

The Alliance Herald

Twice a Week—Tuesday and Friday

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PHONE COMPANY ARGUING FOR A FRANCHISE

F. A. MAY OF OMAHA AHEAD BEFORE COUNCIL

Objections to Proposed Provisions Ordinance—May Withhold Improvements

Alliance stands a chance to lose some \$20,000 or \$30,000 worth of contemplated improvements for 1920 unless the city council grants the Nebraska Telephone company a workable franchise without unnecessary delay, according to Frank A. May of Omaha, commercial manager of the company, who made another effort to convince the city council that the company's demands are not exorbitant, and that all it desires is an opportunity to make a fair return on its investment in this city.

This is about the seventh effort that the company has made to talk the council into granting a franchise, and each one has been about as productive of results as the one just preceding. The council is in no hurry at all—and they smilingly informed Mr. May of that fact, just as they had informed his predecessor. All the council wants is to write the franchise as they want it, and not as anyone else wants it.

The company's franchise expired several months ago, and no other has been granted. The company submitted an ordinance prepared by their legal department, which the council refused to consider. Instead they appointed a committee consisting of W. R. Metz, city attorney, and Councilman Harry Johnson, who drew up a list of suggestions as to what they thought a franchise should contain, and presented these to the council, which thereupon agreed that the next step was to put them up to the company.

Mr. May devoted his whole argument to these suggestions, and when he got through there wasn't very many of them he was in favor of. He read the report as The Herald had printed it, and suggestion by suggestion, registered his objections. And there were lots of them.

At the outset, he stated that the ordinance submitted by the company was the standard form that had been passed by practically every council in practically every town or city in which the company does business. He said that he didn't think it was 100 per cent pure, but that the towns in which it was in force found that it answered their purpose very well. Alliance was the first city where a complaint had been registered.

The first of the committee's suggested changes was that the company should furnish six phones for the use of the city, instead of two, as the company-drawn franchise provided. To this, he said, the company had no objection, provided a provision were incorporated to the effect that the use of these phones be in lieu of an occupation tax. All the phones classed as business phones, and the total would amount to \$250 a year, or \$5,000 for the twenty-year period of the franchise, which he thought a reasonable occupation tax.

Mr. May then took up the suggestion that the actual cost of removing poles and wires in case of house moving be charged to the company, instead of the owner of the house, as provided in the company's ordinance. Various towns have different provisions in this regard, some of them making the company and the house owner split the cost. One Alliance councilman had a house moved and it was necessary on this occasion to cut a cable or two. The ordinary lineman cannot do this class of work, and the result was that two men were brought down from Omaha and the councilman is charged with something like \$150, when the estimated cost was given at \$50. In cases like this, Mr. May said, the charge will not exceed the estimate. He asked the council not to impose this penalty on the company, and cited the city's lighting plant, which is protected by ordinance.

Another recommendation of the committee was that the company should not only place all new poles and wires where directed by the committee on streets and alleys, but that they should make such changes in the location of present lines as the council may direct. Mr. May said that this provision might be subjected to a pretty broad interpretation. The company in every city in which it does business aims to place its poles and wires strategically, so as to serve the greatest number of patrons with least expense.

A future council might be very arbitrary, Mr. May said, and every bit of equipment costs money. If the council, for instance, should order the company to put in underground cables to any great extent, it might increase the investment in Alliance to a figure that would be prohibitive. It is never profitable to go underground unless there are at least 600 pairs of wires. Mr. May several times remarked that the only source of revenue the company had was its subscribers, and that any ordinary expense would simply have to be passed along to them.

The council's committee recommended the elimination of section 5 of the company's ordinance, which provided penalty for defacing poles and wires or injuring company property. The city's idea was that it costs money to prosecute these cases and that such a provision was unnecessary because it is already covered by state law. Mr. May said that if the provision were left in, as an added protection to the company, he would be willing to have matters arranged so that the company would take care of the prosecution. The posting of placards on poles, for instance, Mr. May said, was responsible for accidents, a lineman believing he had stuck his spurs into solid wood. The chief objection raised to the council's suggestions was in connection with the provision that the company agree within three years to (Continued on Page 6.)

