

The Alliance Herald

Twice a Week—Tuesday and Friday

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ALLIANCE, BOX BUTTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 1920.

NUMBER 41.

ALLIANCE IN GRIP OF BIG BLIZZARD

Train Service Practically Suspended for Three Days—No. 41 Stalled Near Girard.

Since Saturday morning, Alliance has been in the grip of a snowstorm which has heaped the roads high with snow, rendering traffic impossible, and caused a cessation of train and mail service. The storm began with a light rain Friday evening which changed to sleet and then snow. The snow was accompanied by a strong wind, but the temperature was at no time particularly low. The difference to a few degrees in temperature was undoubtedly the means of saving a good many head of livestock, and the probabilities are that the loss from this source will be large in spite of it.

The storm extended from coast to coast, according to reports that have reached Alliance, although the territory between Billings and Broken Bow was the worst. Train conductors say that the other side of Broken Bow there was rain, and one declared that the rain extended clear to St. Louis.

It was necessary for the Alliance division of the Burlington to call on Lincoln for help and Sunday evening the big rotary snowplow from Lincoln was started to Alliance to plow a way through the drifts. It was then understood that all traffic west of Seneca to Edgemont was at a standstill.

Train schedules were badly interrupted. No. 42 due into Alliance at midnight Saturday, was stalled in a big drift near Girard for nearly fifty hours, being released last night. Monday night two No. 41's and three No. 43's were in Alliance, waiting for the track to be cleared. The Denver train came in late Sunday afternoon, and service has been delayed on that line since. Trains are now running, although schedules for the time being have been forgotten.

Heavy loss of stock in the cattle country is feared by prominent stock men. R. M. Hampton of Alliance, president of the First National bank, and a well known stockman, does not believe that the stock will drift into the sand hills lakes as they did six years ago when millions of dollars worth of cattle perished, but he fears that the shortage of feed will cause a heavy loss.

Herman Krause, owner of one of the largest western Nebraska ranches believes that the loss will be heavy on account of rain preceding the blizzard, causing stock to be in poor condition to withstand the cold snow being driven by a fifty-mile wind.

After being stalled in a fourteen-foot snowdrift for forty-seven hours and fifty-seven minutes, one and one-half miles west of Girard and about thirty-two miles west of Alliance, Burlington train number forty-two, due in Alliance at midnight Saturday, was rescued at eleven o'clock Monday night. The train consisted of thirteen cars and carried one hundred and sixty passengers, including thirty women and fifteen children. On board the train were a number of Alliance citizens, including the Misses Dailey and Young, Dr. H. A. Copey, C. M. Looney, Rex Roberts and I. L. Keith.

There were one hundred and sixty passengers on the train when it left Crawford Saturday night, but there were one hundred and sixty-one when it reached Alliance at one-thirty o'clock this morning. The stork could not wait on stranded trains and he brought a six-pound baby boy to Mr. and Mrs. W. L. McPherson of Denver, at seven o'clock Monday morning. Dr. H. A. Copey of Alliance, who was a passenger on the train, saw that the little stranger arrived safely. Mrs. Wilbur A. Johnson of Deadwood, South Dakota, a trained nurse on her way to Denver, assisted in caring for the mother and new arrival. The ladies on the train provided an improvised wardrobe for the baby and the men, after lengthy discussion, decided that the baby should be named "Maroon Marvel." A collection as a present for the new baby was taken at the vaudeville show held Monday evening on the train and the purse was presented to the parents of the youngster with the request that he be named as above.

Repeated efforts were made made all day Sunday, Sunday night and Monday to rescue the stranded train. The final effort was made with the assistance of forty Hemingford citizens, who shouldered snow shovels and boarded a relief train for Girard, where they handled their shovels for six hours like veterans in shoveling out the marooned train.

Snowplows sent out Sunday and Sunday night were unable to pierce

PRIMARY ELECTION BEING HELD TODAY

Snowstorm Makes It Impossible to Deliver Ballots to Some Outlying Precincts.

A primary election is being held today, but some Box Butte county citizens will not be able to vote unless some elector, braver than the rest, volunteers to take the ballots from the office of County Clerk Mounts to the polling places. There was little difficulty in getting the ballots distributed in Alliance, but with no trains running, and the roads drifted high with snow, there was simply no way to get them delivered outside of the city. County Clerk Mounts was able finally to get a batch off to Dorsey precinct, wherein lies the city of Hemingford, and a few precincts were taken care of by electors bolder than the others, but at 10 a. m. today ballots for five precincts reposed in the clerk's office.

