

The Alliance Herald

Official Paper of Box Butte County

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Official Paper of the City of Alliance

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No. 92

ELECTION OF AN ASSESSOR MAY NOT BE LEGAL

BOX BUTTE MAY HAVE ONE TOO MANY OFFICERS

Four Years Ago Voters Decided to Abolish County Assessor But Attorney's Opinion Prevented

Have the voters of Box Butte county elected a man to an office that doesn't exist any more, so far as this county is concerned? That is the question that is agitating County Clerk W. C. Mounts and a few other county officers today. The record shows that at the November election in 1916, the question of abolishing the office of county assessor was put to a vote, and the proposition carried by a comfortable majority, and there is nowhere any record of the action being rescinded. Yet Box Butte county has had an assessor the past four years and has just finished the job of electing another one to serve for the next four years.

The Herald reporter visited the county clerk's office Monday afternoon for the purpose of getting the official totals for last Tuesday's republican race meet. In comparing the figures with those of four years ago, the reporter's eye caught the lines: "Against election of county assessor" and "For election of county assessor." The vote was 455 to 391 in favor of abolishing the office. According to M. S. Hargraves, county clerk at the time, some local attorney gave an opinion to the effect that the proposition had failed to carry because the number of votes cast was not a majority of all the votes cast at the election. This was apparently accepted without opposition. The proposition was favored by a majority of those who voted on it, and this is now held sufficient, in the case of constitutional amendments. At any rate, this is an opportunity for Box Butte county to save from \$1,000 to \$1,200 a year. If an adverse opinion was given at that time, it is possible that a new ruling could be secured.

The office of assessor pays a small salary, as salaries go these days, and there was no competition developed for the place. But one candidate filed, John Pilkington. Several of the voters of the county for a time this summer talked of putting the matter to a vote, which shows that the referendum has been completely forgotten.

Under the provisions of the law, the office of the county assessor may be abolished by majority vote of the county. The question will be put on the ballot after a petition of a certain size has been presented to the county commissioners. The commissioners' proceedings contain no record of the presentation of such a petition, and the petition has not been located in the files, although the search made was not thorough. However, the official vote record, properly attested by the counting board, would be accepted as evidence in any court, whether the petition could be found or not.

The discovery of this referendum brings up a number of interesting questions. Among these is the question of the tenure of office of J. A. Keegan. The law provides that the question of abolishment may be submitted in 1916 or four years thereafter, and that if the voters decide to do away with the office, it shall cease with the expiration of the term of the incumbent. According to the time the question was voted on, the office should have ceased four years ago.

Of course, at the time the question was voted upon, there was a chance that it would be defeated, and so two candidates filed for the place, J. A. Keegan and P. H. Dillon. Keegan received 732 votes and Dillon 667. More people voted for the candidates than voted on the referendum, but the vote was sufficient to abolish the office. The law does not say "a majority of all the votes cast," and it is to be presumed that the votes on the question itself were all that were counted.

A number of counties over the state have abolished the office of county assessor, and many of them were considering the matter this year. The salary is so small that very few men desire the office, and the duties of the position are not onerous. The law contemplates that the county clerk shall take on the additional duties if the office is abolished.

Following is the section of the statutes which applies to the matter: "1956 Sec. 18. County Assessor—When elected—abolishment of office—At the general election in 1916, and each four years thereafter there shall be elected a county assessor in each county of the state, whose term of office shall be four years, and shall commence on the first Thursday after the first Tuesday in January following his election. No county assessor shall be eligible for two consecutive terms; provided, in any county, upon presentation of a petition to the county board, not less than sixty days before any general election, signed by at least ten per cent of the electors secured in not less than two-fifths of the townships or precincts of said county, and praying that the question of electing a county assessor in said county be submitted to the elec-

PROCLAMATION

In order to co-operate with Governor S. R. McKelvie in observing justice day on November 11, I request that all business places be closed at that hour, and that a general observance be marked with patriotic and religious ceremonies in both our homes and our schools.

W. C. MOUNTS, County Clerk.

tors therein, the county board at the next general election shall order the submission of the same to the qualified voters of said county. The form of submission upon the ballot shall be as follows:

"Against election of county assessor"

"For election of county assessor;" "And if a majority of the votes cast shall be against the election of county assessors in said county, the office shall cease therein with the expiration of the term of the incumbent, and the duties of county assessor shall thereafter in said county devolve upon the county clerk, who shall receive from the county board such allowance for the additional duties as shall seem reasonable, until otherwise ordered by the voters at a new election held under the same requirements as herein provided."

