

The Alliance Herald

Twice a Week—Tuesday and Friday

VOLUME XXVII

ALLIANCE, BOX BUTTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1920

No. 66

FIREWORKS WHEN COUNCIL MEETS

East Alliance Delegation To Withdraw From City Union Given Water

The Tuesday evening council session was not without its thrills. J. M. Weaver, who spoke for water main extension east on Mississippi, Missouri and Yellowstone, waxed wroth in urging the council to take action. He pointed out that this district was taken into the city limits without consulting the residents at the time Alliance moved into the first class, and hinted that unless the residents of that district got something for the taxes they paid, action might be begun to withdraw from the city. "And if we once get out, you'll have some time getting us back," he said.

This district was taken into the city a little over a year ago—long enough to be twice assessed, the delegation said—and they complain that they have been paying increased taxes and have not received any benefits. There is no water—and therefore no fire protection. There is no sewer—and few lights. This delegation has had a petition for water extension for several months, but nothing has been done. They declare that other districts have been favored against them, naming the new, community houses. "The big bugs are back of these houses," it was charged. "The newspapers won't print this," one of the delegations said, "they are members of the chamber of commerce."

Councilman Harris attempted to reason with the delegation, explaining that there were no available funds and that any water extension that had been made had been in districts which were within the corporate limits the longest.

"I see it all now," said Deputy Sheriff Miskimmin. "I have had an application for lights in for some months. Now I understand that there's no chance until we have been in the city limits five years."

At this juncture Mayor Rodgers spoke up. The mayor had announced before the meeting that he was going to recommend that water extensions be made in this district, but he was apparently a little warm under the collar. He spoke sweetly, and to the point, and the discussion languished when he had finished. He told of being in favor of the extension, explained the shortage of funds, assured the delegates that the extension would be taken up as soon as possible and reminded them that as peaceable men the council could be pushed just so far and no farther. "You can't get anywhere by bulldozing tactics," he assured them.

Fuller Now Councilman.

Mayor Rodgers then announced the appointment of Oscar W. Reed as chief of police, and Attorney Earl W. Meyer as member of the library board. These were confirmed.

The mayor then announced the appointment of Charles L. Hill as member from the Third ward to fill a vacancy. This the council refused to confirm, three members voting against. The mayor then declared that there had been too much trouble getting a quorum, and he would leave the matter up to the board, which thereupon elected Charles L. Fuller to the place.

Refunds Light Bill.

The council then refunded a bill against the race meet association amounting to \$288 for labor and electricity for the carnival. J. W. Guthrie explained to the council that the association had put on a show to benefit the city, but had met with hard luck. The council thought they ought to share the deficit, and did so by remitting this bill, every councilman voting in favor of the motion.

Councilman Hills then announced that he, too, had intended to help entertain the city's visitors. He had established a stand, had paid the concession fee. Business was not as good as he expected, but he had done his part. He suggested that the council remit his light bill, amounting to \$2. The council laughed, but took no action.

J. E. Templeton and J. R. Roselle asked permission to erect a shooting gallery, to be constructed of cast iron supported by wood frames, on the vacant lot near the Western hotel. City Attorney Metz pointed out that the use of wood framework was a violation of the fire ordinance, and when Mr. Templeton suggested angle iron told him he would need no permit to build in that way.

The estimate of Engineer Grant for water extension in sanitary districts 11 and 12 was accepted and the clerk ordered to advertise for bids.

Complaint having been made that

THE WEATHER

For Alliance and vicinity: Partly cloudy tonight and Saturday; probably unsettled in east portion; not much change in temperature.

The draw near the viaduct was being made as a dump, Chief of Police Reed directed to see that the scavengers were up the place, and to arrest the offenders.

J. K. ... submitted a bid of \$900 for grading the district near the viaduct, and his proposition was accepted. The work will be completed August 15.

