

The Alliance Herald

BURR PRINTING CO., Owners

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THE PRIMARY ELECTION

The sight of a dozen nominating petitions in circulation so soon after the time for filing is most encouraging to those who believe that public interest is essential if we are to have an efficient city government. Another notable feature is the calibre of the candidates that have been suggested. Under the old system it would not have been possible to get many of these men to consider making a race for councilman.

It is quite possible that some of the candidates have not been consulted. Some of them will probably need considerable urging before they will be resigned to allowing their name to go on the ballot. It's up to the citizens in general to supplement the urging of particular friends, to the end that no good man be permitted to withdraw from the race.

The mere adoption of the city manager plan will not insure any better city government than we have had. The best city manager on earth will not be able to make a go of it in this city unless he has the backing of forceful men. And unless the new council is composed of pretty good material, it isn't likely they will select a manager who can deliver the goods.

There is a disposition on the part of a few of those who helped win the city manager fight to see to it that only friends of the manager plan are elected on the council. This is a serious mistake. The whole aim of the new system has been to make the council responsible. It will take a pretty brave man to vote for an incompetent city manager in order to discredit the new system. Every faction of the city should be represented on the council, if possible, and certainly it would be most unfair to attempt to deprive the big majority, which didn't lack many votes of being a majority, of the right to a voice in the affairs of the city. Such a disposition will do more to discredit the plan than the failure of half a dozen managers.

THE CRIME OF THE MOVIES.

Most of the argument in favor of the censorship of moving pictures by a state board have been a collection of generalities about the evils of uncensored films. It remained for an Aurora divine to make an actual investigation, and after giving the movies his attention for ten nights, he has charted what he saw there. This is the indictment:

Five murders, several hundred people deserted to die, two divorces, five drinking scenes, five gambling scenes, two birth scenes, nine cases of duplicity, two cases of desertion by wife and two by husband, two wives and three husbands unfaithful to the marriage contract, two cases of child desertion, and in every one cigarette smoking, and in eight of them the hero was a cigarette smoker. He saw girls fight three times for their honor, law officers ridiculed three times, one suicide, religion ridiculed once, vengeance sworn four times, evil men marrying good women twice, five dances, three cases of seduction, three cases of jealousy, and in trying to count the gun play he counted in one play alone 117 shots and then quit. Among the good that he saw was religion upheld in a splendid way three times, the preacher made use of three times, law officers and courts give justice and fair dealing three times, one lawyer who preferred to do right instead of receiving a fee and brought about a union between man and wife, two lessons of patriotism, two cases of forgiveness, Christ revealed once, fair business men once, two lives devoted to social uplift, and two cases of greater devotion of husband and wife, and three scenes that taught the love of children.

The Aurora man is opposed to what he calls "commercialized amusements," and is said to favor taking amusements of all kinds out of the hands of their owners and put them in the hands of the church, the school or some institution which has the moral welfare of the community solely at heart.

A careful study of the indictment shows the tendency of the reformer toward the old "blue laws." The Aurora preacher mentions as among the evil things he had seen such things as divorces; cigarette smoking, even by the heroes; and dancing. A number of the other things he

COMMENT & DISCOMMENT

Earl Mallery, who put in a couple of years in the legislature, recalls with considerable amusement the attitude of the moving picture producers at the previous sessions when the question of censorship was under debate. The first time the legislature was pondering the censorship problem, the producers were objecting strenuously to local censorship, but expressed themselves willing to stand for state censorship. The next session, when state censorship was proposed, the movie men gracefully reversed themselves and declared they were unalterably opposed to state censorship, but that they would be glad to accept local censorship.

Now, it seems, the movie men want neither state nor local censorship, but national. Whatever may have been their attitude previously, their present position is well taken. National censorship is certainly the only sensible answer to the problem. Some writers, notably the State Journal, argue that while national censorship is the real remedy, it will be difficult to secure it, and some measure of protection for the public is needed. Therefore it is argued that if we cannot get what we want, we should take what we can get. The Journal favors state censorship because of the difficulty of getting national supervision.

