

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. 11

AN EXPLANATION OF THE ANGORA GAS EXPLOSION

G. W. NATION HAS DEVELOPED PLAUSIBLE THEORY

NO INDICATION THAT OIL EXISTS

Alliance Man Also Knows of the Existence of Several Veins of Coal in Nebraska and May Lay Claim to State's Reward

G. W. Nation of Alliance, in a communication to The Herald, furnishes a plausible explanation of the so-called "gas pocket" at Angora, which has caused considerable excitement in that part of the country on the theory that the presence of gas was an indication that there was a pool of petroleum underlying it. Mr. Nation rather knocks the props out from under that belief, and if his theory is the correct one, the Angora capitalists who are talking of drilling for oil, as well as the Alliance men who are scurrying around grabbing leases on nearby land, are equally out of luck.

Mr. Nation was at one time a coal miner, and it has been his experience, he says, that whenever blasting is done, be it earth or rock or coal, there remains a thick smoke of unexploded gases which will, if ignited, burn two or three minutes. "This was the condition that existed at Angora," Mr. Nation believes, and the burning gas pocket in that event holds out no hope to the oil enthusiasts.

The Alliance man is also interested in a story reprinted in The Herald to the effect that some Oregon man is about to lay claim to a bounty offered by the state of Nebraska for a coal mine discovered within the state. Mr. Nation knows of the location of several veins of coal which might be worked in paying quantities. One of these is but eighty miles from Alliance, but is eight miles past the state border. It would require but fifteen miles of easily constructed railroad to reach it.

Those who may possibly object that if Mr. Nation knows of the existence of coal fields, he would have developed them long ago, are met with the explanation that it takes money to do these things and the Alliance man hasn't been sufficiently well heeled to go ahead with them. He offers, however, to give full details to parties who may be interested in developing these mines, and probably will receive offers. His letter follows:

Alliance, Neb., Jan. 1.—To the Editor of The Herald.—Dear Sir: The following statement will explain the discovery of "pocket" gas in the vicinity of Angora a few days ago.

In blasting earth, rock or coal there often remains after the explosion a thick smoke of unconsumed gases that will, while thick and warm, readily take flame from the light of a match or torch and will burn from one-half to three minutes, and may at times produce a fierce explosion in coal mines if there be much dust about.

When I used to mine coal, after firing a blast I always tried and generally did fire and burn the secondary gases that formed from the unconsumed powder smoke.

Also, in the matter of the state of Nebraska offering a reward of \$4,000 to the first discovery of a vein of good coal not less than 26 inches thick, I will say there are several veins of coal in Sioux county, but the thickest is four inches. There are also veins of a few inches in the southeastern part of the state. There is a twenty-six-inch vein of fair quality of coal in the northeastern part of the state, and there is a vein of forty-eight inches of good coal eight miles as the crow flies from Alliance, but it is 8 miles in another state.

Judging from surface indications and the contour and elevation of the land I think it may extend a number of miles into Nebraska. I had a sample of this coal about the size of an egg for more than five years. It was then in good condition and had been taken out five years when I got it.

There is a railroad fifteen miles from this coal field. A line extended to it would follow the valley of a stream and for most of the way the only grading needed would be to lay the ties and throw some dirt between them.

There is also a virgin undeveloped oil field at the same locality.

Then, if I am in possession of the above facts, why haven't I developed this field before now? Because, I have not been in a financial condition to do so, and as it is probable I will not now be able to do so alone it is for this reason I have concluded to make known the locality to any parties

THE WEATHER

Forecast for Alliance and vicinity—Fair tonight and Wednesday. Colder tonight.

who are financially able to thoroughly investigate the proposition.

G. W. NATION. The state of Nebraska has a standing offer of a reward of \$4,000 to be paid out of the state treasury by order of the governor if he is satisfied that coal has been found in a vein twenty-six inches thick near enough to the surface and of sufficient quantity to pay to mine. It does not matter, according to the letter of the law, whether the coal thus discovered is in Alaska or Nebraska. The law does not confine the discoverer to Nebraska for it does not even mention the state or country in which the discovery must be made. This standing offer has been in existence for a quarter of a century in one form or another, and no one has yet copped the prize. If the vein is three feet thick, the reward is \$5,000. It must go to the owners of the coal.

