

# The Alliance Herald

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ALLIANCE, BOX BUTTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1921

Official Paper of the City of Alliance

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## CITY MANAGER GIVES HISTORY OF CITY BONDS

### NO SINKING FUND TO PAY THE \$195,000 DUE

#### Increase in Taxes Necessary if City is to Meet Obligations Already Incurred

City Manager N. A. Kimmish, who has been on the job every minute of the time since he assumed charge of the affairs of the city of Alliance, this week drops a small bombshell. Since he assumed office, he has been endeavoring in every way to get the affairs of the city on a business basis. He has found time, in the midst of organizing every department of the city's business, to tabulate the various bond issues that are still due, and what he has discovered is startling, to say the least.

Mr. Kimmish has prepared a table showing the present status of the bonded indebtedness of Alliance. He has also worked out the approximate amount of taxes per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, that each bond issue means to each taxpayer. There are at present nearly \$200,000 in bonds coming due, for which absolutely no provision has been made, in the way of a sinking fund, to pay. The various city councils have made levies, but unfortunately these have not been sufficient to pay even the interest on some of the issues.

Mr. Kimmish, being a business man, does not hesitate to make his recommendations. There are two courses open. The matter can be delayed, as has been done in the past, and when the bonds fall due, refunding bonds can be voted to care for them. This merely postpones the evil day of payment, and incidentally makes the amount to be paid sometime larger than ever. The other method, and this is the one favored by the city manager, is to set aside enough money in a sinking fund to meet these obligations when they come due. This means higher taxes for the next eight years; but it means a clean slate at the end of that time.

There is little doubt but that Mr. Kimmish's researches into the records will start a discussion which will bring out public sentiment in the matter.

City Manager Kimmish has issued the following statement in connection with his tabulation of the city's bonded indebtedness:

"We have heard a number of complaints about high taxes. A few people are always ready to complain about them. The majority, however, want to do what is right and realize that these improvements mean higher taxes. They want to know what our tax money is being used for and that it is being used efficiently. It is our policy to let you know how things are going and what we are doing with this money.

"We have prepared a table showing our bonded indebtedness and giving a history of our city bonds showing how various issues now stand. This table also gives you some idea about what each bond issue means to us in the way of taxes each year for each actual \$1,000.00 worth of property owned. These general city obligations or bonds are what we call capital or fixed charges. These are a mortgage on all of the property in the entire city. These fixed charges do not include any special district assessments such as paving, sewer, sidewalks, grades, etc. Neither does this expense include any of the running or operating expenses of the various departments of the city such as parks, schools, public utilities, etc. We hope to give you this a little later.

"It will be seen from this table that we only have left about eight years in which to lay aside a sinking fund if we are to pay the \$195,000 in bonds coming due. During the past twelve years or even since these bonds have been issued, unfortunately, outside of the school bonds, there has been but little laid aside as a sinking fund with which to pay these bonds when they fall due. In the past two or three years an appropriation has been made by the city councils but not enough has been appropriated or come in, in the way of taxes, to even pay the interest on some of these issues saying nothing of paying on the principal.

"This is very unfortunate indeed coming at this time when we ought to be able to reduce taxes rather than to increase them. The longer this sinking fund is put off the worse it is going to be and the more it is going to cost the taxpayers. It has been put off too long already. Whenever a bond issue is sold there should be an annual sinking fund created if the bond is to be paid when due. When we let ten or twelve years go by without creating any sinking fund whatever it is unfortunate. There are only two things now for us to do. These bonds must be either paid when due or else we must vote under present conditions \$115.00 in refunding bonds at a higher rate of interest to pay off each \$100.00 we now owe in present bonds. This alone would increase our present bonded indebtedness more than \$20,000.00 with nothing whatever to show for it. It would increase our taxes \$2,000.00 per year more than we are now paying

of a period of twenty years. Many of us fail to realize that every new \$1,000.00 bond issued means \$100.00 more in taxes each year for a period of twenty years.

