

The Alliance Herald



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The Omaha police department has evidently been awakened to a sense of duty by the recent riots and the subsequent grilling to which it has been subjected. Now it is proposed, according to Police Commissioner Ringer, to eliminate loafers. "Any man, white or black, who is not sick, found out of employment must make a satisfactory explanation or leave the city," says the commissioner. "There is no excuse for an able-bodied man to be out of a job. The demand for men is greater than the supply and loafing will not be tolerated." The enforcement of this rule will make any city a better and safer place to live, and Omaha in particular has considerable room for improvement.

By an overwhelming vote of 309 to 1 the lower house of congress voted Monday to deny a seat to Victor L. Berger, socialist congressman from Milwaukee, because of his open opposition to the war. After the vote was taken, the house declared the seat vacant and notified the Wisconsin governor to that effect. Representative Butler of Pennsylvania apparently expressed the opinion of his colleagues when he said, after adjourning a meeting of his committee that all members might vote on the question; that it was "an opportunity to turn a mad dog out." It is fortunate that the senate did not feel likewise when it had the LaFollette case under consideration.

No less than 87 per cent of the men who took out war risk insurance have allowed it to lapse since leaving the service. The American Legion Weekly, official organ of the American Legion, presented in a recent issue the reasons for the widespread loss of faith. It wasn't easy to get figures and data for the article. Despite the fact that the magazine reached the very men whom the war risk officials have been trying to reach, and despite the fact that the purpose was to encourage the lapses to take up the insurance, the investigators met with a lack of co-operation and even opposition from officials who should have been interested. It is pretty well established that the bureau's affairs have not been competently interested in the past, and R. G. Cholmley-Jones, who has been in charge of the bureau since May, appears not to have had sufficient confidence in the efficiency of his administration to produce the necessary facts and figures to furnish a demonstration. But war risk insurance is too valuable to be turned in with rifles, packs and mess kits, and the campaign started by the legion's official organ should be taken up by every newspaper and magazine in the country, to the end that official incompetence, indifference and red tape shall be done away with.



JUDGE H. H. HEWITT

Elected delegate to the constitutional convention from the district comprising Box Butte and Sheridan counties by an overwhelming majority at the election November 3.

A congressional committee is now holding a hearing at Camp Grant, Ill., where it is investigating charges of wanton waste in the construction of the camp. Incidentally, it is finding all the evidence it desires. Testimony has been given indicating that laborers "laid down" on the job in good shape; that grocery clerks and tailors were hired at high wages to do construction work and that there was the wildest extravagance in the use of all kinds of building material. One foreman has testified that conditions finally got so bad that laborers would not lift a twelve-foot section of three-inch pipe unless there were six men to do it. We have no definite knowledge of conditions at Camp Grant, but are prepared to believe almost anything after what we saw of construction work at Camp Dodge. On a visit there, we saw not less than eight men gathered around a ditch less than fifteen feet long, and these men were getting in each other's way or resting on the bank while three sections of small pipe were being laid. The system employed in this construction work, by means of which the supervisor was paid a percentage of the money spent, not the money saved, could result in nothing but this kind of work save in a few cases where there were really conscientious men in charge. Incidentally, it is interesting to note that the same plan will be used in the construction of Nebraska's new capitol. Maybe it will work out pretty well, if the cantonment construction abuses get a sufficient airing.