BAYARD PLAYED AN INELIGIBLE

Talks of Barring Alliance for Rough Play, But Her Own Skirts Far From Clean.

Bayard high school, which has been doing a lot of frothing at the mouth since Alliance scored against their championship team, played an ineligible quarterback during last season, according to revelations made at the state teachers' association meeting in Omaha last week. It was brought out during this meeting that the Bayard quarterback had not been in school a year, and that his parents live in Aurora, not Bayard, which made him ineligible under the rules.

Following the Bayard-Alliance game last year, Coach Prince entered a protest because of another ineligible player, and the game was forfeited to Alliance. Since another player was ineligible, every game won by Bayard during the season could be declared forfeit, and in that event the Alliance team deserves the championship.

For the last two weeks, the newspapers in the valley have been rapping Coach Prince and the Alliance team, on the ground that the Alliance boys play too rough. They have called the pride of our hearts all sorts of harsh names. The Bayard Transcript started the fuss, and the Star-Herald of Scottsbluff joined in the avil chorus. It is easy to guess the source of the Bayard paper's animus, but one wonders why Scottsbluff should be so eager to take up the hammer.

TIGHT MONEY MADE MORE TAX SALES THAN LAST YEAR

The sales of real estate for delinquent taxes, held the first of the month by F. W. Irish, county treasurer, amounted to \$3,209.19. A total of 135 sales were made. This includes both tracts of land and town and city lots in Box Butte county.

The sales this year were almost double those of 1919, due, according to Mr. Irish, to the tight money conditions this year as compared with a year ago.

A total of 1,492 auto licenses have been issued so far this year, as compared with a total of 1,410 for the year 1919. One reason for the fact that only a small additional number have been issued this year is that in previous years a large number of auto owners from southern Sheridan county and from other nearby points came to Alliance and secured their licenses. This year the state board ruled that this could not be done and that the owners of autos would be compelled to secure their licenses from the treasurer of the county in which they reside.

ENGINEERS HELD BUSINESS MEETING HERE SATURDAY

Saturday afternoon, November 6, the Lincoln chapter of the American association of engineers held their business meeting in the assembly room of the court house, where important plans were discussed.

In the evening at 7:15 a banquet was given for the members in the Palm Room of the Alliance hotel. Interesting talks were given by E. T. Braeken, vice-president; Mr. Thiehoff, general manager; Mr. Croune, general superintendent of building; Mr. Darrow, assistant chief engineer and Superintendent G. L. Griggs.

Mrs. E. R. Harris, Red Cross roll call director, accompanied by the local secretary spent Monday in Hoffman and Antioch, getting the roll call lined up.

BROADWATER MAN IS NOW IN MONTANA PEN

Charged With Transporting Young Girl from Nebraska and Living There as Man and Wife.

A dispatch to Broadwater, Nebraska, southeast of Alliance, states that Clyde Reeves, formerly of Broadwater, has been sentenced to the Montana penitentiary for from three to ten years on a state charge for transporting fourteen-year-old Buelah Agy, daughter of John Agy of Broadwater, to Montana and living there with her as man and wife.

After the elopement the girl's father pursued the couple first to Alliance and from this city to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, but stopped his pursuit at the latter place when he learned that Reeves would be prosecuted on a white slave charge if captured.

The eloping couple apparently ran short of funds upon their arrival at Billings, Mont., and forged the name of Cliff Guthrie to a bank in Broadwater requesting the bank to wire the money. A few days after the bank had wired the money the officials of the bank learned that Guthrie had never been in Billings, Mont., and the case was immediately put in the hands of the Nebraska bankers' association. Pinkerton operatives traced the forgery to Reeves who was found at a rooming house in Billings with Miss Agy.

Prosecution followed upon the state charge and Reeves was convicted. The forgery charge against him was dropped.

COLD WAVE HERE TODAY BUT NO SNOW WITH IT

The first severe cold wave of the season arrived during the night and is with us today. The heavy snow which fell ten days ago was unaccompanied by cold weather. Doubtless the snow of that date and the cold spell of today were started together, but became parted when Old Man Winter stopped at the Canadian border to take one last drink of bottled-in-bond before entering the Sahara desert of these United States.

