the good potatoes did not receive what they were worth, and the man who had the inferior grade, while he may have received a good price, injured the marketing prospect for his entire neighborhood indefinitely.

This fact was brought out by E. B. Bassett of Washington, D. C., specialist in co-operative organization, U. S. Department of Agriculture, when he addressed the association on Thursday afternoon. He very clearly cited incidents from his own experience and that of others that no individual grower can expect the same results in an agricultural, financial or strictly business standpoint that could be readily attained through a knowledge that can only be gained through co-operation. Before an audience consisting of delegates from Box Butte, Sheridan, Dawes, Scottsbluff, Banner, Kimball, and Brown counties, Mr. Bassett explained that co-operation is what makes any business a success.

The speaker did not attempt to tell those present how to raise and care for the potato. His remarks were confined to the necessity of grading properly any commodity that is to be thrown upon the market, and, to use his own words, "cut out the profit of the middle man that you are yelling about, by doing the work that he does, and making that profit yourself." His address was, when all summed up, simply the honest opinion of a business man, who has learned from experience, and who was anxious for the farmers of Nebraska to take advantage of this experience from a business standpoint. The entire audience listened in closest attention to all Mr. Bassett had to say. He knew what he was talking about and knew how to say it. His little lessons in "business" will prove a marked advantage to all of those who heard and practice some of the methods he suggested.

The proposition of storing the potato was very ably discussed by C. L. Fitch of Ames, Iowa, and who had that day arrived here direct from Washington, where he visited the Hoover headquarters. Mr. Fitch is chairman of the National Potato Association of America. He explained the methods of storing potatoes as used by the growers in northern Maine, whom he says have a national reputation in this line. His suggestions were in part as follows: Potato bins should be constructed never wider than eight feet and in such a way that at no time would there be one in the bin more than four feet from an air space. The speaker had for demonstration two sample bins and two thermos bottles, by the use of which he proved that the potato is a living, breathing thing, requiring air much the same as any other breathing organism. He informed his listeners that a potato cellar should always be kept at a temperature of from 35 to 40 degrees. This for several reasons. During the winter months, if kept at this low temperature the potato would, so to speak, hibernate. Also this method prevents the activity or breeding of any diseases commonly found in this product. Another advantage would be found, especially where the potato

(Continued on Page 13)

SOLDIER BOYS ARE BEING WELL FED

Private Milford, Visiting Relatives in Alliance, Tells of Life at Camp Funston, Kansas.

The boys of the National Army stationed at Camp Funston, near Fort Riley, Kansas, are greatly enjoying the experience and their treatment at the hands of Uncle Sam, according to Private A. J. Milford, who is here on a ten days' furlough visiting with relatives.

The day's routine begins at 6:15 a. m., when reveille is sounded, the last call being at 6:25, when all the boys must be up and dressed and have their bunks made up and be ready to fall in line for roll call, followed by a ten minutes' program and exercises before mess. Then comes drill from 7:15 until 11 a. m., then thirty minutes is spent in physical culture exercises, followed by a rest period of nearly one hour. At 1:30 p. m. drill again until 4:30. The time from then on is spent by cleaning up after the strenuous day's work, when O. D. suits are donned, retreat being sounded at 6:35, and third mess being served five minutes later. From then until ten o'clock the boys enjoy themselves at the Y. M. C. A., play foot ball, and play other athletic games. Tattoo at 10:00 p. m., first taps at 10:15 and the last at 10:30, when all lights must be out and everybody in bed.

The boys also fare well in regard to eats, as the following menu will show: First mess at 6:30 a. m., breakfast food with cream, steak, scrambled eggs, hot cakes with butter and syrup and coffee or cocoa with sugar and cream. Second mess: All kinds of vegetables, pork or beef and for dessert almost any kind of fruit is furnished. Third mess consists of vegetables, pork or beef, puddings, jellies, bread and butter and tea or cocoa. Cake and pie are served two or three times a week. A big special dinner is served every Sunday. Each company consists of 253 men and the mess sergeant is allowed 39 cents a day for each man. Mess Sergeant Holsten of Company L, 355th Infantry, saved \$80.00 in one month's time from the money allotted his company.

There is no drilling on Saturday. On that day, barracks inspection is held at 9:30 a. m., after which all who desire are given a leave of absence from camp until Sunday night at ten o'clock.

