

The Alliance Herald

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COUNCIL READY TO TALK FRANCHISE

Committee Recommends Changes in Ordinance Submitted by Nebraska Telephone Company

After having given officials of the Nebraska Telephone company ample time to cool their heels, the city council, at its regular meeting Tuesday night, indicated that it was willing to consider granting the company a franchise to do business in the city. The company's franchise expired some months ago, and the council has been in no hurry to grant another, although from time to time the matter has been brought to their attention by representatives of the company.

At the November meeting, E. K. Haldeman, district commercial manager, came here from Grand Island and urged the passage of an ordinance prepared by the company's attorneys, and drawn up along the same lines as similar franchises granted by other cities in the state. The council not only failed to pass the ordinance as presented, but indicated at that time that it would hold off until it could prepare one of its own. A committee consisting of City Attorney W. R. Metz and Councilman Harry Johnson were chosen to draft such an ordinance, and at the last meeting presented its report.

The committee report suggested a number of important changes in the franchise submitted by the company. The company offered to supply two free telephones for the use of the city, and this number is increased to six. Section 5 of the company's ordinance, which provides certain fines for those who destroy company property, or tack advertisements upon the telephone poles. This is eliminated entirely because, as the committee explained, it saw no reason why the city should be put to the expense of prosecuting such cases. Protection is already afforded by state law, it was pointed out, and prosecution may be had in the county court.

Not satisfied with changing the terms of the company's proposed franchise, the committee makes some important additions. One of these provides that the company shall agree to build, within three years, a two-story brick building at least 50x140 feet in size. One of the company's representatives had assured the council that unless a satisfactory franchise were granted, there would be very little probability of construction work being done in Alliance.

The report of the committee follows:

Honorable Mayor and City Council, Alliance.—Gentlemen: Your committee appointed to suggest a telephone franchise ordinance has met and conferred with the city manager, and has concluded that it is not advisable at this time to put its report in the form of a proposed ordinance, but to suggest what should be included in such a ordinance, and after discussion by the council, to incorporate the final conclusions of the council into an ordinance, and submit it to the proper authorities of the Nebraska Telephone company for their consideration, in an effort to reach an amicable agreement; if such attempt fails, the council can then pass the proposed ordinance if desired.

Your committee's report is based upon the proposed ordinance submitted to the council by the Nebraska Telephone company, and is attached hereto.

In connection with section 1, your committee suggests that the company be required to furnish in place of two specified individual business line telephones, six individual business line telephones for the following: (1) Light and pumping station, (2) manager's office, (3) light, water and sewer department office, (4) police station, (5) police judge's office, (6) fire department, and one individual line residence phone for the pest house.

In connection with section 2, your committee suggests that instead of providing that the Telephone company shall receive payment of the actual cost of removing poles and wires from such places as must necessarily be crossed by moving vehicles or structures, it be provided that the company shall perform such service at its own expense within four days.

In connection with section 3 it is suggested that in addition to requiring the company to place all new poles hereafter constructed where directed by the committee on street and alleys, the company also be required to make such changes in the location of its present pole lines as may be instructed by the committee.

THE WEATHER

For Alliance and Vicinity—Cloudy and much colder tonight and Saturday, with fresh northerly winds and probably light snow west portion.

on streets and alleys, and to install conduits prior or subsequent to the paving of any portion of the city at such places as may be instructed by the committee on streets and alleys.

It is suggested that sections 4 and 6 be allowed to remain as they are, and that section 5 be eliminated.

It is suggested that a section be added, requiring the company within three years from the passage of the ordinance, to construct in the city of Alliance for its use, a two-story building of brick and stone construction at least 50x140 feet in size.

It is suggested that a clause be inserted requiring the company to operate free of charge to the city such police and fire alarm systems as may now exist or may hereafter be installed.

It is suggested that there be incorporated into the ordinance a schedule of rates which shall become effective in the event the control of telephone rates shall, for any reason out of the jurisdiction of the state railway commission, and the charge which your committee suggests should be incorporated would be \$1.50 for residence phones, and \$2.00 for business phones.

It is suggested that a section be added requiring the company to furnish an annual statement of its gross receipts and expenses arising from and growing out of the operation of the local exchange.

Respectfully submitted,
W. A. JOHNSON,
W. R. METZ,
Committee.

COMMISSIONERS WILL MAKE APPOINTMENT

The county commissioners met in regular session at the court house Tuesday morning, and will probably remain in session for the rest of the week and possibly for a day or two next week. There is a considerable amount of routine business to be transacted, as well as several special items.

Sometime during the present meeting, a highway commissioner will be appointed. Two petitions are before the board, that of Jake Bicknell, signed by 199 citizens, and another, in the form of a remonstrance against Bicknell's appointment, which has 255 signatures. One or two others have made application for the place, and the board has not yet made up its mind.

