

The Alliance Herald

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No. 73

SENDS A WIRE TO GOVERNOR

J. C. McCorkle Favors Increase in Land Valuation By State Board

J. C. McCorkle Monday morning sent a telegram to Governor S. R. McKelvie, informing his excellency that "The same land owners in Box Butte county who are protesting against valuation by state board of equalization averaging \$11 per acre are refusing to sell their land for less than from \$50 to \$125 per acre."

In effect, this telegram is an effort to nullify the efforts of the county commissioners to secure a lower valuation, for assessment purposes, of Box Butte county lands. The state board last week raised the per acre valuation from \$8.55 to \$11.11, an increase of approximately 30 percent. Two of the commissioners, accompanied by Attorney Eugene Burton and several landowners, appeared before the state board last Friday and presented reasons why the new figure was not equitable, as compared with other counties in the state. They were given no intimation as to whether their protests would have any result. However, the work of equalization was scheduled to be completed yesterday and the final decision may be expected at any time.

Mr. McCorkle's point of view is that of the real estate agent. He feels that the new figure of \$11.11 more nearly represents the average selling price of land than the lower figure. The real estate agent finds that prospective buyers are hard critters to handle anyway, and are quick to seize on every excuse that can be offered. The big discrepancy between assessed and actual values puts a hard problem up to the real estate man.

Attorney Burton, who made the argument for Box Butte county before the state board, based his plea for a reduction on the fact that the real estate transfers did not furnish a proper basis for computing average land values. He told the board that Box Butte county is but 10 per cent farming land, the remaining 90 per cent being used for grazing purposes. The transfers were almost solely of the better class of land. In Sheridan county, which was not raised, fully half of the land is tilled, and the grazing land in that county is as good or better than in this county. In Garden county, which was given a decrease, the same condition obtained.

One member of the board interrupted to say that Box Butte county soil was better and would be cultivated in the future. Mr. Burton suggested that if the state board were dealing in futures, Sioux county, which was plastered with oil leases, was deserving of a much higher increase than Box Butte, and Sheridan county, the center of the potato industry, was also likely to be extremely wealthy as soon as the industry regained its feet. This argument was not answered, neither did the Box Butte delegation receive any great encouragement.

Governor McKelvie has made a statement in which he outlined the method used by the board in arriving at a tentative equalization of land values based on adjusted sales values. The board takes 68 per cent of the adjusted sales values, which he says means about 50 per cent of the actual market value.

Governor McKelvie said the total amount of taxes paid still remains in the hands of county boards. Only 19 cents of every dollar of taxes paid goes to the state government, the other 81 cents being paid in the form of county and local taxes. The local taxing boards may reduce levies if they believe an excess is to be raised on the proposed valuation of property. He emphasized the statement that the state board is in duty bound under the law to equalize valuations as between counties and that property must be listed in accordance with its actual value as disclosed in the ordinary course of trade.

The governor is entirely correct about the total amount of taxes, but the fact remains that the increase in the amount of money going to the state, based on figures extending over the past eighteen months, will amount to at least \$10,000—and probably more.

MARSLAND PLANS A BOOSTER TRIP

August 14 has been set apart at Marsland as a booster day, and a big all-day program has been arranged. Among the attractions will be an address at 11 a. m. by Rev. J. Orrin Gould of Alliance, who will speak on

THE WEATHER

For Alliance and vicinity: Partly cloudy with local thunder storms tonight or Wednesday; west cooler Wednesday afternoon.

"Community Welfare" will be foot races for boys, girls and men; four horse races; a bucking contest, with prizes for horses and riders; an exhibition of steer riding and a baseball game, Crawford vs. Hemingford for a \$100 purse and the championship of Western Nebraska. In the evening there will be a bowery dance and a free moving picture show. It is probable that an effort will be made to send a big Alliance delegation to the festivities.

