

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. 21

VEIN OF GOLD DISCOVERED AT AGATE OIL WELL

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS CAUSE SOME EXCITEMENT.

Rumors That Hemingford People are Ready for Big Rush When Roads Get Passable.

According to dispatches in the state papers, there was wild excitement in Hemingford last Saturday morning over an unconfirmed but widely circulated rumor that the big oil test well being drilled on the Cook ranch, at Agate, in central Sioux county, has struck a vein of gold ore, assaying thirty-five dollars per ton.

The rumor also is to the effect that the quarter-section on which the well is being drilled by the Associated Oil company has been purchased for one hundred eighty five thousand dollars since the alleged find. The hole was reported to be down over twenty-two hundred feet last week. Although it is a twenty-inch hole no plausible explanation has been offered as to how the golden ore can be brought to the surface, unless a shaft should be sunk to the level of the golden sands.

The rumor is being given some credence because of the belief of many geologists, due partly to the finding of valuable prehistoric fossils near the scene of the drilling, that the bed of an ancient river wound down through eastern Wyoming and under the site of the oil well.

The drilling camp is practically isolated by a foot of wet snow covering the level surrounding country, making travel by automobile impossible.

Ora E. Phillips of Hemingford, who was in Alliance this morning, indicates that reports that he had contracted with a number of Hemingford enthusiasts to take them to the oil well by aeroplane were all bunk. He says that the report was current there, but that there are no indications of any rush to a new gold field. "There might be oil there," he said, "but mighty few people are ready to believe they've struck a gold mine."

SIGNS OF ACTIVITY IN POLITICAL CIRCLES

Although no petitions for councilmen have as yet been filed at the office of City Clerk Kennedy, there are signs of increasing activity in political circles. There is undoubtedly considerable interest in the election, and hardly a business or professional man in Alliance can truthfully say that he has not been approached by someone who wanted him to become a candidate.

The actual petitions are scarce. City Clerk Kennedy fixed up fifteen blank ones which have been handed out to various people, but no names had been written in when she last saw them. One petition, carrying the name of George W. Nation as a candidate, was being circulated Monday. This is the only one that has been actually viewed by the Herald reporter, but he has heard talk of dozens of others.

It now develops that a number of the men who were mentioned last week have put their foot down hard on the proposition. They wish the city manager plan well, but they don't take an active part in city politics. A number of other men have been mentioned, but so fast as someone thinks of a good man for the place, the prospective candidate spoils it all by flat-footedly refusing to run, no matter how hard he is urged.

There are still several days before the filing period ends, and from the amount of talk in the air, it is certain there will be plenty of candidates to afford a wide range of choice for the discriminating voter.

RED CROSS DIRECTORS HOLD MONTHLY MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the board of directors of the Red Cross of Box Butte and south Sheridan counties was held in the court house Monday afternoon with seven of the board present.

It was decided that the board should buy the equipment for first aid classes for the campfire girls. Dr. Minor Morris has kindly offered his services in teaching this work. The Woman's club of Alliance offered their services some time ago as sponsors of the camp fire girls and the board decided to turn the various bands of camp fire girls over to them.

Several problems of soldiers' cases were brought up by the local secretary and acted upon by the board, and the secretary's report of work done during the months of December and January was read and accepted. The work with ex-soldiers and sailors is gradually drawing to a close, but the board expects to keep the office open until this work is entirely finished.

A vote of thanks was tendered to A. G. Smart for his liberal donation recently made to the local Red Cross funds.

A. Isaacson will return Friday from a buying trip to New York.

THE WEATHER

Forecast for Alliance and vicinity: Fair tonight and Wednesday. Not much change in temperature.

TAXI AND MESSENGER SERVICE FOR ALLIANCE

The Alliance Taxi & Messenger Service this week begins business in Alliance. The proprietor is G. C. Madsen, who has been employed by the Burlington railroad here for the past three years. At present he has but one car, but plans to put on additional automobiles as the demand increases. He will furnish both day and night service, his headquarters being with the Buick Garage.

The new taxi company will make a specialty of its messenger service. If you have a letter or package to send, call the taxi company's number and have it attended to pronto. Several of the dry goods and clothing merchants of the city, who do not deliver all their merchandise, have contracted with the new concern to take care of this work for them, and others will undoubtedly see the advantage of such a service. Look up their advertisement in this issue of The Herald and get the day and night phone numbers firmly fixed in your mind. You never can tell when you'll have to catch a train.