For the discovery of iron ore a reward of \$2,000 is offered by the state law. For the discovery of oil or gas the owners of the land are to have \$15,000 for finding one or the other or \$30,000 for the discovery of both. Coal has been found in several places in Nebraska but never in paying quantities.

LIGHT VOTE FOR SPECIAL ELECTION

Interest in City Manager and the Telephone Franchise Could Be Greater

The special election being held today is now occupying public interest to the exclusion of all else. At 2 p. m., less than 200 people in the city had voted on the question. In the First ward, 11 votes had been cast up to 1 o'clock; in the Second ward, 100 had been voted; in the Third, 61 and in the Fourth 22.

There were some signs of activity on the part of those interested. The friends of the manager plan got out some handbills early in the morning, and shortly before noon the opposition had the business district covered with arguments for their side of the question. Despite these evidences of interest, the vote haven't grown. Some friends of the plan are willing to concede defeat, but on the other hand, the opponents were none too confident.

NEW YEAR'S DAY WAS CELEBRATED BY A FEW

New Year's isn't the same sort of a holiday that it used to be in the days when liquid refreshments could be procured without mortgaging the old homestead to pay the vintner. However, there were a few who managed to get cargoes aboard, but these men, for the most part, remained off the streets, and if they did any singing, did it quietly.

Last Saturday night, the police were called to the roof garden to take care of one gentleman who was unable to manage himself. He was taken to jail, and the next morning meekly answered to the name of John Doe, after he found out that the name Jones wasn't acceptable to the court. Under the name of John Doe he was fined \$50 and costs, and that is the name under which the fine was paid, although there were some people who thought he had a familiar face.

The cops also invited a young lady to accompany them to the station. She was in the passenger station, having just arrived from Morrill, when the police saw her. Inasmuch as they had warned her to leave town on several occasions, and had twice before escorted her to outgoing trains, Chief Jeffers didn't mind matters. He gave her his choice of jail or elsewhere, and when she refused to do opposition to her will, to the city, she either, escorted her, very much in file, where she suffered a change of heart and decided to depart. The girl was but eighteen years of age, but she put up a scrap like a wild kitty for a few minutes.

NOW THE NORTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

The telephone company here will henceforth be known as the Northwestern Bell Telephone company, having changed its name January 1.

On that date the three Bell companies operating throughout the states of Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota were consolidated under the one name. No change was made in officers or headquarters, as the companies for many years have been under one management.

NEW SECRETARY OF THE C. OF C. IS NOW ON THE JOB

GEORGE M. CAREY MEETS MEMBERS OF ORGANIZATION

In Brief Address at Monday Luncheon He Tells What He Expects to Do in Alliance

George M. Carey of North Platte, newly elected secretary of the Alliance chamber of commerce, was formally introduced to the members of the organization at the Monday noon luncheon. In a brief address, he told the members what he hoped to accomplish, and his program, as well as the man himself, were given a most cordial reception.

Among the things which Mr. Carey has tentatively chalked down as needing attention are the roads around Alliance. He's considerable of a good roads booster, and knows their value as community assets. Incidentally, there's ample opportunity for improvement here.

Mr. Carey told of his plans concerning the weekly luncheons. Beginning next time, the food will begin promptly at 12:05 p. m., and the meeting will be over in one hour. Speakers will be warned to cut down their talks so as not to pass the dead line.

The new secretary is also strong on co-operation with the farmers and ranchers. Letters will be sent out, inviting them to attend and take part in the meetings, and they will be invited to affiliate with the organization. Women will be urged to attend and made welcome. He also plans to do something along the lines of vocational training and night schools.

Another thing he expects to do includes the establishment of a membership council, to be composed of three members from the Rotary club, Woman's club, volunteer firemen and others who will meet with the board of directors. His whole aim is to bring as many people into close touch with the organization as possible. A monthly or weekly bulletin will be distributed giving details of the club's activities. He stated that he did not intend to give more than an idea of the work that might be done, and that additional reports will be made from time to time.