"The water and light bonds should be taken care of out of the earnings of these departments. They should, however, get pay for the street lights, sewerage pumping, water for sewer flushing, hydrant rental for fire protection, etc., out of taxation the proper way. There is only one correct way to do anything. It may not always be the easiest way, however.

"It was very unfortunate that conditions perhaps caused by the war were such that we were compelled to issue \$47,000.00 refunding bonds in 1919. These were to take up as we understand this amount of outstanding city warrants which had accumulated during the period the expenditures of the city were more than the amount appropriated or received from taxation with which to pay these expenses. Unfortunately this bond issue increased our taxes \$4,020.00 per year for the next eighteen years over what they would have been.

"The only way we can hope to eventually reduce our taxes is by paying out bonded indebtedness. The only way we can pay these bonds is to raise this money by taxation and by reducing our expenditures wherever possible. This means higher taxes for the next few years than we have had along this line. As we pay off these bonds our taxes will begin to come down and not before. All that we put off paying now will have to be paid later with interest added.

"Someone will say that future generations should pay a part of these bonds. Perhaps this is true in some cases and to some extent but we cannot expect them to pay it all. We should at least take care of the things we are using up and not expect our children to pay for them.

"The credit of our city is in first class shape and we should guard it and endeavor to keep it so by adopting now a definite policy based on sound principles, and then stick to our policy. We should plan for the future welfare of our citizens and not simply for those who are here today."

## ELKS TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE FOR CAMPFIRE GIRLS

### BENEFIT DANCE IS SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY EVENING

#### Entertainment for Everyone Promised by Committee in Charge of the Festivities

Friday evening of this week, Alliance lodge No. 961, B. P. O. E., will open its club house to the public—or such of the public which has kicked in with one simoleon for the Campfire Girls' benefit dance, and that includes several hundred Alliance citizens—and one of the biggest evenings imaginable has been planned.

There will be entertainment of half a dozen different kinds, calculated to appeal to every person who has not hold of a ticket. Originally the event was planned as a dance, but the sales of tickets was so brisk that the committee soon saw that other entertainments were needed, and it has been provided. The entire club house will be available the gymnasium, the buffet, the card room, the billiard room, the lounge and the dance floor. If there are more dancers than can be accommodated at one time, the music will continue a couple of hours later than usual in order to make up for it.

The committee hasn't announced all of the stunts that will be put on or pulled off, but they have made arrangements to make the affair a regular community party, and the Elks never fall down on this sort of a stunt. The Elks lodge a few weeks ago voted to sponsor the Campfire Girls, who have been working all winter, against rather discouraging odds, endeavoring to raise money to pay for a camping trip in the Black Hills this summer. The party Friday evening, for which the girls have been selling tickets, will raise a big share of the funds. Practically everybody connected with the entertainment has donated their services, and prospects are that the largest share of the money needed will be realized. If it isn't enough, the Elks will think up something else.

Ticket sales among the girls have been augmented by hanging up three cash prizes to go to the Campfire queens making the largest number of ticket sales. Several other organizations, the Knights of Columbus, the Lions club and the Boy Scouts, have taken blocks of tickets and are assisting in rounding up the dollars. It will be a big night, and everybody is urged to save it for the community party.

The Boy Scout band of Chadron has been engaged by the chamber of commerce to play in Alliance the three days of the race meet, June 15, 16 and 17. A large delegation is expected from Chadron. Committees have been at work making all arrangements for the meet, and prospects are fine for the most successful event of the kind in the history of the city's commercial organization.

## J. J. VANCE DIES SUDDENLY AFTER RESCUING CHILD

### ALLIANCE MAN SAVES THREE-YEAR-OLD FROM DROWNING

#### Death Believed to Have Resulted From Heat and Shock of Plunge Into Water

John J. Vance, sixty-four years of age, died suddenly about 4 o'clock Friday afternoon, death being due to cerebral hemorrhage. Mr. Vance was working on a cement sidewalk for George Eckhart at Sixth and Platte avenue Friday afternoon. A number of children were playing about an excavation which had been made for a basement on the lot adjoining. The recent rains had filled the excavation with water to a depth of about four feet. The three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Moxon fell into the water.

