

# The Alliance Herald

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## THE POTASH OUTLOOK IS BRIGHTER

PROSPECTS WERE NEVER BETTER THAN NOW.

German Potash Will Never Be Sent to United States as Cheap as Before the War.

A trip through the potash district near Alliance gladdens the heart of one who has been in touch with the industry during the past two years. A year ago the plants were closing down with but little prospect of ever reopening again. Thousands of tons of potash salts were stored in warehouses in the east and south with but little prospect of a market. Potash stock was selling for little or nothing—when it could be sold at all.

But now the outlook is different. The fertilizer manufacturers learned that Germany had only a small supply on hand and that it would be impossible to secure any for this country for many months and perhaps years. On September 1 of this year the total stock of refined salts—muriate of potash—at all the German mines was approximately 35,000 tons, which in comparison with the normal output, as well as the normal demand, must be regarded as quite small.

German potash will never be sent to the United States as cheap as before the war. The old prices of \$15 to \$30 per ton will never be approached. It is very doubtful if the price being paid the Nebraska plants of \$2 and \$2.50 per unit will even be reached.

Two facts in connection with the German potash industry shed much light on its future. One is the enormous advance in cost of production. Labor is from three to five times higher; coal, six to ten times more expensive; while steel and many other supplies and requirements exceed the pre-war prices fifteen to twenty times. On the other hand, the prices at which refined potash is being offered for export to America range from more than double on low grade crude to three times the 1913 price on high grade refined salts, exclusive of freights.

The other fact affecting the industry is perhaps best expressed in what might be called the democratization of the industry. Last April the constitutional German national assembly passed a bill socializing the business. Miners, office clerks and other employes now have representation on the board of directors and a voice in the management of the properties. This innovation is more than a theory. One of the German potash kings, a leading director in the syndicate, gave a dinner last August to which the heads of all the departments, including the miners, were invited.

The Nebraska potash plants now have orders sufficient to keep them operating until next summer. They have passed up some offers of contracts until they learn, from present operations, the profit which can be made at the present prices. Potash will never again pay the enormous profits of 1917, but it will be a permanent and profit-paying industry in Nebraska. At the present time all of the large plants in the Alliance district are operating with the exception of the National plant, which has been in the hands of a receiver, and the Hord plant at Lakeside, which burned this fall and which is being rebuilt as rapidly as the weather will permit. It is reported that the offer of W. E. Sharp and his associates of Lincoln for the National plant at Antioch has been accepted. If this is true this plant will undoubtedly again start operations at an early date. There are now in operation the large plant of the Potash Reduction company at Hoffland, the Western, Nebraska, American and Alliance plants at Antioch and the standard plant at Lakeside. Their output is estimated now at 400 tons of salts per day. The addition of the Hord and National plants will bring the output up to between 500 and 600 tons per day. Estimated from the standpoint of value at present prices the plants in the vicinity of Alliance should produce on the average during the coming year of from \$20,000 to \$40,000 worth of salts every twenty-four hours. Quite an industry that.

Mrs. W. C. Grubbs of 520 Missouri avenue has been on the sick list for the past twelve weeks.

Christina Lux of the Alliance hotel is back on duty as night clerk after a siege of the smallpox. Hugh Beal has been taking her place.

## BUDGET PLAN FOR THE CITY MISSION

Red Cross Officials Send for Peace Program and Will Handle the Local Charity Cases

The work of the Alliance City Mission is to be handled in the future on a business basis—the finances are to be handled on the budget plan and the local organizations which desire to assist in carrying on the mission work will have the opportunity to do so by subscribing a regular monthly sum. This plan was outlined at a meeting of the city mission board held Tuesday evening.

In accordance with the request of the mission board at a recent meeting, Rev. J. Orrin Gould, president of the board, wrote to the headquarters of the Salvation army and requested that a man be sent here to investigate the proposition of taking over the mission and its work. In their reply, which follows, the Salvation army expresses interest and promises to furnish a man as soon as one is available.