Earl Mallery spoke for the board of directors. The weekly luncheons have done more to enlist the co-operation of the whole membership than any other one thing, he said. He emphasized the fact that the board of directors do not want to do it all. The chamber of commerce was never needed more than it is right now, he declared, and of every member will have a personal responsibility much may be accomplished.

John S. Rhein endorsed Mr. Mallery's remarks and declared that while the chamber of commerce had been considered as representing chiefly the directors, this was not the case. He said some good words for the new secretary, and believed that with a definite program, such as Mr. Carey had outlined, the chamber of commerce would be able to get somewhere, provided every member does his share. The new secretary has the unlimited confidence of the board, he said, and commended him to the entire membership.

E. G. Laing brought up the fact that train No. 40 does not carry parcel post mail, and that packages mailed to points east as far as Seneca are carried directly to that point and then back over the same line the next day on No. 39. This matter had been brought up before, but the two trains had been only recently put on and there was a contract to carry mail on them until it was certain they would remain. Mr. Carey was instructed to take the matter up with the postal authorities and the railroad.

HALL-BEVINGTON.

Albon Hall, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Hall of this city, and Miss Esther Bevington, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Bevington of this city, were united in marriage at the home of the bride's parents, January 1 at 6 o'clock, by Rev. A. J. Kearns. They were attended by Elizabeth and Lawrence Card of Denver, cousins of the groom. The ring ceremony was used. The bride wore a beautiful gown of white satin and carried a bouquet of bride's roses. After the ceremony an elaborate dinner was served to the immediate relatives. The out-of-town guests were Mrs. Card, son and daughter of Denver and Mrs. Fleak of Rocky Ford. The young couple left on the midnight train for Denver and other Colorado points.

Mrs. Coutant arrived from Hot Springs, S. D. Monday for a visit with her son and daughter of this city.

SUGGESTION OF SPUD FARM FOR WEST NEBRASKA

LOYD THOMAS GETS INTERVIEWED IN LINCOLN

Believes Legislature Should Encourage Counties Raising Average Crops of Million Bushels

Lloyd C. Thomas of Alliance, former member of the house of representatives from the seventy-third district arrived in Lincoln, Thursday afternoon for a short business visit. Alliance is making a campaign for the 1922 convention of the Nebraska state volunteer firemen's association and Mr. Thomas visited a number of towns between his city and Lincoln on the road down, extending personal invitations to the different volunteer fire departments to support Alliance at the 1921 convention to be held at York next month.

Mr. Thomas believes that the coming session of the legislature should encourage western Nebraska agriculture by the establishment of a potato experimental farm in Western Nebraska. In talking on this subject he said: "Box Butte and Sheridan counties raise on an average a total of a million bushels each of excellent un-irrigated potatoes each year. Dawes and Scott counties, which are also at an altitude of about four thousand feet and which have a soil heavily impregnated with potash salts, raise large amounts of the best kind of potatoes. Experiments have shown that the soils of these four counties with their relatively high potash content, raise the best potatoes in the United States, both for quality and for keeping. The legislature could make no better investment than to appropriate the few thousand dollars necessary to establish a state experimental farm, to be conducted by the university, for the purpose of going at the business of potato raising in a scientific manner. The potato growers of Nebraska are getting this year through the marketing efforts of the Nebraska potato growers association, that co-operative marketing pays them big returns. A state experimental farm would assist in showing them that by properly selecting seed and with the proper preparation and care of the soil, it is just as easy to raise 150 and 200 bushels per acre as it is 75 to 100."

"If the state of Nebraska decides to give the ex-service men the financial support they should receive," said Mr. Thomas, "it could do nothing better for them than to assist them in securing western Nebraska land and in improving and cultivating it. There are still hundreds of thousands of acres of fertile, uncultivated soil in the western portion of the state, waiting for the farmer to make them produce. These lands can be purchased cheaply and on easy terms. Many Nebraska ex-service men look with longing eyes toward the western end of the state and the opportunities there for building homes for themselves, but they lack the comparatively small amount of capital needed to make the start."