Mr. Vance rescued the child from the water and then went home and changed his clothing. He then hurried back to his work, as the cement was setting very rapidly owing to the heat of the afternoon sun. Shortly after returning to his work he was found dead, and it is believed the shock of the plunge into the water, together with the heat of the day, were the immediate causes that contributed to the bursting of the blood vessel in the brain that caused immediate death.

John Jackson Vance was aged 63 years 8 months and 24 days at the time of his death. He was married to Harriet Light at Wichita, Kas., September 6, 1888, and they made their home in Wymore, Neb., until twelve years ago, when they moved to Alliance, where they had since made their home. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Vance: Ray Vance, who died at eleven months and is buried in the Wymore cemetery; Lura Vance Rowe (Mrs. F. O. Rowe) of Alliance, and Jay H. Vance of this city. Mr. Vance was the third child of a family of seven children, and with the exception of his parents, who have already passed on, he is the first of this family to be called to go.

As a young man, Mr. Vance joined the Presbyterian church near his boyhood home in Iowa. After moving to Wymore, both Mr. and Mrs. Vance became members of the Methodist Episcopal church, where Mr. Vance was superintendent of the Sunday school for a number of years, as well as serving on the official board of the church. On moving to Alliance, Mr. Vance transferred his membership to the First Presbyterian church, and has served this church faithfully in a number of capacities and was a member in good standing at the time of his death.

A short service was held from the late residence at 503 1/2 Toluca at 9 o'clock Sunday morning, with Rev. A. J. Kearns in charge, after which the body was taken to Wymore for burial at sunset on Memorial day. Mrs. Vance, J. H. Vance, Mr. and Mrs. F. O. Rowe and family, and Mrs. Wiese accompanied the body on No. 44 Sunday morning. The pallbearers were Messrs. W. H. Barnes, W. E. Young, W. E. Spencer, J. S. Rhein, J. McNulty and T. J. Lunn.

## A Big Wrestling Program Arranged For the Race Meet

During the three days of the race meet, June 15, 16 and 17, Fred Mortensen has lined up a series of wrestling events that should prove a big drawing card. The headline comes the last night of the meet, when Joe Stecher has agreed to come to Alliance and take on the winner of the first of the series. On Wednesday, June 15, Pete Sauer and Wroblowsky will have their return match. Mortensen now has \$200 of Wroblowsky's money and the latter is said to be in good physical condition. There will be a boxing preliminary by good local talent.

The second night of the race meet, Thursday, June 16, there will be a match between Mortensen, 174, and Wray Zimmer of Kansas City, 171, who is known as the Kansas City Cyclone. Zimmer has been trying to frame up a match with Klund, and has been promised a go if he will throw Mortensen, so it will be a fast tussle. Five colored boys will stage a battle royal and there will be a good boxing preliminary in addition.

William Garrett drew a fine of \$25 and costs in county court before Judge Tash this morning, on a charge of selling a beef carcass without exhibiting the hide. Cal Simpson testified that he had purchased the beef and told Garrett to bring the hide for examination, but that he had failed to do so. Lee Lemke, meat cutter at Duncan's testified that he had purchased beefs of Garrett in the past and that on no occasion was the hide presented. Garrett pleaded ignorance of the law, and in assessing the fine, the court said that this defense, followed to its logical conclusion, would empty the jails. The appeal bond was set at \$100.