The letter from Ashby B. Pebbles of Des Moines, chief divisional officer, reads as follows:

"DES MOINES, Ia., Dec. 4, 1919.—Rev. J. Orrin Gould, Alliance, Neb.—Dear Sir: Your favor of November 25th has been forwarded to me from Omaha and I note with much interest your desire for us to send one of our workers to your city. I would like very much to do this but just at the present moment every man and woman that we can put our hands on are fully engaged. There is a great deal of distress caused by the lack of coal and extra relief work in our cities has caused us to press into service anyone that has any ability whatever.

"You will readily understand that we work among a class of people who are not the most talented in the world and we have many people attached to our organization as members who we could not send to you as a worker; they would not be suitable. Our competent workers are very precious and we often wish we could divide them in two and place one man in two places.

"I shall keep your letter before me and if I can pull a good man loose I shall be very glad to send him to Alliance. Thank you for remembering us and for making the request."

The members of the board have a deficit of \$250 to make up by January 1 in order to clean up all outstanding indebtedness. After this is cleaned up they estimate that the budget of the mission will require the sum of \$100 per month. The local B. of R. T. lodge have been the first to subscribe and have offered to donate the sum of \$15 per month. There are thirty-five organizations in the city which should take part. They are being asked to consider the matter in letters which are being mailed out this week.

At the regular meeting of the Alliance Community club board of directors, held Tuesday evening, the matter was presented by J. S. Rhein. The club has endorsed the city mission work and urges the city organizations to give it their attention. The city of Alliance is expected to continue its financial support as it has in the past. Mrs. Sharpe, who is in charge of the mission, is also city police matron.

The officers of the local chapter of the Red Cross held a meeting on Friday afternoon of last week. The city mission board has agreed to turn over the city charity work to the local Red Cross chapter if they will handle it. This the Red Cross has agreed to do and the officers have sent to headquarters for the peace program, which includes charitable work.

Alliance citizens in general will be interested to know that the Community club's once highly prized uniphone is about to have a new owner. The uniphone is not, like the unicorn, a fabulous animal, but an exceedingly noisy electric piano, once used by a former secretary of the club for advertising purposes—largely for personal publicity, by the way. The present secretary and board of directors have been doing their best to find a buyer for it, and finally located one in a far-off town who liked the kind of music that it made and wanted to add it to his collection. The uniphone was promptly boxed and shipped, and news comes now that payment for it will be forthcoming the minute new batteries are provided. This will be done without quibble, and the club's treasury enriched at the same time its aesthetic equilibrium is restored.

## WAS ANANIAS A PIKER?

In a frantic effort to create an impression that it has just about all the circulation there is in existence, and that The Herald has none whatsoever, our dear friend, the semi-weekly Sallow, is about to get itself into an embarrassing tangle:

Thusly: Along about a fortnight ago, the semi-weekly Sallow issued and distributed a statement alleging to show its present circulation, divided up into several classifications. The total was given as 2,502, and the claim was made that this did not include papers on the outside of an eighty-mile radius of Alliance.

A few days ago, following this incident, the Sallow issued a rate card. As part of the card there was a statement of circulation. This time it was a sworn statement.

And this sworn statement claims only 1,800 circulation for the semi-weekly Sallow.

Also, in October, the Sallow said to the government of the United States of America, through the postoffice at Alliance, Nebraska, and on oath, that its circulation was 1,800.

All of which leads the subscribers of the semi-weekly Sallow, and its advertisers, to wonder which statement is correct—the one sworn to or the one not sworn to?

Or is either of them correct? Not, mind you, that The Herald would accuse the Sallow of telling a lie. We are firmly convinced that the semi-weekly up the street would tell half a dozen entirely different tales about a matter rather than tell a lie!