NEW PIPE ORGAN IS TO BE PLAYED FRIDAY EVENING

PUTS IMPERIAL THEATRE IN A CLASS BY ITSELF

Wonderful Instrument Equal to a Fifty Piece Symphony Orchestra, None Better in the State

The Robert-Morton orchestral pipe organ, now being installed in the Imperial theatre in this city, will be presented to the theatregoers of Alliance in an opening concert Friday evening. For some time past experts have been installing the instrument. It has been hoped to give the first concert next Wednesday evening, but Manager DuBuque wanted to be certain that the work of installation was perfect, in order that the first impression of the wonderful musical instrument should not be marred by any imperfections.

Those who have any lingering idea that the Imperial's new organ has been overrated by advance notices will be doomed to disappointment. There is not an organ in the state that is in the same class with it. Orders have been placed by the Brandeis theatre in Omaha, and the auditorium at Holdrege, which has seats for three thousand people, for similar instruments, but they will not be delivered for months. To Alliance and the Imperial theatre belongs the honor of possessing the most modern pipe organ between Des Moines and Denver.

The Herald reporter had a piece of good fortune the other morning, when he discovered Organist Keach trying out the new instrument. At that time the organ was not completely assembled, but the effect was magical. Mr. Keach played some of his favorite selections on the new organ, and the effect simply cannot be compared with that of the former instrument, which was the equal of most of the theatrical organs in the state.

The outstanding features of this wonderful instrument, which should be the background of every organ, is the dignified diapason, in addition to the full-throated vox humana, or imitation of the human voice. The pleasing tone of the flute family is well represented by the concert flute, orchestral flute and the piccolo. The string family is represented by the first and second violins, viola, cello and double bass, together with the octavina violin. These add greatly to the brilliancy of the performance.

All instruments available—the oboe, saxophone, clarinet and bassoon combinations—are at hand for the organist to use in painting his marvelous tone pictures. An extra addition is the harp and set of cathedral chimes, also orchestral bells, xylophone, bass drum, snare drum and crash cymbal, all arranged so that the expert musician can find them to "make you hear what you see."

The Imperial has long been considered to be the best equipped and ventilated theatre in western Nebraska, and the new pipe organ will place it still farther in the lead. Mr. DuBuque is one of the motion picture pioneers. Nearly ten years ago he opened the first picture show in Alliance, known as the Empress and Crystal. He has always kept step with the leaders in the large cities and has always offered the best available to his patrons. The new pipe organ's cost was almost high enough to be prohibitive, but after hearing it, Mr. DuBuque decided that he would not be satisfied with any instrument of less capacity. The organ was built especially for the Imperial in the company's California factory, and nearly a year was required for the construction.

Mrs. Lillian Coyner spent the week end at Minatare, as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Jones, formerly of Alliance.

NEBRASKA LEGION DOES NOT FAVOR THE STATE BONUS

PUSHING THE DISABLED MEN'S ENDOWMENT BILL

Believe That First Consideration Should be Given to Their Wounded Buddies

Two bonus bills have been introduced in the state legislature, neither of which is receiving support from the class most nearly concerned with their successful passage, the ex-service men themselves. The legislative committee of the American Legion, official spokesmen for over 20,000 Nebraska service men, have made it plain that they are not asking for any cash payment. The legion's efforts at present are centered on effecting the passage of their disabled ex-service men's endowment bill, holding that first consideration must always go to their wounded and disabled buddies.

"The endowment bill is our most important measure, and is receiving our undivided support," said a member of the legion's legislative committee Monday. "We are insisting that the state do its plain duty by those who made the biggest sacrifice. Then, if the legislators, as representatives of the people of Nebraska, feel that the service men should receive further and more general consideration, we favor the farm and home aid bill."

The latter bill was introduced by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a smaller organization of former soldiers, and has been approved by the legion. But the legionnaires are making it plain that they are first for the endowment bill, which they think has a much better chance of being passed. It provides for an appropriation of \$2,000,000 for the purchase of liberty bonds, the interest of which, amounting to something like \$80,000 annually, will be used for the benefit of needy veterans of the world war. The fund will be administered by a state board of control, and the legion has offered the use of its statewide organization to make the plan effective.