The commissioners have placed an order for a huge caterpillar tractor and a five-ton motor truck, which will be used in keeping up the roads of the state highway system in Box Butte county. These machines are a part of the surplus equipment of the war department, recently turned over to the states. It is said that the government was unable to realize over 10 per cent of the cost price at private sale, and this explains why he county is able to secure valuable supplies at very low cost. These machines will be available a part of the time for use on other roads of the county.

CANNON AND WHEELER WRESTLE TO A DRAW

After two hours and twenty minutes of hard wrestling, the match between A. B. Wheeler and Steve Cannon, held at the armory last night, was declared a draw. The action was brisk all through the bout, and the crowd expressed themselves as well satisfied with the entertainment. Wheeler says that Cannon was developed surprisingly and that he man who pins him to the mat will have his work cut out for him. Cannon wrestles Joe Stakes at the Orpheum theater in Scottsbluff on next Wednesday evening, when the state freemen will be in session.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

It is necessary to make a complete report of all member to national and state headquarters, so that the members will receive their 1920 membership cards and American Legion magazine.

The secretary desires that they in some way communicate their addresses to him at the earliest possible moment. If communicating by mail, please address W. E. Edwards, Secretary, 211 Sweetwater, Ave. City 15

THRIFT WEEK TO BEGIN SATURDAY

Nation-wide Campaign to Direct Attention of Americans to Several Important Matters

Arrangements are being made for a proper observance in Alliance of Thrift Week, which will be observed all over the United States from Saturday, January 17, to Saturday, January 24. It is a campaign of economic education which is intended to emphasize the importance to individuals of continued thrift and economy, the value of life insurance, of a bank account, of making a will and appointing a trustee, of owning one's own home, and of paying bills promptly.

In a number of cities, plans have been made to hold public meetings at which various citizens will discuss the various matters emphasized in the program. In Alliance, plans are incomplete, but it is probable that something of the kind may be done. At any rate, here are the days and the subjects, and even if the matter is not brought to your attention more forcibly, each one is worth considering:

Program

National Thrift Day or Bank Day, Saturday, January 17.—To emphasize the service a bank renders a community.

Share With Others Day, Sunday, January 18.—To emphasize the relation of money to character.

National Life Insurance Day, Monday, January 19.—To emphasize the value of protecting loved ones with life insurance.

Own Your Own Home Day, Tuesday, January 20.—To emphasize the desirability of owning one's own home.

Make a Will Day, Wednesday, January 21.—To emphasize the importance of making a will.

Thrift in Industry Day, Thursday, January 22.—To emphasize the identical interests of employer and employee.

Family Budget Day, Friday, January 23.—To emphasize the advantages of using the budget plan for finances.

Pay Your Bills Day, Saturday, January 24.—To emphasize the moral obligation to pay your bills promptly.

VAUDEVILLE AT THE IMPERIAL SATURDAY

An especially good bill is scheduled at the Imperial Saturday, when a corking good photoplay, "Hoop-la," a story of a little circus performer, Joe McGee, and some other people. The synopsis reads better than any we have had a squint at in a long time.

The vaudeville bill for Saturday is a trifle shorter than usual, but it's all top-notch stuff. Fitzgerald and Anderson present a cycle of songs and dances, and Butler and Demuth have a novelty musical act that is said to be a winner. The big feature of the program is Beatrice McKenzie and company, meaning Beatrice, who is a comic opera prima donna, and Ray Dawn, California's famous girl whistler, who will present "Liberty Lane." It's bound to be good. In addition to these, there is a Tom Mix photoplay, "Rustler's Vindication," and Mutt and Jeff in "A Rose by Any Other Name."

On Sunday comes the serial, the third episode of "The Invisible Hand," which has all the kids and half the grown-ups in the city completely baffled, mystified and nonplussed. There is also Lila Lee in "A Daughter of the Wolf," which deals with a smuggling band and has an unusual number of thrills. Indeed, with the exception of the comedy, "Anywhere, Any Place," it's a program chock full of shivers.

Monday's bill brings Charles Ray in "Hay Foot, Straw Foot," which is one of the best "rube pictures" ever made—the producers say so and they've made a lot of them. Here's what they say, and it certainly does sound interesting: "He had name like a cheap cigarette and a line of second-hand tricks that carried the smoke of ages. But Betty was watching him—"

Clark Perkins of Provo, S. D., one of the early residents of Box Butte county, was in the city this week reviewing old acquaintances and exchanging reminiscences. Mr. Perkins homesteaded here some thirty-four years ago. He is on his way back to Provo after an extended visit with relatives in eastern Nebraska and Missouri.