Sprague & Nisely, the contractors in charge of the Alliance paving, were within three days of completing their contract when the snow descended on their outfit and suspended operation. They started again Monday and are making some headway, although a shortage of paving brick is delaying the work to some extent. The necessary brick to finish the job have been shipped and are now in the care of the Burlington. The crew is laying brick this morning, although they are working with frozen sand, which has to be broken with shovels.

Burlington officials report that the weather west is clear. The lowest temperature last night was 10 degrees above with a wind velocity of thirty miles.

POTATO MARKET SOMEWHAT WEAKER THAN LAST WEEK

The potato market is somewhat weaker this week, according to Geo. Walker, manager of the Nebraska potato growers' association. The movement of potatoes continues to be heavy and the price of Ohio today is from \$1.60 to \$1.80 per bushel.

Mr. Walker sold a carload of Cobblers last week for \$2 f. o. b. Alliance, which was slightly more than they are worth this week. He predicts that the car situation will improve and that the future prices during the next few days will depend somewhat upon the movement in Minnesota.

RED CROSS CONFERENCE WAS HELD LAST FRIDAY

The regional conference of the Red Cross was held at the court house Friday, November 5 at 10 a. m. Delegates were present from fourteen neighboring towns. Thomas Allison of Chicago, civilian relief director, called the meeting to order, and gave a talk on general Red Cross work. M. S. McMullen, director of the roll spoke of the boys still in hospitals and those still in the service. Miss Dolly Twitchell of the department of nursing discussed public health nursing. At 12:30 a luncheon was given at the Alliance hotel for the visitors, after which Mr. Allison spoke on "The Red Cross Health Center." Mr. McMullen, on "Organization for Roll Call," and a general round table discussion followed.

At 4 p. m. they visited the Women's club meeting and gave talks on why another roll call was necessary at this time.

Born—To Mr. and Mrs. William G. Niemann, Friday morning, a 7 3/4 lb. boy, named William Kenneth. Mother and baby doing fine.

WESTERN BANKS ARE HELPING OUT THE STOCKMEN

South Omaha Journal-Stockman Tells of Instance in Which Banker Was After Spendthrift.

When a western rancher comes to market and says he has been forced to sell close this year in order to satisfy his country banker who is pushing him hard for ready cash, naturally the hearer sympathizes with the cattleman and scores the banker for his selfishness and greed, says the Omaha Journal-Stockman.

Instances have come to light, however, in which it is the rancher himself who has bought about this forced liquidation. Just recently a shipper from the west came to the market and was not against his banker, who he said forced him to sell off almost everything he had. This rancher had a sympathetic audience and the banker was branded as an outlaw.

A few hours later the reporter had a conversation with another man in the lobby of the Exchange who, by a strange coincidence happened to be from the same locality as the much oppressed rancher. This man had no personal live stock interests and he was asked how he happened to be at the market. He replied that he was down waiting for a certain shipper from his point to get his cattle cashed in so that he could get some money from him.

It developed that the self-same shipper who was scoring the banker so hard was the man this outsider was trailing. Immediately he was asked why he was pushing the cattle ranchers so hard when they needed all the time they could possibly secure. His reply was, "We are not pressing the real cattle producers, in fact we are trying to encourage them all we can. This man to whom I refer runs about a hundred head of cattle on an open range and within the past two years he has bought at least three automobiles. I am here to get my money for the automobiles. You understand, it is not the producer we are after, but it is the spendthrift and the auto fiends who have no limit to their reckless spending as this man that we are after."

This explanation put an entirely different light on the subject of rancher versus banker and did considerable to elevate the standing of the country bankers in reference to their treatment of the cattleman.

FORMER IOWA MAN NOW LIKES BOX BUTTE CROPS

Made More Money in One Year in Box Butte County Than in Five Years in State of Iowa.

Lew Lauer was an Iowa farmer. For five years he farmed near Prescott, Ia., and saved his pennies and nickles and paid high rents to the owner of the farm, who had to have high rent in order to pay interest on his investment and pay the taxes on his high-priced land.

Lew came to Box Butte county not many months ago and bought 160 acres of land near Berea, ten miles northwest of Alliance. He and his wife and sons came to Box Butte county to make their home the latter part of February, 1919.