GETTING READY TO BEGIN PAVING

Engineer in Charge Is on the Ground and Material Is Being Unloaded

Engineer Olson, in the employ of Grant & Fulton, who will supervise the construction work of Sprague & Kniesly on the paving district comprising a large portion of Box Butte avenue and adjacent streets, is on the ground this week, and a force of men has been engaged in unloading several carloads of sand, gravel and machinery. A huge steam shovel is part of the equipment. The material is being piled to the west of the city's power plant.

Mr. Olson is now looking for a residence. He expects to bring his family to Alliance as soon as a location can be found.

Smith & Chambers are now ready to resume construction of the water main extensions, providing the weather conditions will not change sufficiently to call a halt. There remains still four-inch extensions from Eighth to Tenth streets on Emerson, and from Sixth to Tenth on Platte, with a six-inch main connecting the Emerson and Platte mains. The contractors started the work last fall, but the weather made a postponement imperative.

SPECIAL AGENT SMITH SECURES CONFESSION

Burlington Special Agent T. J. Smith returned on Thursday from Crawford, where he had been engaged in running down thefts of coal from the chutes, as well as thieving from cars and freight house. Walter Mayfield of Crawford, in charge of the coal chute nights, pleaded guilty last week to a charge of taking coal and a fine of \$5 and costs was imposed.

Tuesday of this week, Mayfield admitted that he had robbed no less than eleven freight cars. A considerable amount of merchandise of various kinds was found secreted in his home by Mr. Smith, who secured a search warrant and went through the premises. The confession followed the search. Mayfield was taken before Judge Westover at once, and pleaded guilty, receiving an indeterminate sentence.

BRANDT HAS A NARROW ESCAPE FROM DEATH

P. W. Brandt narrowly escaped death last Sunday when he was seriously injured at the P. J. Knapp ranch, west of Alliance. Mr. Brandt was repairing the windmill when the steel fan swung around and struck him on the head. His skull was injured by the blow, and he nearly bled to death before medical assistance arrived. Mr. Brandt was brought to Alliance to the home of his sister, Mrs. P. J. Sturgeon, where he is said to be making a good recovery.

Mrs. Martha Kelley is quite ill at her home on Toluca avenue.

TWO MORE DEATHS AT ALBRIGHT HOME

Mother and Daughter Succumb After Four Others Die of Pneumonia Following Influenza

Warren Albright, whose wife and five children have died within the past week of pneumonia following the influenza, and who was reported to be in serious condition the first of the week, is no longer in danger, according to Dr. Bellwood, the attending physician.

Funeral services were held Thursday for the last three members of the Albright family, Alice Ruby Albright, the mother, aged thirty-five; Foretta Lorna, aged fourteen, and the three-year-old baby. The mother and fourteen-year-old daughter died Wednesday morning.

The father is the only one of the family to survive the ravages of the disease.

BUILDING EXTENSIONS TO CITY LIGHT LINES

Up until the change in the weather Friday morning, the city's force of electricians has been putting in the work working on the extensions to the city's lines. The extensions to the south have been completed, but there remains extensions to the east, north and west to be constructed. The work will be rushed as fast as the weather permits.

No word has come from Hemingford concerning the erection of a power line to use the city's juice. But word has come from Alliance. One business man who owns a couple of buildings has announced that if the city doesn't come across with a ten-cent rate for him, the same rate that was offered Hemingford, he is going to consider the question of installing his own light plant. The electrician in charge tried to explain to him that the city would probably make him the same rate as they offered the city of Hemingford, metered at the plant, but at last report he had not been pacified.

SOME DEMAND FOR CALLING GRAND JURY

Present prospects are that a grand jury may be impaneled to investigate complaints of gambling and bootlegging. These complaints have been coming in thick and fast the past few days, it is said, and the authorities are inclined to believe that a grand jury session would be a wholesome thing.

County Attorney Lee Basye has expressed himself in favor of such a course. A number of citizens are reported to be urging such a course.

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR ROBERT GLENN MCCLURE

Funeral services for Robert Glenn McClure, nine-months-old son of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. McClure, who died Wednesday evening of bronchial troubles, were held from the Christian church at 3 p. m. Thursday.

PRESIDENT MEETS RAIL MEN TODAY

Executive Is Expected to Support Hines in Refusal of Increased Pay

Rep. reports in Alliance to the effect that a compromise settlement has been reached were today said to be without foundation by local railroad officials.