And then, perhaps the discrepancy may be due entirely to the editor's forgetfulness—the editor of the semi-weekly Sallow. It is a matter of more or less common knowledge in Alliance that he is forgetful when it comes to his semi-weekly and certain features pertaining to it. One highly illuminating instance of this, occurring a number of months ago, is still fresh in the public memory. In a sworn statement to the government regarding his newspaper, when he came to that particular query on the question blank which asked whether there was any incumbrance on the periodical, he omitted mention of the largest incumbrance of them all.

The Herald read that sworn statement with considerable amazement, for the Herald happened to know that a certain prominent and very estimable gentleman residing in Alliance held a mortgage on the newspaper in question at that time—and, in all probability, still holds it.

Whereupon, The Herald publicly called attention, in its columns, to the unique manner in which the memory of its competitor was playing tricks on itself.

And then the semi-weekly Sallow quite promptly reprinted the sworn statement in question and certified to the fact that its property was mortgaged. And there was also an explanation that failed to explain.

So we say that perhaps certain inaccuracies as to its circulation statement are due entirely to the rather peculiar memory of its editor.

The Herald has nothing to conceal as to its circulation. We will tell you the truth about our circulation as quickly when under oath as when swearing to it. If the semi-weekly Sallow has a circulation of 1,800, as it swears, then its circulation at this writing is about 150 greater than The Herald.

But ours is a bona-fide circulation—one that has been pruned until it was made so. At the time the Sallow swore to a circulation of 1,800, in October, this year, The Herald had an actual circulation of 2,275—considerably more than that of its competitor. Since then, however, the subscription list has been ruthlessly attached with a big blue pencil, and the approximately 1,650 subscribers remaining thereon are the genuine articles—men and women who pay actual cash in advance in order to read a periodical edited and published by two young upstarts from Aurora who have no better sense than to believe that they have as much right as anyone else to conduct a newspaper in Alliance. The fresh things!

As for any ridiculous statement made by the Alliance Semi-Weekly Times, hereinbefore referred to as the semi-weekly Sallow, that it has three times the circulation of the Alliance Semi-Weekly Herald, there is, of course, no truth in it. The Herald knows it; the people of Alliance and Box Butte county know it; the semi-weekly Sallow knows it—and knew it at the moment when it made its preposterous claim.

## CITY AND COUNTY COME TO TERMS

Commissioners Agree to Take Care of All Paupers Within the County Limits

Mayor Rodgers, City Attorney Metz and Councilman Harris met with the county commissioners Tuesday, and the matter of the care of the poor and destitute was discussed at some length. After a two-hour session, the commissioners, after talking the matter over with Attorney Burton, who was called in, decided that the care of the poor was distinctly within their duties, whether residing outside or inside the city of Alliance.

The agreement marks the end of a little squabble that has been going on for a number of months. The city of Alliance has been doing some of this work, although it is not authorized by law to do so. The commissioners, on the other hand, made no levy for the purpose and their expenditures are limited by state law, which, however, expressly states that it is their duty, under the county form of government, to act as overseers of the poor. In counties having the township form of government, each township is responsible for the poor and destitute within its borders.

The city will continue to operate the pest house, of course, but there will be a marked change in the manner of conducting it. All patients who are financially able to do so will be expected to pay their way, that is, dig up for the medicines and food purchased on their account. There will be no charge for the services of the city physician, but charges will be made for other things, the same as in any well conducted hospital. Where the patient is a pauper, or destitute, the county will foot the bill. Incidentally this rule will apply to patients not at the pest house. Simply because the city delivers the necessary food to those quarantined in houses, that need not be taken to mean that it is a donation.

## MR. BROWN WILL STOP TOTTING A KNIFE

Charles Brown, colored, divorced husband of Mrs. Goldie Fullerbrown, had a little heart-to-heart talk with County Attorney Lee Basye Wednesday afternoon, at the close of which he not only promised evermore to be good, but surrendered the pride of his heart and the apple of his eye, an immense jackknife with a long pointed blade, so sharpened that it had a razor edge.