## 37 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES HEAR TALK BY REAVIS

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES RECEIVE THEIR DIPLOMAS

#### First District Congressman Presents the Ideal of Service for the Advancement of Race

Thirty-seven members of the graduating class of the Alliance high school, as well as six students of the commercial department, received their diplomas at the high school auditorium Friday evening. Congressman Charles F. Reavis of the First district came from Washington to deliver half a dozen commencement addresses, and Alliance was one of the cities favored by him. The auditorium was filled with parents and friends of the graduates. The following program was presented:

March, piano, Maude Spacht. Vocal solo, Mrs. C. E. Hershman. Invocation, Rev. Stephen J. Epler. Violin solo, J. P. Mann. Address, Congressman C. F. Reavis. Presentation of diplomas and announcement of scholarship honors, Superintendent W. R. Tate. Vocal solo, Janet Grassman. Benediction, Rev. M. C. Smith. The following students were awarded scholarship honors: Frances Grassman, Paul McCoy, Ruth Stanton, Lillie Simpson, Elsie Simpson.

Following is the list of students who received diplomas: High School Graduates. Acheson, Evangelin Miller, Tom Adams, Wanda McCoy, Paul Buechenstein, Carl Fate, Leonard Brown, Helen Reynolds, Dorothy Boon, Alice Robbey, Mabel Donovan, Ruth Robbins, Walter Ellis, Irma Schreiner, John Grassman, Frances Shanklin, Bernice Harris, Alice Stanton, Ruth Harris, Sterling Simpson, Lillie Heffner, Hulda Simpson, Elsie Howe, Marie Walker, Violette Hutchinson, Sybil Wilson, Elizabeth Hilton, Jennie Woods, Mary Irwin, Royal Williams, William Kibble, Clarence Wong, Ivan Lawrence, Glenna Young, Helen Lawrence, Robert Zobel, Thelma Commercial Department.

Garett, Clara Harris, Alice Garett, Mabel Trabant, Ethel Harmer, Marjorie Zobel, Thelma Congress man Reavis took for his subject "The Ideal of Service," and explained how this ideal on the part of the individual resulted in the advancement of the race. The lure of Nebraska, the speaker said, did not consist in the clearness of its atmosphere, the brilliance of its skies, the abundance of its herds and crops, but in its people. He told of a recent banquet in New York City, where he told the New Yorkers that the real fuel exchange was to be found where the miners were digging in the earth for coal, and that the real grain exchange in Nebraska, where men work in the fields from the first rays of dawn until the sun sinks behind the hills. New York City could not exist, he said, without the laborers in the mines and the farmers who planted and harvested the grain crops. Without them, the largest city in the country would have grass covered streets. The taxpayers of Nebraska, he said, make sacrifices in order that their children and the children of others may receive an education, in order to be equipped for citizenship.

The republic of the United States, the speaker said, is "God's youngest and best government—the hope of the world. A government such as ours cannot rise above the level of its electorate; hence the need for education of our youth." He declares that the men elected to office in any capacity were the servants of the men who elected them.

Mr. Reavis devoted considerable attention to the Smith-Towner bill, which has drawn considerable opposition from certain quarters. He said that in his opinion, such legislation was absolutely essential to the welfare of the country. The operation of the draft law in the world war, he declared, has opened his eyes. Out of the 2,400,000 men in the draft, nearly 800,000 could not read or write in any language. One out of every three men composing the national army was an illiterate. The purpose of the Smith-Towner bill is to stimulate education in the various states, and will tend especially to the complete assimilation and Americanization of the vast foreign-born element in the country's population.

Mr. Reavis stated that while there are more illiterates in the south than in the west, there is a greater percentage of foreign-born population in the west. In New York city alone, he said, there are a million and a half people who cannot read or write the English language, and are compelled to depend on publications in a foreign tongue for all their information. "America has their body, but the fatherland has their souls," was the way he expressed it. Under the Smith-Towner bill, taxpayers will pay for education, not of some other part of the country than their own, but for the whole country. The entire population is Americanized, and illiteracy eliminated, he declared.

## THE WEATHER

Showers tonight or Wednesday with somewhat warmer Wednesday in the northwest portion tonight.