President Wilson, resuming active participation in executive affairs, today will meet a committee of three from the railroad employees' organization and give them his answer to their \$1,000,000,000 wage increase demands. The president, who has been studying the reasons which impelled Director General Hines to decline the organized workers' wage requests, is expected to announce to the committee his support of Mr. Hines' position, but to urge them to wait patiently for a while until the railroads are returned to private ownership. The president is expected to announce to the committee his support of Mr. Hines' position, but to urge them to wait patiently for a while until the railroads are returned to private ownership under new legislation, which provides for orderly consideration of "workers' grievances."

Director General Hines conferred more than an hour last evening with the strike committee of the maintenance of way employees who have given notice of a strike beginning February 17 unless their wage demands are granted.

The director general told the committee what he had just told the general committee yesterday about the impossibility of meeting the demands, and urged them to be patient until President Wilson speaks.

"The demands for increases made by the railroad workers," said an official today, "would aggregate approximately \$1,000,000,000 a year and would bring the total annual wage increase to railroad workers since the roads came under government control to approximately \$2,000,000,000."

The heads of railroad brotherhoods, so far as can be ascertained from their demeanor here in the face of the government's rejection, are not inclined to be belligerent.

They point to the president's efforts in their behalf in the past, and recalled particularly the pledge made to them by Mr. Wilson last summer that he would do all in his power to see that they get justice, no matter whether the railroads were under government control or not.

"I anticipate," said the president, addressing the railroad workers' wage committee at that time, "that legislation dealing with the future of the railroads will in explicit terms afford adequate protection for the interests of the employees of the road; but quite apart from that it is clear that no legislation can make the railroads other than what they are, a great public interest, and it is not likely that the president of the United States, whether in possession and control of the railroads or not, will lack opportunity or persuasive force to influence the decision of questions arising between the man-

agers of the railroads and the railway employees.

"The employees may rest assured that, during my term of office, whether I am in actual possession of the railroads or not, I shall not fail to execute the full influence of the executive to see that justice is done them."

Recalling these words, the railroad workers expect the president, even if it is necessary to turn down their wage demands at this time, to give them some encouragement for future consideration and also to encourage them in their protest to Mr. Hines against dereliction of congress for its failure to enact legislation which would tend to reduce the cost of living.

SILVER GRILL HAS NOT CHANGED PROPRIETORS

Announcement was made last week of the sale of the Silver Grill to Ernest Radenbaugh of Hastings, Neb. The announcement proved premature, however, as the transaction was never completed.

F. T. Garvin wishes it understood that he retains ownership of the cafe, and in his advertisement in this issue of The Herald, makes it plain that you will still be able to receive there the finest of food, cooked well, and served the way you like to get it, without any unnecessary delay.

VOTE TO FINISH LIBRARY BASEMENT

Social Center, Which Will Be Available for Public Meetings, to Be the Result.

The Library board, at its meeting Wednesday evening, voted to go ahead with improvements in the basement of the city library, which was never finished. This has been a pet plan of the board's for some months, but sufficient funds have never been in sight until the present. Last year seats and other equipment were purchased.

E. G. Laing, a member of the board, appeared at the meeting of the city council Tuesday evening and received informal assurance that if the board could save money from funds to pay half the cost, the city council would come across with the balance. The estimated cost is \$1,000.

CARMEN'S ANNUAL BALL NEXT MONDAY EVE.

Monday evening, February 16, at the armory in Alliance, is the time and place set for the annual ball to be given by the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America, local No. 814. And it will be a big event, from the minute the doors open until the lights are turned out.

The railway carmen conduct their annual ball on a little different plan than the average affair of this kind. For one thing, there's free refreshments; for another, there's the best kind of a spirit. These railroad boys are good mixers and everybody feels at home the minute they put their feet inside the door.

The Wiker jazz orchestra will furnish the music. Harry Morris will act as floor manager. Everybody will have a pleasant time, and everybody has been invited to come out and enjoy the fun. The admission fee is \$1 for the men—the ladies will be admitted without charge.

Make your plans now to attend the Carmen's ball. You'll be missing a mighty pleasant evening if you let anything else keep you away.

GAIN OF A THIRD IN MEMBERSHIP

A representative of The Herald who dropped into the office of the Alliance Community club in search of news found Secretary Rufus Jones busily engaged in closing his books after the quarterly collections, and was invited by the secretary to glance over the membership ledger.