SPUD GROWERS READY TO GO

Complete Organization of Exchange At Meeting Here Last Friday

The organization of the Nebraska potato growers' exchange was completed at a meeting held at the court house in Alliance last Friday afternoon, and attended by a large number of potato growers and their representatives. A report on the proposed organization was presented by a committee consisting of G. A. Boomer of the extension department, University of Nebraska; Leo Stuhr, state secretary of agriculture, and O. K. Verner of the department of horticulture of the university school of agriculture.

The proposed scheme of organization was debated on the floor of the meeting. It was finally decided that Alliance should be the headquarters of the new association, and the management should be in the hands of a board of seven directors. Capital stock to the amount of \$20,000 will be issued, and the exchange will and begin doing business until 25 per cent of this is paid up. Shares will set at \$10 each and limited to twenty shares to each stockholder.

Officers of the new organization were elected as follows:

President, H. A. McComb of Bridgeport; secretary-treasurer, Edgar Williams of Kearney; first vice president, Jake Pedrett of Kimball; second vice president, George Lambert of Bayard. Board of directors—Fred Miller of Belmont, Frank Kojout of Rushville, Virgil Redding of Minatare and Jake Pedrett, H. A. McComb, Edgar Williams and George Lambert.

PRESENT STATUS OF THE ALLIANCE-ANTIOCH ROAD

The monthly report of the Nebraska department of public works, for July, contains the following article under the rather misleading head of "Facts Regarding the Alliance-Antioch Road." It reads like a dictionary, but it is barely possible that there may be some information of value to Herald readers contained in it, and we feel like taking a glance.

"The contracts for the construction of the Alliance-Antioch road, known as Project No. 21, were let in 1919. The earth work was let to J. Fred Roberts Construction Company of Denver, and culvert contracts were let to the Central Bridge and Construction Company of Wahoo. Work started early in the spring of 1919 and all culverts were finished during the summer and the earth work was carried over through the winter.

"The greater part of the road was in good condition throughout the winter and early spring, but late snow and an unusual amount of rain softened the road considerably so that it was practically impassible during the month of May of this year.

"The project is fourteen miles long and all but six miles of it is to be surfaced with ten inches of clay and gravel. Over six miles of the earth road have been opened and practically all graded. Five miles have been graded and one-fourth mile gravelled.

"Nearly one and one-half miles of the road was relocated, thus giving a better location and more favorable grades.

"The cost of manipulation of surfacing material was taken care of by force account. The estimated cost per mile is \$2100 not including manipulation of surfacing. Weather and labor conditions have unduly delayed construction.

"The equipment on the job consists of frenos, wheelers, blader dumps, wagons and elevators, plow drags, and the usual small pieces of equipment."

NEW HIGHWAY IS PROPOSED

Meita Commercial Club Suggests Road From Alliance to Kimball

Secretary J. W. Guthrie of the Alliance chamber of commerce is in receipt of a communication from A. F. Dutton, secretary of the Melbeta commercial club, asking the assistance of Alliance in securing a highway from Alliance to Kimball, passing through Melbeta. The proposal will be acted upon at the next meeting of the board of directors, who are favorably inclined toward the project at the outset.

Mr. Dutton's letter follows: "MELBETA, Neb., Aug. 4.—Secretary Alliance Chamber of Commerce.—Dear Sir: The Melbeta commercial club has been considering plans of attempting to get a highway through this town, and I have been asked to write you regarding a highway from Alliance to Kimball through here.

"We have the best road through the hills now that there is near here and with very little more work a very dependable road could be built. This would be the shortest route as well as the best route.

"We would like to hear from you at once if you consider there would be a chance to get such a highway, and we will assure you that we would do all we could to put it through.

"Minatare would also be very much interested in such a proposition, for the best route would also be through Minatare.

"It will only be a short time until the new bridge will be completed across the Platte, which has been a drawback.

"Trusting that we may hear from you at once, we are, yours respectfully,

"A. F. DUTTON, Secretary."