The council expects to have accurate assessment figures within a few days, and a special meeting will be called to make the tax levy for the coming year. The personal property will be about the same as last year and there is a raise of a million dollars in real estate. The total assessed valuation will be raised about \$200,000.

Bills were allowed, with the exception of a few upon which the claim committee desired further light.

Councilman Harris reported that the city's Ford car was seen twenty-two miles outside of the city July 5, and suggested that the man who had borrowed it be canned without delay.

NEW PROCESS IN POTASH INDUSTRY

Manufacture of potash from the brine of lakes in Western Nebraska is being revolutionized through a new production method recently adopted, according to an Associated Press dispatch from Omaha.

Under the method heretofore in use the brine has gone through two processes. First it is run through four containers in each of which is a stream basket, and, under vacuum emerges as a liquid in which the solid content has been increased to forty per cent. After that it is drawn off into a long steel cylinder where under intense heat the liquid is converted into solids.

By the new method, however, this second process is eliminated. In its place has been substituted a tank in which the forty per cent solid brine is subjected to varying degrees of temperature crystallization resulting in soda, and in turn other chemicals.

One of the probabilities of the new methods, the advices say, will be to change production from a fertilizer to a chemical proposition, with the fertilizer ingredient becoming the by-product.

FIREMAN SILVERTHORN DROWNS AT ARDMORE

V. J. Silvertorn, Burlington fireman, was drowned while swimming in a lake near Ardmore, S. D., Thursday evening. Particulars of the accident are not known, save that he was drowned at 8:30 p. m., and that the body was not recovered until 2:30 this morning. Mr. Silvertorn lived in Alliance with his wife and one child. The body was brought to Alliance on No. 44 today. Funeral arrangements have been delayed, pending the arrival of his wife and child, who are visiting in St. Joseph, Mo. The body is held at the Glen Miller undertaking parlors.

MANY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE STOCK YARDS

Beginning this morning, a force of workmen are engaged in transforming the Alliance stockyards. The improvements planned are extensive and will take some weeks to complete, but when the work is done, they will be much more modern and considerably more sightly.

The improvements include the painting of all buildings and connections and the paving of all the pens and runways with cement. The work will be done by company men. There will be no effort made to rush it through, but it will be completed as fast as men can be spared for the work.

Civil Service examination will be held at Alliance postoffice in the near future for the purpose of filling a vacancy as letter carrier. Entrance salary is \$1400 a year working up to \$1800 a year. Age limit 18 to 45. Further information may be had by applying at local office, F. W. HICKS, Sec. Local Civil Service Board.

Two ornamental lights are to be installed at the postoffice entrance. The Quick Service Electric company has the contract.

HOME BREW MAKER PAYS A STIFF FINE

Albert Finley, Colored, Finds It Costs More to Make Booze Than To Buy It

Albert Finley, colored cook at the Harvey cafe, has discovered that booze is a pretty expensive luxury in these dry days. Albert was assessed a fine of \$100 and costs on two different counts connected with booze, County Judge Tash giving him the limit at a hearing in county court Wednesday afternoon. Later the judge suspended a portion of the fine, Finley representing that he was intending to be married Tuesday.

The arrest was made Tuesday evening by Sheriff Miller and Chief of Police Reed, who gathered up a five gallon syrup can containing some three gallons of homemade Joy Juice as well as several colored men who were suspected of having unholy knowledge of the contents of the Lemjohm, which was located in the rear of the Harvey restaurant.

Finley was arraigned on two counts, the first charging him with the manufacture of intoxicating liquor, and the second with having intoxicating liquor in his possession at a place other than his dwelling house. Attorney H. E. Gants defended Finley, and County Attorney Rayse represented the state.

J. H. Taylor, colored porter at the Alliance hotel, was the first witness called. He told of Finley manufacturing a beverage composed of apricots, raisins and other ingredients supposed to impart a kick. He declared he had never drank any of the stuff, but this was not because he lacked the opportunity. Finley had offered him a drink, but he had refused.