CITY HAS CHANCE FOR AERIAL MAIL

No Money Available for Extensions During Fiscal Year, But Alliance Not Forgotten

Rufus Jones, secretary of the Community club, is still confident that Alliance will in the near future possess an aerial landing station for United States mail.

It will be recalled that the Community club took this matter up a number of months ago with the second assistant postmaster general at Washington, and had considerable correspondence with that gentleman. A few days ago Mr. Jones wrote the department again concerning the matter, mentioning the fact that Omaha is now the western terminus of these aerial mail routes, and asking how soon Alliance might hope to be included in the itinerary. Mr. Jones has just received the following communication from the office of the second assistant postmaster general, which would seem to indicate that Alliance has a great deal to hope for:

"In reply to your letter of the 7th instant calling to mind the desire of the people of Alliance to have an aerial mail station established there, I beg to say that unless the bill now pending before congress which carries the aerial mail appropriation is amended so as to increase this appropriation, it will not be possible to extend the service beyond Omaha during the next fiscal year. Under the circumstances it will not be possible to survey routes west of Omaha until definite action has been taken by congress on the appropriation. I assure you, however, that in the event an appropriation is forthcoming that will enable the department to carry out its plans of expansion, the advantages of Alliance as an intermediate station on some route will be given careful attention.

"Yours truly,
"E. R. WHITE,
"Acting Second Assistant Postmaster General."

SETTLING UP WITH COAL BORROWERS

Special Agent T. J. Smith of the Burlington has been kept busy the past few weeks settling up with hordes of coal borrowers, by which is meant those citizens, who during the coal strike, when they were unable to secure coal, went down to the yards in their various towns and helped themselves to coal on cars in transit. There was mighty little of this kind of trouble in Alliance, but at Seneca, Mullen, Hemingford, Antioch, Lakeside, Ashby, Bingham and maybe a few other places, where the authorities were unable to get coal, a number of folks proceeded to help themselves.

The Burlington is not seeking to make any particular trouble for those in time of need. They have authorized Mr. Smith to settle with the borrowers at the uniform rate of \$10 a ton, wherever an agreement can be made on the amount of coal taken. And there is little difficulty in arriving at an estimate, to judge from results. To date Mr. Smith has settled with over two hundred, and in only one instance has he had to resort to the courts to help him collect. Suit was brought against Ed Benjamin of Antioch, which was decided in favor of the company and the full amount claimed was collected.

R. E. PLUMBE BUYS JOHNSON RESIDENCE

R. E. Plumble, president of the Alliance Packing company, purchased the M. E. Johnson residence at 803 Laramie avenue the first of the week, and within a few days will take possession. Mr. Plumble expects to make his home in this city from now on and has decided that it is more comfortable all around to live in his own house and board at the same place. His mother is making her home with him.

BOILERMAKERS' GIVE DANCE THIS EVENING

The first annual ball of the Alliance local of the International Brotherhood of boilermakers, iron shipbuilders and helpers will be given at the armory this evening. The building has been appropriately decorated, a large number of tickets have been sold, and with the jazz orchestra furnishing the music, it's bound to be a grand success.

ATTENTION MEMBERS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

A special meeting to complete arrangements for the convention at Scottsbluff will be held in the club rooms Sunday, January 18, 1920.

Your presence is urgently requested.

GEORGE J. HAND,
President.

ANXIOUS TO BEGIN SERVING SENTENCES

Alonzo Isiah (colored) pleaded guilty before Judge Tash Thursday morning. Isiah is arraigned on a charge of willfully keeping \$40 in cash, pay checks amounting to \$120.63 and liberty bond coupons belonging to Phillip S. Lore. It appears Isiah saw Lore drop these valuables and concealed them until his arrest.

Joe Price (colored) also pleaded guilty to receiving stolen property, namely the checks Isiah found. Both were bound over to the district court on a bond of \$500. They say they are anxious to get to Rushville and plead quietly to the district court so that they may start serving their time. "The sooner the quicker." The authorities will grant their request.

—Since putting in the Palmer method of business writing in the grade buildings of the Alliance public schools the pupils have earned 597 awards. The present eighth grade at the Central school has six pupils who have earned pupils' final certificates. During the present year ten teachers and one normal trainer have earned the teachers' certificates.

COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY EVENING

A committee from the Alliance Volunteer Fire department collected an appropriation of \$125 to send four delegates and the fire chief to the state convention, which will meet at Scottsbluff Wednesday of next week. It was pointed out that the council had made a similar appropriation for several years, and that was all that was needed to get the money.