"Although the potash industry of the western end of the state is almost completely shut down, we believe that the incoming congress will establish a tariff that will allow our industry to operate at a reasonable profit, which it has a hard time in doing now with German potash coming in at a price less than it costs us to produce it. The Nebraska industry is too valuable an asset to the United States to allow it to be strangled by German competition."

"The stockmen of western Nebraska have been hard hit by the slump in prices and many of them are facing financial ruin. Tight money conditions are causing many of them to market their stock at a heavy loss, although the bankers of the state are apparently doing their best to help in a difficult situation."

"Another proposition that will come before the legislature at this time will be the proposition of extending aid to some of the weaker counties of the state in the building of the state roads. A number of the small sandhill counties are inaccessible by road at the present time. The Potash highway of Nebraska, extending from Grand Island westward along the Burlington, will traverse some of these counties. It is expected that delegations from this territory will visit Lincoln during the session and explain their situation to the legislators."

W. E. Cutts returned from Lincoln and Giltner, Neb. He was called to Giltner by the death of his brother-in-law, Tom Howard.

E. A. Bennett left for Rushville Friday, where he was called on account of the serious illness of his mother.

WHO IS THE GOAT?

Thrift is not self-denial of the enjoyments of life. Thrift is the regulation of your income in such a manner that you can participate in the good things of life now and in the future by sensible distribution of spending and saving.

During the days of high wages and higher prices, when everyone spent freely and indulged in pleasures and conveniences that they never could afford before, the savings deposits in the banks of the country increased tremendously, particularly among wage earners. There was a chance for thrift and good living.

But if buying stops, transportation stops, production stops, work becomes scarce, wages come down, thousands are unemployed, and the chance for saving, thrift or the purchase of enjoyments and extra comforts become rare. When you stop buying, you put a "binger" on the bank-roll—on your bank-roll, on mine, on the man from whom I buy, on the things that you are paid to make, and the boss who pays you to make them.

Who's the goat? You are—eventually.

MRS. M'ELHANEY NOT SENTENCED

Motion for a Rehearing to Be Heard and Sentence to Be Paused Thursday

District court convened for a short term this morning, and business was done. Evelyn Pressa McElhane, convicted of the murder of Earl B. Anderson two weeks ago, has not yet been sentenced. The motion for a new trial will probably be heard some time Wednesday, after which sentence will be passed.

Sheriff Miller is making arrangements to take Mrs. McElhaney and Urtan Seidner to the penitentiary tomorrow night. It will be necessary for a woman to accompany Mrs. McElhaney, the law requiring a feminine escort in such cases. The escort has not yet been selected.

An initiation of the Eastern Star will be held Tuesday at the Masonic Temple. A special invitation is issued to members to attend.

SCOTTSBLUFF NEWSPAPER COMES OUT OF THE BUSH

The Scottsbluff Star-Herald, which, along with the two other newspapers of that city has been trying hard to maintain an air of mystery concerning the chances of that city to secure a certain unnamed million-dollar packing plant, has finally come out into the open and admitted that the plan they have been expecting to cop is the Alliance Packing company. Alliance newspapers and residents have known for some weeks that one of the officers of the company was making naughty eyes at Scottsbluff, but up to a day or so ago, the sugar city simply wouldn't acknowledge it.

The Star-Herald takes occasion to reply to an article in one of the Alliance papers, which hinted that if Scottsbluff didn't watch out, it would find a packing company in swaddling clothes left on its doorstep. The Alliance newspaper hinted that the packing plant wouldn't go here, and wouldn't do much better in the metropolis of the North Platte valley. This wounds the sensibilities of the Scottsbluffers, and they drop their disguise in their haste to boost their city. Here's what they said about it:

"The proposal of the securing of a packing plant for Scottsbluff which has been 'in the lap of the gods' for some time, now appears to be approaching a definite outcome. Alliance, the first site selected for the proposed plant, naturally looks with disfavor upon its proposed removal to Scottsbluff, and the Times of that city prophesies in so many words, that what was apparently impossible to accomplish in Alliance, will also be impossible in Scottsbluff.