It is not the legion's intention to create a permanent pension fund, but to provide a fund which will help to fill the gap which in too many cases comes between application on the part of a disabled ex-service man for government assistance, and the actual receiving of such assistance, during which time the man and his family, many times, are in actual want. In addition to this it is pointed out that there are many cases of men in Nebraska in need of immediate assistance, whose cases do not come under the rules and regulations established by the government departments. They claim that the use of their local and state organizations will enable the board of control to reach every needy veteran in Nebraska, with no delay and red tape.

The legionnaires are also keeping an eye out for action on certain other measures which interest them, notably the boxing bill, which provides for legalizing the sport and placing it under strict supervision. Its backers are claiming that the bill is practically sure to go through, despite some stiff opposition.

The ex-service organization is also showing a disposition to go to bat with those senators and representatives who look with favor on the measure introduced by Senator Norval, which they say, if passed will nullify the Sman language law, which the legion enthusiastically endorsed at last year's state convention. They take the stand that this is no time for passing legislation which will allow any foreign tongue again to be taught in the schools, since they always have been and always will be, taught mainly for propaganda purposes, for the avowed purpose of holding together a foreign group.

WOMAN DIES ON TRAIN ON WAY TO HOSPITAL

Mrs. Alice Reynolds Nelson, wife of Emil H. Nelson of Lingle, Wyo., died on board the Casper train of the Burlington at 1:40 o'clock Monday morning. Mrs. Nelson had been in ill health for some months, and had once or twice before been brought to St. Joseph's hospital in Alliance for treatment. Accompanied by her husband she was on the way to the hospital for further treatment, but her condition rapidly grew worse after she entered the train and she passed away while the train was at Vance Siding.

The remains were brought to the Darling undertaking rooms, and were sent Tuesday morning to Villisca, Ia., for interment.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Johnson expect to leave for Cheyenne, Wyo., today by automobile. Mr. Johnson is a representative for the Cudahy Packing company and has made his headquarters in Alliance for some time. He has been transferred to another territory and they will make their home in Cheyenne for the present.

Attorney Wm. Mitchell is planning on a trip south in the near future for the benefit of his health. Mrs. Mitchell will accompany him.

C. OF C. PLANS TO CO-OPERATE WITH FARMERS

RAPIDLY ENLARGING SCOPE OF ITS ACTIVITY

Secretary Carey Has Found a Number of Ways in Which Organization Can Be of Service

Secretary George M. Carey of the Alliance chamber of commerce has discovered a number of ways in which the city's commercial organization can be of service to the farmers and ranchers of its trade territory. He has held conferences with several representative farmers, who have made several good suggestions to him, and he has announced that, beginning at once, the chamber of commerce will be ready to serve them in the following:

A complete market report, including both live stock and crop reports, will be available at the club's rooms over the Brennan drug store, and farmers and stockmen are invited to make themselves at home at headquarters and avail themselves of every facility offered. The reports will be received by telegraph each morning.

The chamber of commerce has also arranged to handle orders for machinery parts. All that is necessary is to telephone needs to the secretary's office. The secretary will promptly wire for the needed parts and notify the rancher by telephone when the goods arrive.

Potato and livestock men will be interested in the offer of Secretary Carey to arrange for cars for shipping. Another feature of exceptional value will be to arrange for inspectors to certify seed potatoes and to inspect growing crops and produce. Instructors in the university college of agriculture are available for their transportation expenses, and the chamber of commerce will undertake to get them here at regular intervals or when needed.

The chamber of commerce also plans to foster and encourage boys' and girls' club to encourage competition among the different sections of the county. These contests will be under direct management of committees of farmers. C. A. Newberry of this city has offered \$250 in prizes to winners of crop and stock growing contests, and there will undoubtedly be considerable interest in these within a short time.

When Mr. Carey came to Alliance, a few weeks ago, he inaugurated the policy of co-operation with the farmers in the city's trade territory. He has already established an exchange and has encouraged the use of the club rooms as headquarters for resting or meetings of any kind. At practically every weekly luncheon of the organization several farmers are in attendance, and more of them are desired.