When Lew left Iowa, his banker, with tears in his eyes, begged him to put a nest egg of \$1,000 in the bank and leave it there, for the time when he would fall in Box Butte county and come back with the other farmers in Iowa who rent year after year.

But Lew and his industrious wife wanted a farm of their own and they found the opportunity here. As they told the reporter on Monday, their eyes aight with pleasure and satisfaction that comes from success, well earned, they were tired of farming the clay hills and rocky glades of Iowa, and came out where they can see the boys at work any place on the farm from the house.

They built their house and barn and other needed buildings and put in a crop in the spring of 1919. Said Mr. Lauer, "I made more money last year (1919) from this farm than I made in five years on the Iowa farm, and I made twice as much money this year as I made in 1919, for I had out more crops and knew the country better. My white potatoes this year made 140 bushels per acre, my red (Triumph) potatoes made 130 bushels per acre, and my Early Ohio made 102 bushels per acre. Potatoes were bringing around \$1.30 per bushel Monday through the potato growers' market. "And our old friends bid us goodbye with tears in their eyes when we left Iowa," said Mr. Lauer, "and said they would send us things to eat and wear when we needed them. Our old grocer wanted our address so that he could send us a barrel of groceries when we began to starve."

The Lauers are anxious for someone to induce their old friends to come out to Box Butte county "just to look around."

W. M. Shean and family, who have been living at the Lloyd Thomas home have moved to 805 Box Butte.

THE WEATHER.

Alliance, Neb., November 9, Fair and colder tonight; cold wave east and south portion; temperature ten to fifteen degrees; rising temperature Wednesday north and west portion.

NEWCASTLE THIEVES ARE CAPTURED IN ALLIANCE

Officer Nova Taylor Friday morning took two colored men off of train No. 42, following receipt of a telegram asking him to be on the lookout for Perry Grover and James Hughes, who were wanted in the Wyoming city to answer to charges of robbing bank cars. The men are said to have helped themselves to a number of articles of more or less value, including a suit of clothes apiece, several shirts, a Smith & Wesson .38 caliber revolver and other things that took their fancy. The men did not argue the matter when placed under arrest, and stayed quietly in the city jail until the sheriff from Newcastle arrived to take them back to Wyoming. This was done Monday night.

ARMSITICE DAY PLANS ARE MADE

American Legion to Hold Dance at Roof Garden in the Evening—Stores Close in Afternoon.

Armistice day, November 11, will be observed in Alliance Thursday. The American legion decided, after discussing the matter, that it would not have a set program, but would celebrate the day in a dance, which will be held at the Lowry & Henry roof garden in the evening. Indications are that at least 300 ex-soldiers and their friends will be present. The dance is to be open to the public, and in order to help secure good attendance, the owners of the roof garden called off their Wednesday night dance and are boosting for the legion dance. It's a pleasing favor, and the soldier boys will undoubtedly show their appreciation of it.

Mayor Rodgers this morning issued a proclamation asking the co-operation of merchants in properly observing the day by closing their business houses at noon.

The football game between Alliance and Crawford, which had been announced for Friday afternoon, will be played Armistice day instead. Mr. Prince had a considerable struggle with the Crawford authorities before they would consent to advancing the date, but they have agreed to the change.

CHARLEY FULLER T OLEAVE SUNDAY EVE FOR ENGLAND

Charles Fuller and wife will leave at midnight Sunday on a four-month trip to England, and will have an opportunity to visit with friends and relatives they have not seen in thirteen years. It will be a most enjoyable trip and they will make the most of it.

Reservations have been made for passage on the Aquitania, which will not sail until November 23. This gives them four or five days in New York city. They will arrive at Southampton and will proceed to Kent, the old home of both Mr. and Mrs. Fuller. Mrs. Fuller's parents are still living, and Mr. Fuller has several brothers and sisters. They will also visit in Oxford and if possible will take a trip through France before returning.

Mr. Fuller came to Alliance in 1912 as general foreman of construction on the court house building, then being erected by R. A. Matthews. When the contractor blew up, the work was assigned to Mr. Fuller, and was completed by him. He remained in Alliance and has a number of fine buildings to his credit. He was employed on the construction of the Elks club; he remodeled the old Gadsby building into the present Masonic temple; remodeled the McCorkle building into the Coursey & Miller garage; had the contract for the community houses two years ago, and in addition to this he has built at least fifty houses during the past two years.