A Small Blaze

The fire department was called to 715 Laramie avenue at 1 o'clock Tuesday afternoon to quench a small blaze that had gotten tired of resting contentedly in a pile of fresh ashes in the alley and had voraciously attacked the fence adjoining. The wind was high at the time and a few minutes more might have allowed the blaze to become serious. Four out of five of the fires this fall have been caused by live coal in ashes thrown in alleys.

'GENE HEATH'S GRIP

Volume 1

Nonpareil, Dawes County, Nebraska, May 18, 1886.

Number 1

Being a recital of early happenings in the Box Butte Country, clipped from the files of the first newspaper published in the country—then part of Dawes county, at Nonpareil, the townsite of which was south and west of Hemingford. This week the items are taken from the first issue published—May 18, 1886, three years before the town of Alliance was started.

EDITORIAL

OUR GRIP. In introducing to its readers the first number of the GRIP, we shall endeavor to be as brief as possible, giving a sort of synopsis of the future course of the paper. The GRIP will be democratic in politics and will take a decided stand with that party upon all political matters. The greater portion of our time and space, however, will necessarily be devoted to advertising the merits and advantages of the Box Butte country and our already rapidly growing little village. We shall do this not by misrepresentations or wild exaggerations, but leaving out the poetry, give the stubborn facts and be prepared to back them up at any time.—E. A. Heath.

RAILROAD! HURRAH!! A portion of the B. & M. surveying corps reached Broncho lake last Friday and are heading for the exact center of the Box Butte country. The last contract for grading from Broken Bow, Custer county, extends into Dawes county. The iron horse will roll into Nonpareil before the 15th of November next.

HEMINGFORD NOTES—Anton Uhrig's mammoth two-story building is now under way. The lower story is to be used for his immense stock of hardware and agricultural implements, while the upper story is to be used for a furniture establishment.—The Chadron water witch proved a success and found us plenty of water from 30 to 40 feet. How this great water smeller brings the water so near the surface is a mystery.—The tide of emigration is moving south-east from Hemingford.—Maxfield has ordered a carload of girls from the east to fill his contract with the "baches" who have bought goods of him.—Banker Burlaw is now ready for business.

"SO THE PEOPLE MAY KNOW"

Not many weeks ago The Alliance Herald, voicing the opinions of many leading citizens, urged that the services of W. D. Fisher be secured as secretary of the Alliance Community Club in order that its lagging energies be revived and that the civic spirit of the town be kept at flood tide. The board of directors of the Community Club has kept faith in the expressed desires of the business men by securing the services of Mr. Fisher. He has returned and is on the job twenty-four hours every day. He has already done some things that count since his recent return. But he cannot succeed as he should succeed, and the Community Club cannot get the results it should get for the business men and citizens of Alliance unless the co-operation of all is given. A number of the business firms of the city—some of them the ones who voiced their desires in the strongest way for the return of Secretary Fisher, have failed to give the club their pledges for financial support and are enjoying the benefits of the work done without doing their part in a financial way.

EVERY BUSINESS MAN IN THE CITY OF ALLIANCE OWES IT TO HIMSELF, TO THE COMMUNITY CLUB, TO HIS BUSINESS, AND TO FISHER TO BE AN ACTIVE, CONTRIBUTING MEMBER OF THE CLUB. If you are one of those who have neglected to get in the bandwagon, you should DO IT NOW. As Fisher says, "GET BUSY."

Alliance is handicapped today seriously, in a business way, her development is hindered by the lack of houses or rooms for incoming citizens and their families. Every day of the week The Herald receives call after call from anxious people, wanting to locate here, who must have some place to live—they want anything. There are a dozen calls for rooms or houses for every room or house. This is a condition that seriously hinders the town, for many people go to some other town, rather than sleep in the streets. Some man with capital has an excellent opportunity to make a profitable investment by the erection of twenty-five or fifty new houses and two or three big, roomy apartment houses. Rents are good and the return on the investment would make it a well-paying proposition for the man who puts up the capital. "SOMEBODY GET BUSY."