That's a cheerful way to look at it. If you are suffering from a diseased throat and there is no throat specialist at hand, the thing to do is to visit an eye doctor and have yourself fitted with glasses. True, your throat may be giving you a whole lot of trouble,

objects to are matters of common occurrence in every day life.

If the moving pictures are to be of any value to the imaginative child—or to the adult, either, for that matter—they must portray life with some degree of accuracy. If censorship is to be simply the following of the prejudices of the censors; if everything to which someone may have an objection is to be eliminated; if there is to be nothing shown but stories similar to the thrilling yarns from the "Elsie Books," it ought to be a simple matter for the level-headed in any community to decide that they don't want any of it.

OUR INTELLIGENT LEGISLATORS.

Some idea of the intellectual caliber of the average legislative solon may be gained from reading the debate on the various measures that are up for passage. The argument on the bill to legalize the practice of Christian Science healing is particularly illuminating. The truth is that the men who oppose the measure do not believe in the efficacy of the drugless healing, and they have manufactured other reasons, most of which sound pretty thin, but are given with a great deal of emphasis to make up for lack of weight.

The struggle for legal recognition of Christian Science healers has been a part of every legislative session for the past ten years, and each time it has been defeated. This year Senate File 108 has passed the senate, and therefore stands a fair show of success. Some thirty-five states have similar laws, and Nebraska's name should be added to the list without further delay. But one thing can defeat it—the effort of uninformed legislators who place too great a value upon their own beliefs.

As the matter now stands, there is nothing to prevent the use of Christian Science methods, but the man who practices them has no legal standing. This the bill grants, with certain sensible restrictions. The argument advanced is that the passage of the measure will open the door to a host of quacks and charlatans, but this has not been the result in other states where the Christian Science practitioner has been recognized, and there are no grounds for belief that it would be the result in Nebraska.

Let us all shed a tear for Scottsbluff. The "blue nose" element of that city is slowly and surely gaining the upper hand. Sunday movies were killed there last year because it was argued, not that the workers were entitled to spend their day or rest as they saw fit, but that someone made money out of running the shows. The latest move of the blue law advocates is to ask that the curfew ordinance be enforced and that public dancing be stopped. Curfew ordinances belong to the dark ages, along with the whipping post and the stocks.

OPPOSITION—AND OTHER THINGS

(Nebraska City Press)

The newspapers of Nebraska have a program of legislation which they would like to put through at the present session. Among the bills they are supporting is one which requires the publication of the personal tax list in each county and to make it obligatory on the county commissioners to do so. The most bitter opponent of this bill is a man who seems to bitterly hate the newspapers of his state and everyone connected with them. A few days ago a man connected with the newspaper bureau at Lincoln decided to find out something about the bitter-ender representative and why he was so "ferocious" in publication of the tax lists. He wrote to the legislator's home town for advice and discovered that while the legislator was considered to be a very rich man, his personal tax was almost negligible; in fact, it was so small that even the average section hand in his home town paid more taxes than did the puffed-up "big gun" legislator who swelled around the halls at Lincoln, expressed his disapproval of everything the newspapers have done or expect to do and, in short probably expects the Lord to get up and give him his seat when he gets to Heaven, if he gets that far.

DISCRIMINATING FREIGHT RATES

(Hamilton County Register)

At Alliance the potato growers' exchange have taken up the matter of discriminatory freight rates in favor of Minnesota, so that Nebraska growers cannot even profitably supply the state in which they live. There are other states which we are as near to and could as well supply if they were given a fair break, and the instance only calls attention to the unfair system under which our freight rates are conducted.

It is an outrage that Nebraskans who live near where potatoes are grown should not have advantage of lower prices. It is an outrage that Grand Island sugar consumers living within twenty miles should have to pay for a long haul never made. It is an outrage that on coal which is in other ways a robber price should bear at Aurora freight to Omaha on an imaginary haul. Theoretically the railroads make lower rates to distributing points, but the opportunity is with them to exact double pay, and more or less they doubtless take advantage of the inequitable system, so largely in their own hands.