AMERICAN LEGION DINNER COMES THURSDAY EVENING

Another one of the get-together dinners of Alliance post No. 7, American Legion, will be held at 6:30 o'clock Thursday evening, February 10, at the Fern Garden of the Alliance hotel. More than forty legionnaires were present at the first dinner, given January 27, and indications are that there will be nearly double that number present Thursday evening.

The session will include one of J. M.'s excellent dinners, with a bunch of army songs before, during and after the courses, and a short business session. After two or three months of delay, the play committee has received copies of a number of A. E. F. plays and the home talent theatricals will be up for discussion and action.

Post Treasurer J. A. Johansen has tendered his resignation, due to the fact that he has accepted a position with the Cudahy company at Cheyenne and will remove there. A successor will be elected at this meeting. An officer and a field clerk or two from the Omaha army recruiting office will be present, and will be prepared to issue Victory medals to those who have not received them, provided the ex-soldier brings with him his discharge. Applications for battle clasps will also be taken.

The January meeting of the post was the best since its existence, and the new plan for the meetings has met with considerable favor. The post decided at its last meeting to make the monthly dinner a regular feature. The Fern Garden has also been secured for a dinner dance on Washington's birthday, February 22, at which only legionnaires and their ladies will be present.

A rumor was current in Alliance Friday to the effect that Scottsbluff was the scene of a fake booze raid. The story, as it reached The Herald, was that two men impersonated state booze hounds and raided a friend's still, forcing him to come across with either liquor or cash. Just when the hoax was discovered and what had been done about it are still as much of a mystery as the reason for the Scottsbluff chamber of commerce deciding not to go ahead with the packing company, after panning this city for its inability to appreciate "affairs of big business."

TO MAKE SURVEY OF THE ALLIANCE TRADE TERRITORY

Secretary George M. Carey of the Alliance chamber of commerce, assisted by A. T. Lunn of the Newberry Hardware company and others, is now engaged in making an intensive survey of the Alliance trade territory. Information is being secured from chambers of commerce in various cities and towns in parts of Montana, Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming in territory tributary to Alliance or where good railroad connections can be made, and this will be tabulated and placed in form for ready reference.

Among the things being tabulated are population, schools, mercantile houses of every description, both wholesale and retail, manufacturing, and other information of value. A comprehensive table of comparative freight rates will be made up, this portion of the work being in charge of Mr. Lunn, who has had considerable experience along this line.

The object of the survey is to secure the equalization of freight rates where inequalities exist, and to be able, at a moment's notice, to furnish to those who are considering establishing manufacturing plants or jobbing houses in this city any desired information concerning the trade territory.

TWO MEMBERS MAKE TALKS AT LUNCHEON

L. H. HIGHLAND POINTS OUT FREIGHT RATE TROUBLES

Rev. B. J. Minor Compares Successful City With a Six-Cylinder Automobile

An innovation was introduced at the Monday luncheon of the chamber of commerce, when it was announced that two members would speak on subjects of interest to themselves. L. H. Highland was first given the floor, and for ten minutes spoke on freight and express rates, and the difficulties in knowing whether the right amount had been paid. Four or five years ago, Mr. Highland said, the freight tariffs were not so much of a mystery, and the express rates were generally known. Since that time there have been increases in the carriage charges, as well as innumerable changes in the classification, most of which increased the cost, until at the present time a man has to know as much as an income tax expert before he is competent to audit his freight bills.

Mr. Highland suggested that the chamber of commerce follow the lines laid down by other commercial organizations, and secure a freight tariff expert, who would audit the freight bills of all members of the organization. In some places, he said, there were firms which did nothing but this kind of work, who made their profits by taking half of the amount saved to the consignee. If there were sufficient irregularities in freight bills in other towns to enable this kind of a business to flourish, he thought it would pay in Alliance.

The speaker also referred to the fact that Alliance was not a distributing point, because of inequalities in the freight rates. Crawford, Scottsbluff, and other western Nebraska cities, and have an advantage over us, he declared, and suggested that the organization take some action in the matter.

Rev. B. J. Minor, new pastor of the First Baptist church, gave a ten-minute talk that made a decided hit. He compared the city to a six-cylinder automobile, and said that the gasoline used was the community spirit; that the lubricating oil was patience and perseverance, and the six spark plugs were the various elements of citizenship—the religion, labor, business men, farmers, professional men, and so forth. He commented upon the futility of attempting to get any speed out of a car without gasoline or lubricating oil, or with any of the spark plugs missing.