Mrs. Minnie Harvey, mother of the proprietor of the restaurant where Finley was employed, was the next witness called. She qualified as an expert witness, in a way, for she was raised in the mountains of Pennsylvania and was familiar with the process of fermentation in the manufacture of such Pennsylvania beverages as elderberry wine and small beer. Mrs. Harvey told of discovering the five gallon can in the rear of the Harvey restaurant. It gave off an odor that was suspicious to say the least, and upon closer examination she became convinced that it contained fermenting liquor. She ordered Finley to destroy it, declaring that it wouldn't be permitted on the premises. Finley unfortunately failed to obey instructions.

Sheriff Miller and Chief of Police Reed then testified concerning the circumstances of the arrest. They produced in court the can containing about three gallons of the liquor, which they offered in evidence. Both officers stated that they had smelled of the beverage, and had tasted it, and gave it as their opinion that if a man consumed any quantity of it, he would become intoxicated.

Judge Tash made an examination of the liquor on his own account. He poured out perhaps half a glass of it, smelled it judicially, and tasted of it in the same manner. It was only a taste, but it convinced the judge that it was intoxicating. He stated as much, and remarked that he firmly believed that if he got away with a half glass of it, he would be shouting for Cox for president.

One colored man who was present during the trial, but who talked freely afterward, hinted that he concurred in the court's judgment. "Man," he said, "that stuff has a wallop that would knock you fum here to Bridgeport."

Judge Tash imposed a fine of \$100 on each account, which made the grand total, adding in the costs, \$211.60. Attorney Gants then announced that the defendant would appeal, and requested the court to set the appeal bond. Mr. Gants was fairly certain that he could convince a jury of his client's innocence. Finley was unable to raise this sum, and said so with but little hesitation. Finally he threw himself on the mercy of the court. He confided to the judge that he was going to be married the very next afternoon, and that it was clemency he desired. He got it. On payment of \$100 and the costs, enough to settle for one count of the complaint, the judge suspended the remaining \$100 fine during good behavior, and Finley was released to seek his bride.

Thursday afternoon another chapter of Mr. Finley's experiences was written. He appeared again before Judge Tash, this time accompanied by Mrs. Minnie Williams and the judge performed the ceremony that sentenced him for life.

Mrs. R. E. Witham of Sidney, is visiting her brother, Mr. R. T. Jones and family.

TWO AD CRAFTERS ON THE WARP

And Alliance Merchants Will Save Several Thousand Dollars As a Result

Alliance merchants may congratulate themselves. They are ahead at least \$2,600—and probably \$4,000—because two brothers working the same advertising scheme are at odds. It's a clever scheme and one that is particularly hard for a merchant in a city of this sort to turn down, and the chances are that if it hadn't been for the fact that these two fellows were thirsting to nab the other's goat Alliance would have been numbered among the cities "worked."

Here's the stunt. Harry H. Long, who carries a letter addressed to him as "voluntary" organizer for the American Federation of Labor, blew into Alliance some days ago and busied himself with organizing a central labor union. He was moderately successful in this, for he claims that five unions have united in an application for a charter. He declined Friday morning to make public the names of these unions, though heaven knows why there should be any secret about them. The story he gave the newspapers was to the effect that he received a salary for his organizing work direct from the American Federation of Labor. In order, however, to enable the struggling central labor union to get a good start, he had a little "campaign" which he staged. This campaign did three things—it advertised the merchants who were friendly to union labor; it educated the public concerning union label goods and helped create a demand for them; and last, but not least, it brought in some money. This money, he gave us to understand, was to go to the unions here. He hinted that some of it would go to the procuring of a labor temple.

On these representations, he gained some support. No merchant cared to antagonize union labor, and most Alliance merchants would be willing to subscribe to a labor temple fund, or to contribute in other needed ways. Everything looked rosy.