One hears, every little while, of a longing for the good old days before the civil war. If we were to believe half the things that are said and written of those times, we should be compelled to believe that the millennium was almost at hand then, had they but known it. As a matter of fact, not one person in a thousand would really wish to go back to those days. The Herald editor has been going through a pile of old magazines of that era, and some of the disclosures are more or less enlightening. It is true that there was less chasing after the almighty dollar, though there was plenty of that even then; there was a more neighborly feeling, but even then it didn't come up to the brand of hospitality that is met with in some of these western states; there was more respect shown by younger to older people, but we doubt whether the old days were particularly good for the children. On the other hand, there were mighty few railroad lines, and those in existence were poor affairs, with limited freight and passenger facilities. A journey of a few hundred miles on one of them was a big event. There were no electric lights, not even kerosene lamps were in common use. Most of the illumination was furnished by dim and smoky tallow dips. The telegraph was in use, but the telephone was for the future to bring forth. Furnace heat was unknown. Typewriters and typesetting machines, adding machines and a score or more of indispensable business adjuncts were missing. There was no banking system as we know it today. There were a number of privately owned banks, which had practically no supervision, charged ruinously usurious rates and furnished little or no accommodation. The man who wished to borrow money to enlarge his business, buy land or pay his debts got it from his friends, not the banks. No automobiles, no wireless, no improved machinery in any line of industry. How many of us would wish to go back to conditions like these, even if he escaped coal strikes and steel strikes, the high cost of living and the profiteers. A friend of ours once figured out that Methuselah lived to be over eight hundred years old, but that measured by the progress of his times and his accomplishments, he didn't live for over twenty-five years, at the outside.

And now comes the announcement of a French inventor that a "fivver" aeroplane has been invented for family use. The machine, which weighs 120 pounds and is driven by an electric motor, is capable of a speed of 140 miles an hour carrying two passengers, and it is reported that trial flights have shown it to be practicable. The inventor refuses to make any profit out of his invention, which he calls his "gift to humanity," but we have a hunch that the New York promoters with whom he is associated will not be troubled with any such feeling.

OF LOCAL INTEREST

Some People We Know, and We Will Profit by Hearing2g About Them

This is a purely local event. It took place in Alliance. Not in some faraway place. You are asked to investigate it. Asked to believe a citizen's word; To confirm a citizen's statement. Any article that is endorsed at home is more worthy of confidence Than one you know nothing about, Endorsed by unknown people. G. H. Williams, stationary fireman, 421 Yellowstone St., says: "My back was lame and ached steadily and heavy work would about use me up. Doan's Kidney Pills relieved me and I endorse them as a first-class kidney medicine." Price 60c, at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mr. Williams had. Foster-Milburn Co., Mfrs., Buffalo, N. Y. —51



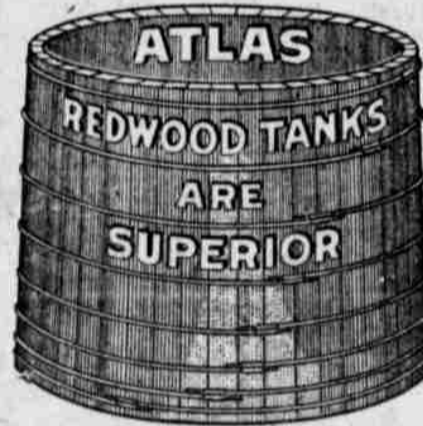
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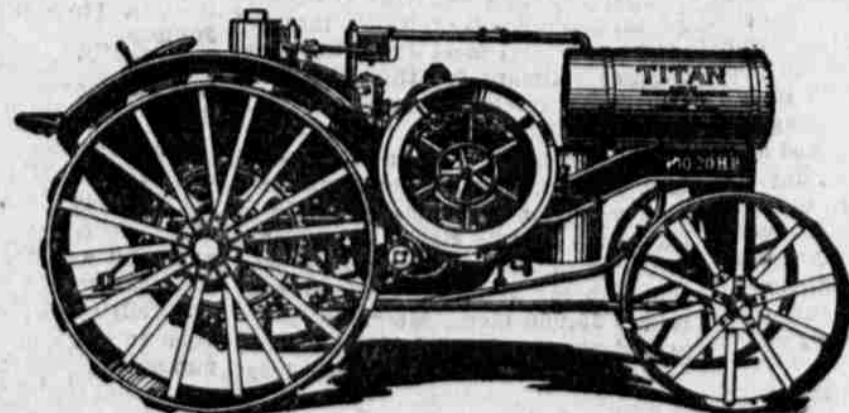
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