Box Butte county won second prize at the state collective county potato exhibit last week because of lack of interest. She had the best potatoes in the state but, as County Agricultural Agent Newswanger says, "they laid in the potato cellars instead of being on exhibition." The fine silver trophy—the championship cup—went to Kimball county because that county, little known as a potato county as compared with Box Butte and Sheridan, got busy and rounded up an exhibit of potatoes, including the products of their irrigated farms, that made the best showing. They now have the cup—they will have it for a year, but we give them fair warning now that the potato growers of Box Butte county will not sleep next season, but will be "on the job" and will have an exhibit—not in the potato cellars—but where it should be—in the exhibit hall, and that the silver cup will again come back to Box Butte county.

"You can fool an Indian once, but the same man can never fool him again, because he won't get the chance," is the statement of a man who knows the Indian and Indian nature. A Box Butte farmer is reported to have hired some Indians to pick his corn, promising them pay at the rate of \$1.50 for each wagon box full picked. When the time came to pick the corn the Indians discovered that he had put on sideboards, doubling the wagon's capacity, and that they were expected to pick more than double the original amount for the same money. This farmer, according to reports, is now without pickers and he has a lot of corn in the field. If the Indians are to be secured for potato and corn picking in Box Butte county again they must receive just and fair treatment. They saved the potato crop this year. They will be needed again. Treat them fair, like white men, and they will be here when needed in future seasons.

ALL ROADS TO ALLIANCE SOON TO BE MARKED

Work of Marking All Roads Leading To Alliance Progressing Rapidly and Will Soon Be Completed

Secretary Fisher of the Community Club is very busy this week getting the material ready to mark the roads leading to Alliance. Arrows 6 inches wide will be used to denote the miles to town and where more than one town is named, arrows 8, 10 and 12 inches will be used. In the corner of each sign the letters A. C. C. will be placed, the abbreviation for Alliance Community Club. Besides the arrows the road colors will be painted on all turns and intersections, thereby enabling strangers traveling through the country to find their way without any trouble.

The new colors to mark the Scottsbluff road are two inches of white top and bottom with eight inches of yellow in the middle. This marking has been registered with the Secretary of State of Nebraska and is the tenth town that has had road markings registered by the Secretary of the Alliance Community Club. Mr. Fisher states that all road marking will be completed within a year and that the cost will not exceed \$600.00. It will be the most complete system of road marking in the state of Nebraska.

The Alliance Community Club, through the efforts of Secretary Fisher, has done a large amount of road work recently and a lot of work is still in sight, which will be attended to in the near future. In this connection it may be said that the Club is entitled to the full co-operation of every auto owner in Alliance. Every auto owner should join the club and show that they appreciate the work that has been done and that will be done in the future. A membership costs from \$6.00 and up, and the saving that might be made from having one mud hole filled up would easily pay for a membership in the Community Club.

All members of the Alliance Community Club will be furnished with cards showing the different markings of the various roads, in colors, mileage to all the surrounding towns and other valuable information. A small charge will be made for these cards to those not members of the club. In the future this and other interesting information will be compiled and issued in pamphlet form.

Attended Spud Convention

F. L. Smith, representative of The Packer, the national produce newspaper, published in five editions at Cincinnati, Kansas City, New York, Chicago and San Francisco, was in the city last week during the potato convention. He paid The Herald office a pleasant call while here and said that his office—Kansas City, regularly read the paper and obtained much information regarding the potato and other crops in western Nebraska from the paper.

THE BOX BUTTE

A Description of the Box Butte Country, Its Soil, Climate and Natural Advantages

Its Prospects for the Future and Its Present and Natural Trading Point, Nonpareil.

The superior agricultural lands known as the Box Butte country embrace that portion of Dawes county lying south of the Niobrara river, and a narrow strip of a few miles in width, off the west line of Sheridan county. The lay of the country for agricultural purposes is absolutely without fault. From a view upon Sheridan county's highest peaks the Box Butte country appears to be perfectly level, resembling an eastern lawn and extending from 30 to 50 miles, but upon traveling over the country one finds it gently rolling, just enough for proper drainage. The soil is a rich, dark loam, superior, we believe, to that of other parts of the state. The surface is covered with a thick mat of buffalo and blue grasses, affording excellent feed for stock, both summer and winter, and previous to the past year large herds of cattle have fattened upon these prairies, year after year, with no additional food whatever and without the least shelter in winter. The water in this country is free from alkali and as pure and soft as rain-water.