But Thursday morning C. A. Darrington blew into the city. And he hunted up the chamber of commerce secretary and told a tale that interested that official. A special meeting of merchants and directors was called for 4 p. m., and at that meeting both Mr. Long and Mr. Darrington were in attendance. Questions were asked the first named, and it developed that there was quite a good understanding as regards the little advertising proposition. To begin with, Mr. Long was not working on a salary for the American Federation of Labor. It is true that he has letters addressed to him as "voluntary" organizer, but a telegram addressed to federation headquarters at Washington, asking as to his status, is still unanswered. Mr. Long "got his" through the little advertising scheme, receiving 35 per cent of the proceeds after expenses were paid.

Then Mr. Darrington got the floor and for twenty minutes he proceeded to "tell the world." He told the meeting that Long and an associate, G. C. McDowell, had been in his employ for some four months. Mr. Darrington represented the Allied Labor Press association of Boston and has no hesitancy in saying that it was organized to sell advertising. He had letters which showed that he often organized local unions, central labor unions and that he and his crew were known by labor officials who endorsed their work. A couple of months ago, Mr. Darrington said, he had been ill in a Lincoln hospital and when he got out he found that Long and McDowell were working on their own, using his scheme, varying it in some respects. For instance, the poster which Darrington used was headed, "Friends of Labor" and listed merchants thereon at so much per list. Long's poster was headed "Co-operation," but the object was the same—to get the money. Mr. Darrington makes no bones about his attitude. He is willing to "burn up" Alliance—in other words, kill this advertising scheme here—in order to get even with Long. And Alliance merchants have cause to be thankful.

It took the merchants and directors present about ten seconds after the completion of the argument to decide that they wanted nothing to do with Mr. Long's scheme—or Mr. Darrington's either, for that matter. They made it plain that they were willing to help organized labor—but declared that they preferred to make a donation outright of \$100—the amount the union here was to receive—rather than pay \$2,600 or more for advertising of doubtful value in the name of organized labor. President Glen Miller called the

A \$50,000 BLAZE AT HEMINGFORD

Wednesday Morning Fire Destroys Mill, Hotel, Feed Yard and Other Buildings.

Fire, discovered at 1:30 a. m. Wednesday, did damage to the extent of fully \$50,000 at Hemingford before it was controlled. The blaze was first seen at the north side of the S. A. Grimes feed yard, and by the time the firemen were on the ground had spread to the Ray Graham plumbing shop and the mill office building. The mill itself was then found to be on fire, starting apparently from the inside. Following this, the hotel was burned.

All of these buildings were burned to the ground. The firemen worked long and hard, but there was hardly any water pressure and they could make no headway against the flames. Had there been a strong wind, a large portion of the business section would have burned. The alarm was sent to Alliance by phone, but it was useless to take the city's fire-fighting equipment there. L. C. Thomas, A. G. Isaacson and Harvey Ellis made the drive, each bringing an auto-load of people, but there was nothing that could be done. The blaze was most spectacular, its reflection being plainly visible from Alliance. A quantity of canned goods stored in the hotel basement exploded now and then, making the scene resemble a battle field in some respects. The mill warehouse, containing considerable flour, was practically emptied, but little else was saved.

The hotel, a two-story frame structure, was a complete loss. The building was owned by A. M. Miller, and was conducted by Grant Melick. There were ten guests and five employees, all of whom made their escape. The insurance was \$6,000, and the loss considerably larger.

The mill was perhaps the chief loss. It burned to the ground, destroying between six and seven thousand bushels of grain. This loss will amount to fully \$20,000, partially covered by insurance.

The Ray Graham plumbing shop was also destroyed. There was \$2,000 insurance carried on the stock which is insufficient to meet the loss.

The Melick implement shed was destroyed, but the implements were scattered over a large territory and were saved. A carload of hay, belonging to the Grimes feed yard, burned.