"EVANGELINE" AT IMPERIAL TONIGHT

"Evangeline," dramatized from the immortal poem of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, will be the attraction at the Imperial theater tonight. "Evangeline" is the crowning achievement of a long line of Fox successes directed by Mr. Walsh. The numbers includes "Carmen," "The Honor System," "The Silent Lie," "This is the Life," "The Pride of New York," and "The Prussian Cur."

Paul Weigel will be seen as Father Felician and Miriam Cooper takes the title role. It is a rare attraction.

"The Paliser Case," with Pauline Frederick, is the Wednesday feature. It is frankly a melodrama, with all the thrills, mystery and entanglements that may be expected in such a play, but is thoroughly interesting from start to finish. Marjorie Allen, in "Lion Trapping," is an additional attraction.

Thursday's bill includes Mae Murray in "On With the Dance," an intensely dramatic production of New York life. The story concerns the adventures of a little, pretty Russian girl, suddenly left an orphan amid the luxury of New York's smart set. Her encounters with men good and bad, her temporary yielding to the lure of a "safe life," and her final redemption in the big crisis provide an absorbing plot.

F. A. Bell, who has been conducting the closing out sale of the Bock Furnishing store for the Western Sales and Auction company of Omaha, wound up his campaign here last Saturday with all the goods sold and the ex-proprietors exceedingly well satisfied with his services. Mr. Bell made use of no other newspaper advertising than The Herald and the success of the sale is a tribute to the superior circulation of this newspaper, as well as to Mr. Bell's abilities as a sales manager.

A heavy rain which was almost a cloudburst covered the territory fifteen miles west of Alliance Sunday afternoon. The rain lasted for about two hours, being in the vicinity of the Hammond ranch and Barrel Springs. The small bridge on the Klipatrick dam road was washed out and tourists and travelers to the dam find it necessary to detour a distance of a couple of miles, taking the road one mile north. Crossings over Snake Creek were also washed out.

Miss Ruth Pollard of Lakeside, had the misfortune to run a needle in her hand Friday. A slight operation was required.

SCHOOLS OPEN SEPTEMBER 6

Thirty Teachers Have Been Engaged To Date for the Country School Districts

Box Butte county schools will open September 6. There is still a shortage of teachers, especially in the country districts, but Miss Opal Russell, county superintendent, expects to fill most of the vacancies before the opening date. Thirty teachers have been employed so far. Their names and districts follow:

District No. 2—Viola Smith. No. 3—Maude Nason. No. 5—Miriam Johnson. No. 24—Letha Baldwin. No. 25—Clarissa South. No. 33—Elizabeth Mabon. No. 49—Rose Hubberts. No. 12—Clara Sisley. No. 15—Frances Brennan. No. 78—Asenath Schill. No. 10—Grace Carr. No. 34—Alice Schill. No. 92—Myrtle Reeves. No. 37—Edie Lusbie. No. 38—Lettie Lusbie. No. 55—Anna Freimuth. No. 13—Della Swanson. No. 92—Mable Gibson. No. 20—Estella Rowland. No. 31—Mabel Uhrig. No. 81—Viva Miller. No. 7—Nellie McDonald. No. 13—Esther Nation. No. 19—Minnie Mikent. No. 12—Ila McInroy. No. 11—Leah Weaver. No. 14—Alta Slayton. No. 16—Bertha Wilson. No. 4—Fairy Murray.

C. A. Bollerup of the Palace Market, lost a Studebaker automobile for five Saturday afternoon. The loss was entirely covered by insurance which was carried with the W. L. O'Keefe Insurance Agency.

ALLIANCE LOSES TO SIDNEY TEAM

The Alliance baseball team lost a game at Sidney last Sunday by the narrow margin of 4 to 2. It was a good contest all the way through, and the Alliance bunch felt rather good over holding down the professional organization to four scores. The Sidney team draws down a good salary for pastime, and they have been doing some fast playing this season.