The Box Butte country is at present supplied with fuel from Pine Ridge on the north, at a very reasonable rate, and in the course of a year, when the Wyoming and Black Hills coal mines are opened up—which are said to be the most extensive in the United States—coal can be had at a figure not to exceed three to four dollars per ton, and of a fine quality. There are several railroads heading for these coal fields, and at least two, the B. & M. and F., E. & M. V., will doubtless reach them before cold weather, not only supplying us with cheap fuel, but furnishing a good

(Continued on Page 13)

POTATO MARKETS SLOWING IN BIG CITIES

FROSTED STOCK ON BIG MARKETS CAUSE BUYERS TO TAKE SPUDS FOR IMMEDIATE USE

A DROP MADE IN PRICES

Stock Now Sold in Markets by Hundredweight in Accordance With Food Administration Order

The potato markets in the big centers eased off somewhat during last week and buyers took only what was needed for immediate consumption. This was due principally because of the large amount of frozen potatoes which were shipped and which were a drag on the market. The market will undoubtedly stiffen up as soon as the frozen spuds are cleaned up and off the market. Prices should stiffen when the buyers begin taking the spuds for storage.

The condition of the big markets, as reported by the Packer, for the past week, was as follows:

Demand Slow at Chicago
Chicago, Ill.—The potato market was easier last week with fairly liberal receipts and a slow call.

The amount of frozen and field frosted stock showing up in arrivals is not as heavy as a week ago, but damaged stock from these causes was still giving considerable trouble. It seems to be the general opinion, however, that another ten days will pretty well clean up this class of stock.

While the bulk of the arrivals have been made up of Wisconsin and Minnesota stock, receipts from Western states have been on the increase. So far the arrivals from the Western sections have not come in in any too good condition as there has been more or less rough and ungraded stock and considerable trouble has been had from frozen potatoes.

The car situation has not shown any improvement, and as a matter of fact some operators seem to think that the situation is even worse than it was a week ago.

Tuesday the market was easy, with good Wisconsin and Minnesota sacked stock selling at \$2.00 to \$2.10 per cwt.; bulk stock from these states sold from \$1.90 to \$2.05. Washington and Idaho stock was rather drabby at \$2.20 to \$2.30. Receipts were reported as 75 cars and the total number of cars held on track at the beginning of the day's trading are said to be 288.

Wednesday the market continued easy with little change in prices. Buyers did not take stock freely. Receipts were around 45 cars.

The market was weaker Thursday under an inactive demand and prices ruled 5c to 10c lower. Receipts were around 50 cars.

The market was weak again Friday and trade was slow at about unchanged prices. Receipts were estimated at 50 cars.

Dull Market in New York
New York City.—The order sent out by the Food Administration from Washington on Thursday of last week had the effect of starting potato shippers throughout Maine, New York state and other eastern sections to quoting stock for delivery by the cwt. Potatoes cannot be sold by the bushel or the barrel. They must be sold by the pound and the Food Administration allows wholesalers to trade in them by the cwt. There is no hardship in making the change, as it is just a matter of getting away from the old custom.

The potato market here this week was very dull and in poor shape. While there was an embargo still on at Harlem river, the supplies in the yards about New York were not more than half as heavy as they were two weeks ago, but the situation did not show any improvement. The very best potatoes in the yards this week coming from all sections were selling at \$2.63 and \$2.65 per cwt.

New York state shippers were quoting \$2.33 to \$2.41 and Michigan \$2.50 per cwt. delivered New York. Long Island farmers were getting \$2.75 per cwt. from the buyers.

Oversupplied at St. Louis
St. Louis, Mo.—The potato market was oversupplied last week and prices were slashed to clean up offers. A large amount of frosted stock has been on the market and this is being taken by the cheap huckster trade. Sound, matured stock, ordinary to fancy, is selling at \$1.80 to \$2.10 per cwt. for Northern Rurals and Burbanks, and Red River Early Ohio at \$1.80 to \$2.15. Western Rurals and Burbanks bring \$2.00 to \$2.25 and red stock \$1.90 to \$2.25. Russet Burbanks sell at \$2.25 to 2.40.

Unsteady Market in Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minn.—The potato market opened last week with trading slow. The inquiry was light and the outside trade was reluctant to buy. The market was unsteady with a wide range in prices. Receipts from the growers were practically nil. The car shortage continued to hold up the movement of potatoes and

(Continued on Page 13)



Nonpareil on A Rainy Day