Wright, Box Butte, Snake Creek, Liberty, and Running Water precincts are those which are without ballots. Some of these are from twenty-five to thirty miles out of the city. It isn't likely that the electors there are particularly anxious to vote—and certainly none of them has been anxious enough to come after the ballots, although Mr. Mounts has been sending out the cry of distress by phone.

Interest in Alliance is fairly strong in the county election, and a fair-sized vote is expected. The voter will have an opportunity to mark two or three yards of ballot when he shows up at the polls, there being a long string of contenders for the nominations.

The big snowstorm is already being used as an alibi for various candidates, as it will undoubtedly keep a good many away from the polls. It will be especially hard on Governor McKelvie, for the storm-bound country is his particular stronghold.

The political forecasters are rather up a stump. With a long list of candidates for every office of importance, and with a large number of voters kept away from the polls, it's a trifle difficult to say just how things are coming out. Leonard Wood appears to be the favorite for the Republican presidential preference, as does Hitchcock for the Democrats, but the Wood supporters are a trifle leary of Pershing, for whom a good deal of electioneering has been done. If there is a tie-up between the Wood and Johnson supporters, the California man will not show up particularly strong, although it is one thing for campaign managers to make slates and a totally different thing for voters to follow them.

Just at present the snow makes Alliance a second Spottless Town, but if Tuesday's fine weather keeps up, the city will be in the midst of a sea of mud within three days. Most of this ought to be gone by the first of the week, if the weather man is any kind of a sport, and spring will start officially.

A lot of rubbish accumulates during any winter—or two or three winters, for that matter—and if the council secures the proper kind of cooperation, there's no reason why this shouldn't be one of the most attractive, as well as the best, cities in western Nebraska. Of course, if the weather goes floozy again, no citizen will be expected to dig rubbish out from under snowdrifts, but if not shovels, rakes and bonfires ought to be in evidence in front of half the houses in the city.

Mayor A. D. Rodgers announced Tuesday morning that the week beginning April 25 and ending May 1 has been set apart as a general clean-up week for the city. During this time the citizens are urged to clean up and burn all rubbish, plant pecanias in the front yard and sweet peas along the back fence, and then, if they have more time, energy or money left, to make contracts for re-planting.

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SPECIAL AGENT SMITH SETTLES "WOBBLES"

Burlington Special Agent T. J. Smith ran across a bunch of brothers who possessed "Wobbly" tendencies, whether they were members of the I. W. W. gang or simply tired men with high wage ideals. When several trains were stalled at Girard Sunday morning, and efforts were made to get together a crew of men to go down on a special and wield shovels against the snow, the Burlington officials found that recruiting was proceeding rather slowly. As usual, there was a gang of husky idlers around the station, and strong inducements were made to encourage these fellows to go to the relief of the stalled trains and snow plows.

Special Agent Smith soon unearthed the reason for strong men refusing to work for good wages. He had offered a bunch of them time and a half—60 cents per hour—together with their board to join the relief gang, but the most he could get was a few of the passengers from various stalled trains, who were willing to do their bit. The huskies weren't coming across like they should. Mr. Smith found that there were a few brothers who were moving among the men, counseling them to hold out for a dollar an hour. Figuratively speaking, Mr. Smith applied the toe of his boot where it would do the most good, and after the bolsheviks had been ejected there was a whole lot less opposition to the high wages offered.

The most appalling feature of the sugar situation is the fact that the government is to continue in control for another season.

Wanted—Two or three furnished rooms for light housekeeping; private family preferred. Call phone 349. 41p

AUTO CAMPAIGN ENDS SAT. NIGHT

Race Has Narrowed Down to Few Contestants. Crucial Test Now Ahead.

The climax Saturday night! Seven weeks of effort and anxiety culminate with the closing of the Herald's automobile and prize campaign at 8 p. m., April 24th.

The extremely heavy balloting of Saturday eclipsed all former records. Thousands of votes were cast, and with the race in the home-stretch, the race has narrowed down to two or three who will decide supremacy at the First State Bank in the presence of the judges and interested friends.

The ballot box, sealed and locked, is now at the First State Bank where it will remain until the closing hour. Members of the Advisory Board, announced at the beginning of the campaign, will be asked to officiate when the box is opened for the last time Saturday night, count the votes and decide the winners.

All contestants should be sure to have their final collections and reserve votes in the ballot box before 8 p. m. The campaign will close promptly at that time—not one minute before nor one minute after. Important.