"That is neither correct nor logical. In the first place it would assume by comparison that the two cities are equal, when the fact is that despite its much later start as a municipality Scottsbluff from its inception steadily gained, finally caught up with and has most emphatically outdistanced Alliance in population, business, banking and commercial interest generally. Because a matter of big business drags or is found impractical in Alliance certainly does not signify that the same would be true in Scottsbluff."

PACKING COMPANY DISSOLVED BY A VOTE OF MEMBERS

STOCKHOLDERS WANTED THEIR 82½ PER CENT

NO VOTES CAST AGAINST PLAN

Hemingford Stockholders Organize and Carry Meeting by Storm—Refuse to Listen to Proposal to Remove to Scottsbluff

The Alliance Packing company is no more. The organization that was to build a million dollar plant in this city, to serve the needs of stockmen in part of five states was dealt a knockout blow at the second annual meeting of stockholders, held at the armory in Alliance Monday morning and afternoon. Half a hundred farmers and stockmen from Hemingford, headed by Charles Hucke, one of the heavy cash investors in the concern and accompanied by William Mitchell, attorney for the dissatisfied stockholders, came into the meeting organized to get what they wanted, and they had not the least trouble in putting it across.

When the votes were counted, not a single man was registered in favor of keeping the company going, and President Plumbe's resolution to change the name of the concern to the Nebraska Packing company, didn't even get a second. This resolution was the first of a series which was designed to effect the removal of the base of operations to Scottsbluff, but the stockholders didn't approve of the idea in the least. They had decided that the project couldn't be put across in Alliance, and had no desire to present Scottsbluff with a project where one-fifth the capital stock was already paid in.

The meeting was called for 10 a. m., and the stockholders, in person or represented by proxy, began to show up an hour before the time set. They continued to arrive all during the morning session, which was devoted to a roll call of members and registering of proxies. It was found that a quorum was present, something which the promoters of the company had not expected. Out of a total of 255 shares, 206 were represented at the meeting. Adjournment was taken until 1 p. m.

George Platt, T. R. Eneyart, George L. Taylor, Charles Baldwin and Charles Moravek were chosen as election inspectors at the morning meeting. At the afternoon session, E. E. Plumbe, the organization president, made an address which lasted some two hours, and was given a most courteous hearing by the men who had their minds already made up as to what would do. Mr. Plumbe's address concerned largely the feasibility of the proposal, despite the hard blow dealt by the financial stringency. He told of some of the difficulties of organizing the company, and of the impossibility of getting a satisfactory board of directors. The reason for lack of greater progress was, he said, a lack of "esprit de corps." He pleaded with the stockholders not to allow the company to die. "Stick to your company now," he said, "when there is need for firmness if we are to hold the advantages we have gained. Make no mistake—there are advantages and gains made that will take years to rebuild if you quit now. Success rests with you men here today. You have everything to lose and nothing to gain if you desert your company now."

Mr. Plumbe reviewed the results of the recent increase in freight rates to the stockholders, pointed out that they still needed a market near at hand. He described the plan in use in 1,791 independent packing plants in the United States, and drew a picture of increased profits for livestock men within a radius of several hundred miles.

In closing, Mr. Plumbe charged that the merchants of Alliance had failed to do collectively what they had agreed to do as individuals. The city has failed, he said, to get behind the packing plant, and success without local support and co-operation is impossible. He then told of the offer made by Scottsbluff—a suitable site at low cost, a satisfactory board of directors, sewerage and water facilities, good railroad trackage, and the united support of a community. He urged that the stockholders vote to remove the plant there, and then played his trump card.

Mr. Plumbe proposed, in behalf of the fiscal agency, to allow stockholders to cut down their investment to such an amount as they believed they could carry. At the time they made their purchases of stock, money was plentiful. Now it is tight. He offered to allow them to say how much stock in the new company they would

(Continued on Page 5)