The legislature now in session could do nothing of greater advantage to their people than to enact something that would not only lower freight rates, but put them on a straight distance basis, giving cities no advantage over small towns and country; giving other states no advantage over Nebraska, and making computation so much easier that one would not have to be a crook to follow the short turns made in figuring out a tariff schedule.

but your eyes may need some attention too.

The Herald editor wants it understood, once and for all, that he is not opposed to censorship of moving pictures. Indeed, he thinks it should be done, and it cannot come about any too soon to suit him. What we are objecting to is the particular law that has been presented to the Nebraska legislature. It is the work of professional reformers, men and women who have been attempting ever since our undergraduate days to secure restrictive legislation of one sort and another. Our whole university career is filled with memories of the activities of some of these reformers. They used to confine a good share of their activities to the university. They wanted certain holds barred in the dances, they wanted the number of parties cut down, or certain rules of conduct adopted. They were the prize meddling pests in those days, and the habit has clung to them.

Every time we write a stirring editorial against the proposed movie censorship bill, however, we attend some movie which gets our goat. It is probably accidental that the worst films always appear at those times. We have attended a number of movie shows, and we are frank to confess that we know of no picture house in Nebraska or elsewhere, which produces as many good films as Harry Dubuque's Imperial. He has mighty good fortune in selecting his shows, probably due to the fact that he has developed a good judgment. But it's a physical impossibility for him to see all the films before they are shown.

Sometimes he gets something handed to him.

The fact that in one week there should be two exceptionally stupid plays is sufficient evidence that censorship of some kind is needed. So far as we are concerned, we think the censorship should be based on literary and art values rather than on morality. The play, "As a Man Thinketh," which contained all sorts of rot based on the authenticity of paternity, and the Wednesday evening attraction, the name of which escapes us, are examples of the stupidity of producers. In the Wednesday feature Alice Joyce was the star. It is the first occasion we ever saw this particular star in a play that was almost devoid of anything to recommend it. She did the best she could, poor girl, with what she had to work with.

What is a showman to do in a case of this kind. A photoplay starring Alice Joyce is usually exceptionally good, and if the movie man accepts one, based on previous successes, he is the loser if it doesn't turn out well. But censorship won't eliminate the stupid plays or those which only bore the spectator. The censorship, such as is proposed, will see to it that the skirts of all the actresses are the proper length, that soul kisses last no longer than ten feet, that bedroom and bathroom and bathing beach scenes will not offend the narrow-minded or the prudish, but that is about its limit. This being the case, we see no reason why we cannot wait until the federal government gets ready to do the censoring for us.

A want ad in The Herald will do it.

The Sanitary Meat Market

The only exclusive Meat Market in the City of Alliance. Dealers in fresh and cured meats. All prices on cuts of meats as low as the lowest in the city.

Just and Honest Weight Good Treatment

Home-made Sausage and Home Rendered Lard. Meat by the quarter, half or whole, sold at lowest prices.

Come and See for Yourself

The Sanitary Meat Market will meet all competition on the lowest prices in the city, with high grade meats.

Can Save Ranchers Money on Large Grocery Orders.

The Sanitary Market

F. E. Melvin, Prop.

PHONE 40.

Have You Heard How

The Fern Garden Meets With Approval?

Everyone is Enthusiastic Over the Pleasures Of the New Dancing Room

Plan to Come Soon

You are missing lots of good fun if you are not acquainted with the Fern Garden. The Alliance Hotel has opened a new dancing room with a new maple floor, a pepful orchestra consisting of piano, violin and banjo, special decorations and tables for refreshments while you dance.

It's an Ideal Way to Spend an Evening

There is dancing every evening except Sunday, from 8:30 to 12. If you have not been there yet, come soon, because you are missing just so much fun.

Prices are Reasonable—a 25¢ each cover charge is made and our regular Palm Room Menu is available

The Alliance Hotel

J. M. MILLER, Proprietor