As a protection to all contestants no personal checks for more than \$10 will be accepted in the final count. Subscriptions with remittances to cover are to be put in sealed envelopes and taken to the First State Bank. Subscriptions amounting to more than \$10 must be accompanied by cash, certified check or draft made payable to the Alliance Herald. There will be no variation from that rule.

The race is now in the final lap. Mr. Kelly made a surprising gain and now leads the field. He made a big report Saturday, both of subscriptions and job cards. He brought in orders from Bridgeport and Angora as well as several big orders from Alliance. Mr. Kelly says that if any one in, or within fifteen miles of Angora is not getting the Herald, or who has not bought a job card, he doesn't know it.

Miss Margaret Barry also did splendidly last week—the final one of the second period. It looks very much as though the struggle for the Reo is between Miss Barry and Mr. Kelly. The latter holds the lead today. The full voting strength of these contestants is not shown. Both have made splendid records—and, with strong reserves yet to come to light—the race is an interesting one.

The totals as shown below will not be changed until the votes are counted for the last time at the First State Bank by the judges. The final scenes are set—all that remains is the final burst of speed. The storm will interfere with active work for a few days but there is still time for determined action. Both Mr. Kelly and Miss Barry can be counted on to make a determined bid for first honors Saturday night.

A notorious "dip," whose name was given as Harry Mulvert, was picked up by Burlington Special Agent T. J. Smith Monday evening at the Burlington station and taken down to Chief Reed's headquarters. Mulvert was recognized by the special agent, who thought it wise to remove him, temporarily, from the reach of temptation. He arrived in the city on Sunday's No. 43—or was it Saturday's?—and wasn't even given the opportunity to look the town over. He was released on his promise to leave town, and although trains weren't running with the best regularity, managed to make his word good with as little delay as possible.

The Rhine Hardware company is sporting a new front, which is one of the nicest in the city. The lighting effects are especially fine, and will furnish display windows that will be unequalled in the city. One of the large plate glasses was smashed during installation, but this, thank fortune, is only a temporary mishap.

The Fowler Lumber company, not to be outdone by other like concerns in the city, is entering upon a general renovating and remodeling campaign, which will result in newly painted walls and new floors, together with new electric fixtures. The Forest Lumber company's office building is progressing rapidly.

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MADELINE ZEDIKER WINS IN DISTRICT CONTEST

Forecast for Alliance and vicinity: Cloudy tonight and Wednesday; warmer west to central portions tonight.

Miss Madeline Zediker, representing the Alliance High School, won first prize in dramatic class, in the declamatory contest held Friday, April 16, at Sidney. Her selection was "Rock of Ages."

Ten towns were represented, a Scottsbluff girl winning first prize in the humorous selections, giving "The Lady Across the Aisle," and a boy from Sidney carrying off the honors in the oratorical.

The winners in this contest will participate in the state contests to be held some time next month, the date and places to be announced later. There will be three of these state contests, to be held in different places at the same time, one for each class, dramatic, humorous and oratorical.

GAS WELL BROUGHT IN AT CRAWFORD

Citizens "Oil Mad" Following Successful Drilling of First Oil Well in Nebraska

Citizens of Crawford and other western Nebraska cities where drilling for oil is in progress are "oil mad" today. Values on land believed to be in the oil strata doubled and trebled within the past twenty-four hours and oil speculators from the Wyoming fields are hurrying to this locality and wiring friends to obtain leases for them, says the Omaha Bee.

Business was suspended there Saturday and people for miles in every direction have visited the oil well being drilled by F. M. Stapleton, a local banker, and W. H. Coleman on High School heights, in the heart of the city. The drillers Saturday punctured a vein of a gas pocket. The ensuing explosion was heard for eight blocks. Mud, sand and water were thrown to a height of seventy feet, and the derrick and ground for a distance of fifty feet were covered with mud. The ground was covered with heavy traces of oil that burns freely.

The driller managed to extract his bit from the well and the roar from the escaping gas, which can be heard for a considerable distance, indicates a heavy pressure.

The well was set on fire by an adventuresome member of the crowd who doubted that the well contained gas. The workmen were still working at a late hour Saturday to cap the well and extinguish the huge, roaring flame which could be seen for miles after dark.

Mr. Stapleton announced immediately after the gas pocket was struck the drilling would be continued in an effort to find the oil-bearing sands.

Several oil companies have been organized among local people, who have made no effort to drill, but are preparing to start drilling at once. North and west of Crawford several companies are preparing to increase their drilling crews and work day and night.