City Physician George J. Hand submitted a report. Since April 1, there have been 226 cases of smallpox in the city, but at the present there are but eleven places under quarantine—ten homes and the city pest house. During the last month the smallpox epidemic has been conquered and there are very few new cases.

In the nine months covered by the report, there have been, in addition to the smallpox cases, six of scarlet fever, five of chicken pox, two of influenza and one of measles. There have been but two deaths, both from influenza.

A petition from the citizens of West Lawn asking that electric lights be installed in the homes of the signers contained half a dozen names. West Lawn is just across the track, and while there is street lighting in the district, the desire was for additional service, which will be given them as soon as possible.

James Koehler put in an application for a taxi license, with the request that the fee be pro-rated. It happens that the fiscal year will end in a month or so, and Mr. Koehler preferred not to pay the entire fee for a license that will be of short duration.

The Guardian State bank requested that it be appointed one of the depositories for the city's funds. The request was laid on the table.

A communication from Dan J. Colerick was read, in which he stated that he wished to apply for the first vacancy on the city's police force. Charles Hill of the Alliance Steam laundry appeared before the council and asked that he be permitted to lease a portion of the city land 14x50 feet in extent, to be used as a location for coal sheds. The land in question is located south of the railroad tracks, near the city's power plant. Mr. Hill brought along a lease properly made out, with the time and the amount left vacant after some discussion, the council authorized a lease for five years with a six months' cancellation clause at a yearly rental of \$25.

—Round up your second-hand clothes, suits and overcoats and bring them to the 164 Cleaners and Tailors. We pay cash for them. You can just as well have the cash as something that you can't use. We use any color, any size. Bring them in and get the money. 164 Cleaners, 213 Box Butte, "Ted's Place." 14

MAY DISCONTINUE THE CITY MISSION

City Council Pays Indebtedness for Past Year and Makes Temporary Arrangements

The city council, at its meeting Tuesday evening, appropriated \$150 to square the debts of the city mission, and will make an investigation to determine whether the mission shall receive financial support in the future. City Manager Smith was instructed to make arrangements for temporary quarters for Police Matron Sharp, either in the city hall or elsewhere, and at the next regular or adjourned meeting the question will be threshed out. A committee from the mission board appeared before the council and asked that the appropriation be made.

In past years the council has made an appropriation for the mission, largely because of the fact that its head is Mrs. Sharp, who serves as police matron without pay. Heretofore the W. C. T. U. has had general supervision over the finances, and additional money has been received from the sale of clothing donated. A few months ago the W. C. T. U. announced that the burden was too great for it, and a mass meeting was called, at which the matter was discussed. Another mass meeting resulted, at which the various religious and fraternal organizations of the city were asked to send representatives, and at this meeting a mission board was selected.

The mission board made an endeavor to interest these various societies in financing the mission, but without success. It was decided to put the matter up to the council, and abide by its decision. If the council believes the police matron's work is sufficiently important to warrant keeping up the mission, it is at liberty to do so, according to the sentiment of the board members.

There has been some criticism of the manner in which the present mission has been conducted, not as regards relief work, but concerning the religious features. It is said that there is no definite religious program being carried out, and the belief is general that the religious features should be subordinate to the police matron's and relief work. A number of complimentary references to Mrs. Sharp's work were made, both by members of the council and the committee, but the consensus of opinion was that if the mission were continued, it should be as relief organization solely.

There was some little discussion, and it was suggested that arrangements might be made to have the police matron appointed county and district probation officer, the idea being that with the expense divided three weeks, an adequate salary could be paid. The whole matter was finally laid over, instructions being given to the city manager to provide quarters for the matron until the question could be decided.

Aside from the fact that its debts will be paid, the future of the city mission is still in doubt. The council may decide to do away with it altogether and appoint a police matron and public health nurse combined. For the present, however, Mrs. Sharp will be furnished quarters in the city hall or elsewhere. The present building rents for \$40 a month, and it may be that no better or less expensive location can be found. There is little question that if it is retained, the plan of operation will be changed.

ELKS' DANCE NEXT TUESDAY EVENING

With the completion of repairs and improvements at the local Elks lodge there has been a revival of social activities. W. R. Harper has been appointed chairman of the entertainment committee, and the first entertainment, arranged by the new committee is a dance, to be given on Tuesday, January 20. A jazz orchestra has been secured, and an effort will be made to get not only the younger set, but the older married couples to participate.

—The report of the light and water departments of the city of Alliance, presented to the city council by City Manager C. C. Smith Tuesday evening, shows gross earnings for December of \$6,073.04, with operating expenses of \$4,533.50, construction during the month \$1,000, leaving a net earning of \$539.54. Four hundred and sixty-five tons of coal were consumed during the month. The number of consumers now on the city's books is 963.