Mr. Brown had been taken in tow by Sheriff Miller at the instance of his ex-wife, who wanted to swear out a complaint on Monday charging him with divers things, such as threatening to kill. The county attorney, after talking a while with the former Mrs. Brown, persuaded her to amend it, and as issued the complaint let Mr. Brown off with a charge of carrying concealed weapons. It developed that the ex-husband had reported outside his wife's front door one night the first of the week demanding that she open it. It is said that at that time the former husband declared there was gambling going on inside, and he didn't want her to be a party to such truck. Mrs. B. suggested that he wander away somewhere, and it was then that Mr. Brown remarked that he'd shoot up the place if he but had a gun. Those were the words that made Goldie hunt the halls of justice.

It didn't take much of a conversation with the county attorney to reform Mr. Brown. He surrendered his shiny knife on demand, and declared that he was thenceforth going to be good—he didn't like the thought of the penitentiary now.

## YOUTHFUL BANDITS SWIPE A TRUNK

A trunk belonging to Mrs. Earl Mallory was stolen from the dray late Wednesday night. So far as is known nothing was taken. The job seems to have been pulled off by youngsters would-be-bandits who considered the stealing of woman's apparel altogether beneath their sphere.

The trunk had been carried to a vacant lot between Missouri and Mississippi avenue on Third street, broken open and abandoned. It was found early the next morning by workmen and sent on its way.

Mrs. Clarence Schaffer and Mary Maxine leave today for Scottsbluff, where they will spend the holidays. Mr. Schaffer expects to join them in a few days.

## CITY FINALLY OUT OF THE COAL BUSINESS

Local Dealers Assume Entire Charge of Fuel Distribution on Wednesday Morning

The city of Alliance officially went out of the coal business on Wednesday morning. No more will the city manager, the city clerk and their associates burn the midnight oil taking care of the work of the coal yards. There is some checking up to be done, but when all the bills are in and paid, the city hall force hopes it will have had its last acquaintance with coal cars.

There is quite a sum of money left on hand at the present, but it doesn't all represent profit. Regular rules were disregarded during the emergency. When Alliance needed a car of coal, about all the railroads watched out for was to see that the freight bills were paid. A number of invoices are still to come in, and these will have to be paid before the city knows how much of a money-maker its side-line has been.

With the return of the business to the hands of the dealers, there will be, it is said, some increase in price. The city was handling the stuff at approximately cost, the price being set, however, with the idea of always keeping on the safe side. Fairly high wages were paid to drivers, and the main economy was in having to handle the coal but once.

## WAR WORK MUST BE FINISHED FIRST

Big Peace Time Program Must Wait Until Other Matters Are Out of the Way

There are still a number of ex-service men in Box Butte county who would find the home service bureau a great aid to them if they would ask its assistance. Such matters as old allotment claims, failure to receive travel pay and other things of that nature, which the service men have been putting off, could just as well be taken care of by Miss Ganson, the home service secretary, whose offices in the court house are open almost every day in the week.

If you are an ex-service man, and have some difficulty, make it a point to visit the bureau offices the next time you are in Alliance. You'll find that they'll do all the hard work for you—and be glad of the opportunity.

The Red Cross doesn't intend to allow itself to degenerate into a relief organization. A big peace time program has been mapped out, with such matters as supervising of public parks, general information service, close co-operation with the United States department of public health, providing city, county and school nurses; caring for special needs of immigrant groups and a dozen or two other important public matters, but the word has come from headquarters that there will be nothing doing until the war work is finished. Every day that an ex-soldier delays taking his difficulties to the home service bureau, that much longer the peace-time work is delayed.

The local home service bureau has also taken up the work of emergency relief. With both the county and city lacking funds to carry it on, several cases requiring instantaneous action have been handled by the Red Cross, which also hasn't funds appropriated for that specific purpose, but realizes that something ought to be done, and done without delay.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Andrews left last night for Los Angeles, Cal., as Mr. Andrews' health is already improved and it is hoped that a change of climate will put him completely on his feet.