EVERETT COOK HOME DAMAGED BY FIRE

The residence of Everett Cook, 316 Laramie, was damaged to the extent of about \$5,000 early Sunday afternoon by a fire which was caused by a defective flue. The blaze started in the kitchen, and had gained a good headway by the time the fire truck arrived. The fireboys made good time, but were badly handicapped by the heavy snow storm. The first block it was necessary to run the big truck on the sidewalk, and within five seconds after leaving the walk, it was stalled in the snow. Bystanders and firemen put their shoulders to the wheel, and practically pushed the truck through the snow to the house.

Two streams of water were put on the blaze, and the damage was confined to the kitchen and another room. The firemen were able to extinguish the flames without damaging other parts of the house particularly, and Chief Taylor was on hand to keep zealous bystanders from walking all over the rugs.

Dispatcher Harling, who has rooms on the second floor, became excited when hearing of the blaze and let his wife out of one of the windows. She dropped only a short distance, but was badly bruised by the fall.

RUFUS JONES TO LEAVE ALLIANCE

Secretary of Chamber of Commerce Hands in Resignation at Special Meeting Monday

Secretary Rufus Jones of the Alliance chamber of commerce handed in his resignation at a special meeting of the board of directors held Monday noon at the Alliance hotel. The resignation of Dr. W. J. Mahaffy, who has removed to Mullen, was also presented. The board of directors accepted the resignations.

Walter C. Rundin, pastor of the community church at Mitchell, Neb., has been considered as Mr. Jones' successor, and it is probable that the place will be given him if he desires to take it. Mr. Rundin has won a reputation over the state for his work at Mitchell and Crawford, and those who are acquainted with him consider him an ideal man for the place. He has had considerable experience in secretarial work, which, combined with his ability as a speaker, especially fit him for the position. Mr. Rundin was the principal speaker at the annual meeting of the Alliance volunteer fire department, held last Wednesday evening, and made a real hit with the local people who heard him.

Rufus Jones, the retiring secretary, leaves Alliance to enter in business in Denver, where he has purchased a half-interest in the National Investment company, a business brokerage concern with offices in Temple Court of that city. His partner is James Schneider, who has been sole owner since the establishment of the business several months ago. Prospects are excellent, Mr. Jones says, and he was induced to leave by a guarantee of a minimum of \$600 per month. He will have charge of the company offices, while his partner will devote himself to the management of the field force, consisting of some half a dozen men.

Mr. Jones has made an enviable record as secretary of the Alliance chamber of commerce, and in his year's residence here has won a large circle of friends and admirers, whose best wishes will follow him wherever he may go. The resignation will not take effect, it is understood, until a successor has been chosen, but Mr. Jones believes that this will be done by the first of May.

BOX BUTTE COUNTY VITAL STATISTICS

The state bureau of health has made public its report for the year 1919, and the figures by counties make an interesting study. Box Butte county reported 208 births for the past year, a decrease from 1918 of 77. There were 69 deaths during the year. One hundred and eighty-one marriage licenses were issued, a record number, and forty-five divorces were granted during the year. There were fewer matrimonial shipwrecks in this county than in the majority of the counties in the state.

In the figures for the state, those covering divorce proceedings are especially noteworthy. The total number of divorces in Nebraska in 1919 was 3,358, nearly a thousand more than during the preceding year. The increase totals fully 50 per cent. One explanation of this may be found in the marriages that came with the war, where a number of couples were married in haste to repeat later on.

The bureau is making strenuous efforts to insure the recording of births, and is making good headway. In addition to furnishing valuable statistics for the state and nation, a birth certificate is often a handy thing for a grown-up to have in his possession.

The bureau has received valuable assistance from the county superintendents and teachers of the public schools all over the state in gathering data regarding children whose births have not been recorded. The bureau has mailed to every mother whose child's birth has been recorded a booklet on the care of her baby, and beginning with January 1, 1920, will mail to the mother a certificate for every child whose birth is recorded. In this way parents will know definitely whether or not their child's birth has been recorded.

The department of agriculture strongly advises a larger acreage in Spanish peanuts, as many will be needed this year. Is this the variety that is suitable for oil, hogs or politicians?

Race Ends Sat. Night Standing of Contestants in Campaign

MR. B. M. KELLY	Angora	5,614,500
MISS MARGARET BARRY	324 First	4,938,600
MR. RALPH COX	523 Cheyenne	3,122,300
MISS SARABEL NEWMAN	222 Toluca	1,917,700
MISS LYDA GASSELING	Hemingford	1,552,500
MRS. J. WONG	315 Cheyenne	369,900

VOTE NOW OR NEVER