The trip, he says, is for the purpose of getting rested up and ready, on his return in February, to put in the biggest year yet.

William Grant of Lincoln, the city's consulting engineer, is in Alliance today and will meet with the city council this evening, at which time the paving assessment will be made. Two or three more days should see the windup of the paving, and Mr. Grant is exceptionally pleased with the way the work has gone. His firm supervises some twenty paving jobs, and the Alliance work has gone faster than many of them.

The Woman's club will meet at the library Friday afternoon. Roll call. Famous Educators. Lecture, "Practical Psychology," Prof. Pate. Hostesses, Mrs. O'Bannon, Mrs. Shellenberger and Mrs. Neuswanger.

DR HANSON IS SUGGESTING A LINE OF ACTION

COMMUNITY WELFARE MEETINGS AROUSE INTEREST

Committee of Thirty Selected to Make Recommendations to the Mayor and the City Council

Theodore Hanson, director of the Nebraska state hygiene and welfare campaign, opened the Alliance and Box Butte county campaign Sunday night at the Presbyterian church in this city. While these meetings are held at the church because it is conveniently and centrally located, these are not church meetings but are community gatherings of concern to every citizen, as Dr. Hanson is setting forth a program of action adaptable to every community in the state.

Sunday night Dr. Hanson spoke on "Community Salvation." Stressing the fact that the boys eat and sleep at home, but live in the environment and social atmosphere of the community, he developed the conclusion that the entire community is responsible for the environment in the public arena and has no more right to turn its streets over to a carnival company with its organized band of gamblers and prostitutes than a home would be permitted to furnish such amusement.

Monday night Dr. Hanson took up the governmental steps necessary to remedy this condition in a community. He presented the need and work of a public welfare board and officer authorized for its work with governmental authority, as the school board or health board is authorized and empowered.

A committee of thirty was called together to form a provisional welfare committee. W. R. Pate was elected chairman of this committee. The province of the committee is to study the program in its relation to this community and recommend to the mayor and council an ordinance providing for a welfare department in the city government. Sub-committees were appointed to expedite the work of the general committee.

The afternoon meetings held each afternoon at 8 o'clock are of first importance to parents as well as young people, as they treat in a scientific way with the problem of child training and supervision. The subject for Wednesday afternoon is "Home Government." These meetings afford a rare opportunity for the mothers of this community and should be improved by them.

The Monday attendance at both afternoon and evening meetings expressed the splendid interest that has been awakened in this program.

Dr. Hanson is especially anxious that every business and professional man be present tonight at 8 o'clock. The subject of the lecture is "Collective Immorality Vs. the Individual." The campaign closes with the Wednesday evening lecture on "The World Asset Our Liability."

MEXICAN LOSES TRACK OF WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN

An unidentified Mexican—he was willing to give his name, but the officers couldn't understand what he was driving at, showed up at the police station last Friday afternoon. He had lost a wife and two children and he didn't know whether they had deserted him or whether he was to blame. He was divided between worry and suspicion, and was in rather a bad way.

It seems that the Mex and family were en route from Deadwood, S. D., to Denver. Four tickets had been purchased. The husband carried them all. At Edgemont he left the train to get something to eat and when he had finished he found the train had departed. He came on to Alliance to locate his family. He knew he was to blame, but the thought struck him that maybe they had skipped. He was in the position of a man who wants to lay the blame somewhere, but don't know where it fits.

Officer Taylor and Special Agent Todd came to the rescue. They did some investigating and found that the women and children had gone on to Denver, Alliance friends putting up the cash for the railroad fare. Probably, when the Mexican gets home, his wife will have a lot to say. But that's his war.

Elliott Beaumont, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Beaumont, returned from California on Friday of last week, accompanied by four large sacks of English walnuts. Elliott and his parents left by auto in the early part of September, taking their time in making the trip. At that time he was in poor health, caused by the railroad accident this summer in which he was badly hurt. He is now-looking fine and is spending a little time with his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Keuner at Grand.

G. K. Meeks, manager of the Firestone Tire & Rubber Co., of Denver, stopped over in Alliance for a short visit with Coursey & Miller, local distributors, on his way to Kansas City.