## WOULD LIKE TO MEET JOE STAKES ON MAT

Pete Buzokos, a husky looking Greek who will meet Steve Cannon in a grappling match at the Imperial next Tuesday evening, has a hunch that he can pin Joe Stakes on the mat, two out of three, in straight falls. Further than that, he has about \$250 that he is willing to risk that the decision will be in his favor.

Joe Stakes is a liberty, according to Buzokos, to consider himself challenged. The Scottsbluff favorite will probably be heard from before so many days, for he has shown a commendable disposition to take on all comers.

## HOME BUILDERS ARE LOW SELLING STOCK

Over \$35,000 Now Subscribed Toward the \$100,000 Capital Stock of the New Corporation

A few days ago The Herald printed the list of stockholders who had become interested in the new Home Builders' association, either through consolidation with the Community association or by purchase. Since that list was published, the following Alliance citizens have signed the roll:

J. J. Hutchison.  
Mrs. Martha Miller.  
Fannie A. Miskimen.  
Thomas L. Miskimen.  
H. A. Dubuque.  
W. C. Mounts.  
C. S. Mooney.  
H. A. Copey.  
Frank Abegg.  
George G. Smith.  
W. Wade Smith.  
C. L. Hill.  
C. J. Schaffer.

The total amount now subscribed is well over \$35,000, which makes a fine start for the \$100,000 desired. New officers will be elected at the annual meeting, to take place the first Monday in January, and following this meeting plans will probably be perfected to push the sale of stock.

## CLUB ENDORSES THE DAVEY SEDITION BILL

The board of directors of the Alliance Community club, at their meeting Tuesday evening, by unanimous vote endorsed the Davey sedition bill and instructed their secretary to forward to Congressman Kincaid a message to that effect.

The bill, introduced by Congressman Davey of Ohio, defines sedition, and the promotion thereof, and provides for punishment. It was prepared by the department of justice, and is intended to furnish proper authority to cope with the Red menace.

A good provision of the proposed law is for the deportation of aliens who are guilty of sedition under the law, and their perpetual disbarment from again entering the country. Naturalized citizens who are convicted shall have their naturalization revoked and then be deported.

James Armor was down from Casper yesterday.

## CHURCH APPOINTS A BUILDING COMMITTEE

Seven Alliance Methodists Pledge a Total of \$20,500 Toward the New Edifice

A building committee of five members, consisting of R. M. Hampton, president; W. W. Norton, J. A. Hunter, E. T. Kibble and W. R. Pate have been selected to take charge of operations and assist in raising finances for the new Methodist church, which, when completed, will be the finest protestant church in western Nebraska.

A total of \$20,500 has been pledged from seven members of the congregation, which is enthusiastically in favor of the new building. No difficulty is anticipated in raising the required sum—in fact, it is believed the building can be dedicated free of debt.

Building operations are expected to begin as soon as possible, on the lots across the street diagonally from the Presbyterian church. The residence thereon will be moved, and it is possible that the parsonage, which adjoins the building lot, will also be moved.

## "MALE AND FEMALE" AT THE IMPERIAL

"Male and Female," adapted from Sir James M. Barrie's "The Admirable Crichton," will be the attraction at the Imperial on Sunday and Monday nights next week. Love, adventure and whimsical humor are intermingled in a delightful story dealing with Crichton, a butler, and the reversal of the social order which makes a Peer of the Jungle.

It's a rattling good story, produced as Cecil B. DeMille alone can produce such a tale. We have yet to meet the man or woman who isn't interested in one of those desert island stories, with the proper sort of a love story connected with it. Well, this is one of the kind, but of another style than you have been used to seeing. J. M. Barrie doesn't write ordinary stuff, any more than DeMille produces ordinary pictures. There's a great lord, and a great lady, and a butler and a scullery maid; some great humorous scenes, some splendid love scenes and a bit of real tragedy—not of the meller drummer variety.