There is considerable discussion of the water pressure and the condition of the fire hose, which had been loaned. Some of this had the threads so jammed that it could not be used. The belief among some Hemingford citizens is that the fire was incendiary in origin, it being pointed out the mill was burning from the inside at the same time the other buildings were ablaze.

J. Ramirez, a Mexican, was arrested last night. He was charged with having stolen chickens and peeping into windows in the Mexican village in the railroad yards. Ramirez is supposed to be one of three fellows who have been carrying on this kind of work for some time. He was caught about 11 o'clock.

BIRTHS
Monday, July 12—To Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Lymath, 604 Sweetwater, a daughter.

A LITTLE SYMPATHY FROM SCOTTSBLUFF

Announcement of Census Returns Brings Forth Extensive Newspaper Comment

The wallop handed Alliance by the recent census totals, which left us lacking some half a hundred citizens to make the five thousand class, has been heard all over the western part of the state, to judge from newspaper comments which are beginning to make their appearance. Some of these are wonderfully kind and cheerful, and others are written in a gloating vein that makes the reader yearn to go right out and bite a policeman or choke a dog-catcher. At least one newspaper in Scottsbluff which was also handed a jolt by the census, has sympathy for us. Read the following from the Star-Herald:

"Alliance is now in the travail of bitterness because of the published census figures of that city, which Uncle Sam reports officially as being 4,591. The report further goes on to state that the Box Butte county seat gained a total of 1,486 during the past ten years, or 47.9 per cent.

"Dispatches from Alliance are to the effect that officials of the city council and Chamber of Commerce are extremely disappointed, not to say peeved over the outcome, declaring by the great horn spoon and several other well known authorities that Alliance has at least 6,000 people. At a special census taken some six years ago the population was shown to be 5,109, and on the strength of that enumeration several moves were made both municipally and on the part of certain clubs the latter thus being able under their tenets to make that city their abiding place.

"Since that time, ever the hostile Box Buttlans, there have been a couple of hundred new homes built, and it is averred that a close census will show the six thousand desired.

"All signs seem to fail, however, when it comes to Uncle Sam's census deal. Scottsbluff in the matter of new homes has any city in the country bested, save possibly some of the mushroom towns built around manufacturing concerns in the east that sprang up during the war period. Scottsbluff also has a directory that shows a population to be fully 9,000. Scottsbluff also has school children to show for between 8,500 and 9,000. And yet, and still, and nevertheless, Uncle Sam says the city's population is 6,912, and has so written it in the "big book."

"There is no question but that Alliance has more than 6,000 people. Uncle Sam gives it, just as there is no question but that Scottsbluff has more than 6,912, yet the question arises as to whether any great good will come from a recount and a reallocation. Of course, in the matter of Alliance there is an added sting from the fact that the figures of the city census and the government census shows a falling off in population of 518 during the past five years. What is what is causing the chief grief, and to cover which the recount will no doubt be made."

On the Other Hand
All of the comments, however, aren't written in that vein. The Scottsbluff Republican doesn't send any flowers or extend the hand of friendship. Here's what they hand us:

"The census for Alliance is very disappointing to the business men of the sand hill city, and a recount is threatened. For several years past the people of that fair city have been kidding themselves on having a population of over 5,000 and have proceeded under a city manager plan, which requires that cities of five thousand or over may have a city manager.

"The official report from the census department received last week gave the total number of inhabitants for that place at 4,591, and immediately the wires were kept hot trying to get the department to change the figures, but no amount of wiring could change the result and the good people of that city will have to be content with the number accredited them or recount the city at their own expense.

"A meeting of the citizens has been called to see if the figures cannot be changed, but change them as they will, the fact will always remain that they are below 5,000. This city had the same experience and while there were a few mistakes, made by the enumerator, there was not enough mistakes made to warrant the taking of the new census and it was abandoned. Like Alliance and other towns of the west we thought we were larger than we were, and it took the official figures to bring us

(Continued on page four.)