Two well-placed hits and a few bad breaks by the Alliance boys gave Sidney three runs in the first inning. In the third inning Butler hit to right field for a two-bagger. Black was sent in to run for him, and Griffiths, the next man up, singled to right field, scoring Black. Griffiths making two wonderful slides, stole second and third and came home on a passed ball. Black drove one into right center for three bases in the fifth inning, but died on third.

Plans are being made to bring the Sidney team here on September 5 and 6. Bayard will play here August 15, and Ansley, August 22.

Following is the score for the Alliance aggregation in the Sidney game:

	R	H	P	A	E
Black	0	2	9	0	0
Brew	0	1	0	3	0
Butler	0	2	2	0	0
Huddkins	0	0	0	0	1
Griffis	1	1	1	2	0
Edwards	0	0	2	0	0
Bryon	0	0	2	4	0
Nation	0	0	0	1	0
Fenning	0	0	1	1	0
Totals	2	6	17	11	1

TRAVELING MEN VISITED HOT SPRINGS

A large number of Alliance traveling men, with their wives and families, attended the big joint picnic at Hot Springs last Saturday and Sunday, given by the Rapid City and Chadron lodges of the United Commercial Travelers, of which the local men are members, most of them being in the Chadron organization.

The Alliance delegation arrived at Hot Springs just before noon, going via Edgemont on the Burlington. A picnic dinner, at which the lodges were the hosts, was served at noon at the Chautauqua grounds, following which there was a ball game between Chadron and Rapid City. Chadron won by a big score. Following the ball game there were games of all kinds for the grown folks and for the little folks. The

rares were the most interesting. The necktie race, in which the women tied ties for the men, proved perhaps the most interesting, and there were many jealous looks between husbands and wives at the sight of another lady tying a tie around the neck of the contestants. Saturday evening a dance was given at the Evans hotel.

Sunday was spent in visiting the famous Wind Cave and in the popular plunge. The guests returned home Sunday night. A total of 119 men were registered. Their wives and families brought the attendance up to nearly 500. It was the largest affair of this kind ever held in this section of the country.

The next event for the Alliance traveling men and their families is the fishing trip—to come soon.

COMMUNITY CLUB PICNIC THURSDAY

Senator W. B. "Paddy" Miles, a Band Concert and Basket Supper Attractions

The community picnic sponsored by the Alliance chamber of commerce will be held Thursday evening of this week in the city park. Senator W. B. Miles, better known as "Paddy" Miles, will deliver one of his characteristic talks, taking a "get-together" topic; the Alliance band will discourse its best music and all Alliance has been invited to participate. There will be a basket supper the beginning of the festivities.

In the past, the attendance at chamber of commerce functions has been limited to members, but this is an effort to interest every citizen. It is the forerunner of a most enjoyable series of entertainments, and the committee hopes that the attendance will break all known records.

A Herald representative was this week privileged to inspect eight hundred acres of growing corn, on the farm of J. C. McCorkle, which stood from five to eight feet high and was in the best possible condition. This is the sort of corn they raise on high priced land to the east of us, but in this instance it was accomplished with a fraction of the care that is usually given to corn. It grows on what was raw land, six tractors having turned the sod and five corn planters completed the job. There was no other labor, not even cultivating. The farm lies eight miles west of Alliance, and has been bought and sold by Mr. McCorkle no less than five times in the past twelve years. In that time it has advanced in value from \$5 to \$40 per acre.

G. B. Shaffer, employed on the Boyd and Rice ranch, had his right thumb cut off Friday. Mr. Shaffer was mowing hay, and had stopped the team to pull some hay from the sickle, when the horses started up. His thumb was cut off just below the first joint.

Minatare Free Press: Alliance has a new ordinance that prohibits the darbing of paint and whitewash on sidewalks and the city property to advertise entertainments and such like. Such things are cheap and disgusting and should be prohibited in every town.

The William Rust, Sr. car was stolen from the garage at his home at Tenth and Laramie Saturday night. The thief broke the window in the door, reached through and unlocked the door. The stolen car was a Studebaker Six. No trace of the thieves has been found.