WEEKLY LUNCHEON FOR WOMEN AT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The women of Alliance having signified their desire to have a weekly luncheon provided for them at the chamber of commerce, the first of the series is announced for next Thursday, from 12 to 1 o'clock. This lunch is open to any Alliance woman, and will be a valuable addition to the social life of the city.

All employers in the city are asked to do everything possible to so arrange working hours that any woman who desires to attend will be able to do so.

The luncheon will be convenient also for women from the outlying districts who are in the city shopping. The women will have complete charge of the programs at their luncheons after they get a start. There is already sufficient interest manifested in the new venture to assure its success.

Otto Uhrig of Hemingford was in town yesterday having dental work done.

ARGUES AGAINST CENSORSHIP AND SUNDAY CLOSING

H. A. DUBUQUE GIVES REASONS FOR OPPOSITION

Asks Support of Theatregoers in Putting Quietus to Measure Now Before the Legislature

H. A. DuBuque, manager of the Imperial theatre of this city, has issued a public statement in which he discusses the proposed state moving picture censorship bill, now before the legislature. He also pays his respects to those who are organizing a movement to do away with Sunday theatres in Alliance. His statement follows:

To the Theater Patrons of Box Butte County:

Strong pressure is being brought to bear upon members of the Nebraska legislature to force them to approve a measure imposing state censorship upon moving pictures. The children's code commission, composed of state appointees, is seeking, through false sentiment, to deprive full grown men and women of their rights and liberties. As patrons of moving picture theaters, it is my belief that you are vitally interested in the latest attempt to supervise your amusements and control your hours of entertainment and recreation.

If the proposed bill becomes a law, there will be appointed a board of three, to be known as the bureau of motion picture inspectors, who will have sole authority to approve or disapprove the pictures that will be shown in every theater in Nebraska. These three censors will be selected from a list of six prepared by the child welfare council of the state welfare bureau. You, as citizens and voters, will have no voice in the selection of these three censors who will have supreme authority concerning one of your chief amusements. Their word will be final; their opinion will be the only one which will have weight. There is no appeal from their decision. If they decide that you may not see a picture, you will not see it in Nebraska.

Patrons Must Pay the Bill.

These three censors will draw salaries of \$3,000 a year apiece. They will have offices, clerks and equipment. You and others who see and enjoy moving pictures will have to foot the bill. They will tell you that the fees for censoring films will pay all expenses, but this easy explanation will not hold water. Film producers and the owners of moving picture theaters are entitled to a fair profit, and you may rest assured that any added expense caused by censorship will be promptly passed along to the people who attend the shows. There is no one else to pay it.

Those who are behind the movement for censorship claim to be working in the interest of the children of the state. They declare there are scenes in many of the photoplays which tend to debase or corrupt public morals, or incite to the commission of crimes. Under the proposed law, their duty will be to approve only such as they consider moral and proper, and the censors are the sole judges of whether any play will fall within that classification.

In order to furnish evidence to support their claims that the moving pictures have an evil influence upon children, the censorship advocates have circulated among the schools of the state a list of questions which the pupils have been required to answer. Such evidence as they present will probably be based upon their interpretation of these answers. They will claim that the children attend too often; that they spend too much money on movies, and that the class of films shown tends to their moral degradation.

Censorship of motion pictures will not keep children from desiring to attend. If they attend, it will cost money. There is no other amusement at anywhere near the same price that children appreciate more.

Campaign of Stay-at-Homes.

As to the only serious charge, that the moving pictures have a bad influence upon young and plastic minds, it is open to question, to say the least. The charge comes, in this, as in all other communities, from those who do not make a practice of regular attendance at the shows. Those who attend three or four times a year are not in position to speak authoritatively upon the character of shows they have not seen. What they do is quote those who favor censorship, who, in all probability, know little, if any, more concerning photoplays than they do themselves.

As a matter of fact, you who do attend the shows have more real knowledge concerning their character than the people who are raising the big howl before the legislature, and your judgment is fully as good. We are willing to leave it to you whether you have seen, in any moving picture house, photoplays that anyone but a fanatic or a prude would class as sacrilegious, immoral, indecent, obscene or bad, or such as would tend to lead children astray. Your answer will be our best defense.

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