This examination showed the membership of the Community club to be in highly satisfactory shape. When Mr. Jones assumed the Alliance secretaryship the Community club had about 100 members in good standing. Today there are about 150. This fact is gratifying to the secretary and to the club's directors, and to The Herald it indicates unmistakably that the business interests of Alliance are thoroughly satisfied with the manner in which the affairs of the club are being conducted.

TO INVESTIGATE FEASIBILITY OF PROJECT

COMMITTEE DECIDES TO LOOK INTO BARTOW PLAN

Andrew Weiss Invited to Come Here From Mitchell and Give Opinion

Judge H. C. Bartow of Ft. Pierre, S. D., president of the Great Plains Irrigation association, addressed a mass meeting at the court house Wednesday evening. The meeting made up in enthusiasm what it lacked in numerical strength.

Judge Bartow expressed a frank desire that Alliance should be made permanent headquarters of the organization, the purposes of which are, in brief, to take the waters of the Missouri river at a point in the northwestern part of North Dakota and pipe it down through the western sections of South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas, ending temporarily in extreme southwestern Kansas.

The meeting, which was presided over by Glen Miller, president of the Community club, was addressed at some length by Judge Bartow on the details of his proposition. He estimates that the ultimate cost of the project will be in the neighborhood of \$160,000,000 and that it will irrigate approximately 16,000,000 acres of land. Mr. Roosevelt, when he was president, said, according to Judge Bartow, that the idea was a good one.

There will be plenty of water, Judge Bartow assured his hearers, and it will require a pipe twelve feet in diameter, preferably constructed of wood, reinforced with hoops. At this juncture there arose a discussion of the amount of power necessary for elevating the tremendous output of water. From its source, with an elevation of 1,155 feet, there would be a gradual rise to Sidney, Neb., with its 4,100 feet of altitude. It was ascertained that in the judgment of competent engineers this would be by no means an insurmountable problem. These engineers had also figured that this irrigation project would relieve the strain on the lower dikes of the Mississippi river, during flood stages, by from 27 to 32 per cent.

Those who heard Judge Bartow seemed unanimous in the belief that the ideas advanced would be feasible, and that they would be glad to have Alliance made headquarters of the association. He announced that he would be glad to take any part assigned him in the work, and suggested that arrangements be made immediately to perfect an organization.

Upon motion it was decided to name a committee of five to investigate further with a view to organizing. Chairman Miller named on this committee William J. Johnson, G. W. Nation, True Miller, John C. Morrow, and by general request of the meeting he became the fifth member of the committee.

There being no further business for consideration by the mass meeting it adjourned, immediately following which the committee of five went into session.

The committee appointed at the mass meeting Tuesday evening has decided to invite Andrew Weiss, project manager at Mitchell, Neb., to come to Alliance on Monday next and meet with them. They will ask his opinion of the feasibility of Mr. Bartow's scheme, and if his decision is favorable, Alliance will get behind Mr. Bartow and do its best to make the Great Plains Irrigation association the biggest kind of a success.

OILPULL TRACTOR IS WINNER OF WORLD RECORD

The OilPull tractor, sold in Alliance by F. A. Clark, is the winner of a world record in a tractor demonstration held at Columbus, O., two weeks ago. The 12-20 OilPull was entered in competition with twenty-eight other makes from all parts of the United States, both oil and gas burning, and was never in danger of losing the belt, according to published accounts. More complete details of the test will be found in the advertisement of F. A. Clark, Alliance agent, printed on another page.

No appointment has been made to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Night Watch Roland. R. G. Trabert is filling the position temporarily.

Only Seventeen Days Left

After March 1, The Alliance Herald will cost you either \$2.50 or \$3.00 per year. If you live within a radius of 150 miles of Alliance, you will pay the lower rate, but outside of that, due to increased postage and mailing charges, you'll have to come across with 50 cents additional.

The Herald prints more real news than any other paper of its class in the state. Live news of Alliance, printed while it's still news, written in a new way. All the news that's fit to print—and nothing that isn't.

Until March 1, subscriptions will be received at the old rate. Regular subscribers may pay for not to exceed one year in advance at \$2.00 per year. Use the coupon—before you forget it.

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