A. R. Honnold, well known Scottsbluff attorney, was in Alliance on business on Monday. Mr. Honnold formerly held an important executive position with the United States reclamation service, before taking up private practice.

C. M. Looney, local oil magnate, made a business trip to the North Platte valley the first of the week. He returned this morning and expects to leave for southern points tomorrow.

Chas. F. Gruenig of Omaha, and P. J. Michael of Hemingford, directors of the Wyoming-Northwestern Oil Company, were in the city on Friday attending a special meeting of the board.

Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Alexander of Omaha, visited friends in the city Friday of last week. They left Friday night for Wisconsin where they will spend a couple of weeks on the lakes.

WAISNER FOUND DEAD IN FIELD

Hemingford Man Suffers Stroke of Apoplexy While Cultivating Potatoes

Ed Waisner, fifty years of age, was found dead in a potato field three miles southwest of Hemingford about 5 o'clock last evening. He had last been seen by his cousin, Ed Mabon, by whom he was employed, about two o'clock in the afternoon, when he was engaged in cultivating potatoes. The body was discovered when the horses were noticed near the entrance to the field.

It is probable that Waisner suffered a stroke of apoplexy and fell from the cultivator. It is evident that the horses dragged the body fully a mile to the end of the field before stopping, but there was no indication that they had run away.

Dr. McEuen of Hemingford, who was called, after an examination of the body, said that apoplexy was the probable cause of death.

County Attorney Lee Bayse was notified, but decided that, under the circumstances, no inquest was necessary.

JUROR ASLEEP DURING TRIAL

Roy Joseph Braunia, a young man serving a life term at the state penitentiary, for the murder of John Watts, a Morrill county farmer, has appealed to the supreme court for a new trial. Braunia's attorneys give as one reason why this should be granted that during the trial one of the jurors was guilty of misconduct in that he slept most of the time and paid no attention to what was going on in court the remainder of the trial, says the State Journal.

Other allegations include the customary ones of errors of the court that prevented a fair trial, errors in giving and refusing instructions, insufficiency of the evidence and insufficiency of the information. It is claimed that the court led the jury wrong by telling the members that it is not time that constitutes the distinction between murder in the first degree and murder in the second degree, and that momentary premeditation is sufficient. Error is also claimed in the instruction in which the court told the jury that if Braunia knew right from wrong and was capable of choosing to do or not to do murder and of governing his conduct in accordance with such choice he was responsible in law, even if the jury believed from the evidence that the man was not entirely and perfectly sane.

Watts was a farmer, and Braunia a transient employe. Braunia's story was that Watts had abused him for failure to follow his instructions with reference to the care of the horses, and that fearing for his life he had got a rifle and killed him. The state presented evidence to show that after the row with Watts, Braunia quit and went to the barn. He got a rifle and when Watts showed up around the corner of the barn he shot and killed him. This was on the 8th of last April. He was tried within a month.

Braunia had to run out of Morrill county at night by the sheriff to avoid a lynching, and spent the time between the killing and the trial in the city and county jail at Alliance. His attorney claimed self-defense, as well as that the man was insane. He asserts that what the man did, anyway, was not murder in the first degree, one element of which is premeditation, but that the killing was in hot blood, his mental and nervous condition being such that the excitement of the quarrel in the fields continued and controlled him for a time and that while in this state he committed the murder.

J. C. McCorkle, Alliance land man and better known as "Mac," to his hundreds of acquaintances in this part of the state, has again proven himself to be the champion weather prophet and is awarded the title of "heep great medicine man" by the local order of good Indians. For the seventh consecutive year "Mac" has picked out one day in August on which it has rained and thereby won enough Stetson hats on wagers to keep him going for another year. A year ago "Mac" wagered a number of his acquaintances that it would rain on August 7th of this year, which was last Saturday. It rained heavily.

Miss Evelyn Rose of Denver, is the guest this week of Mrs. W. R. Harper.