## Odd Fellows Hold Memorial Services at Baptist Church

The Odd Fellows attended in a body the Baptist church services last Sunday, where the pastor, B. J. Minort, preached a very inspiring sermon on "Odd Fellows—Their Symbols and Their Significance."

The Encampment section with their military uniform, and the other section with their regalia, and the Rebekahs all in uniform lent a very dignified air to all the service.

They met at 7:30 at the hall and marched in a body to the church where half of the building was reserved for them which was promptly filled. A special song was sung by four men.

A short contest in singing was put on by the pastor through the Odd Fellows and the Rebekahs. It is the sense of those who were there that the men had a little the better of the ladies. This, however, is difficult to believe.

At 2 p. m. Monday, the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs met at 2 p. m. and proceeded to the cemetery, where the graves were decorated. These ceremonies were well attended by the members and the public.

## A LARGE CLASS TAKES FOURTH DEGREE IN K. C.

### Program Concludes With a Formal Banquet at Roof Garden Monday Evening

Ninety-nine candidates took the fourth degree of the Knights of Columbus in Alliance on Memorial day, the work being put on at the Elks home, which had been offered for the occasion, by a degree team comprising prominent Knights from York, Omaha, Lincoln and other cities in the state, headed by District Judge George F. Corcoran of York, supreme master for the fourth degree in Nebraska. A number of visiting knights from various points in Nebraska and other states were present.

The big class initiation closed with a formal banquet, and ball at the Lowry & Henry roof garden. Plates for 250 were laid. The garden was decorated with the national colors. The tables were set to form the initials "K. C." and were so arranged that every guest faced the speaker's table. An elaborate dinner was served, those serving wearing special aprons and caps decorated with K. C. emblems and the red, white and blue.

Hon. John Rush of Omaha, who was scheduled for an address on "Our Present Duty to the People of Ireland," was unable to be present. J. W. Guthrie acted as toastmaster. The following program was presented, after which the guests sang a number of songs. Dancing until after midnight concluded the entertainment.

The President of the United States, All Present. "Welcome to New Knights," Hon. George F. Corcoran, master of the Fourth Degree for Nebraska. Response, "Impressions of the Day," James L. McIntosh, Sidney, Neb. Vocal solo, "Sing On," Miss Josephine Simones, Sidney, Neb. "The Knights of Columbus Since the War," W. J. McGinley, supreme secretary of the K. of C., New Haven, Conn. Closing Remarks, Rt. Rev. James A. Duffy, bishop of Grand Island. "America." "The State We Love."

The construction committee in charge of erecting the new M. E. church, have sold the residence on the church site and the vacant lot at the corner of Seventh and Platte avenue to W. H. Turner and B. H. King, who have let the contract to Mr. Garrett, to move the house, which will be done immediately, thus clearing the site for the excavation of the basement of the church. They are asking for bids on the excavation, amounting to about 800 cubic yards of earth. The matter of plans and specifications, over which there was some disagreement, with the architect, has been settled, and the work will be pushed as rapidly as possible from now on until completed.

## EX-SOLDIERS HONOR MEMORY OF COMRADES

### MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED IN ALLIANCE SUNDAY

#### Services at Imperial and Cemeteries Held Under Auspices of American Legion

The veterans of three wars honored the memory of their fallen comrades Sunday afternoon by services at the Imperial theater and the two cemeteries. Members of the G. A. R., Spanish-American war veterans and American legion gathered at First and Box Butte at 1 p. m. and marched down Box Butte avenue to the Imperial theater, where the following program was given:

Invocation, Rev. Merle C. Smith. "America," by the audience. Reading of Memorial day proclamation by the commander of the American Legion, Dean J. J. Dixon, commander of Alliance post. Music, quartet. Address, District Judge George F. Corcoran of York. Music, quartet. "Star Spangled Banner," audience. Benediction, Rev. A. J. Kearns.

In a brief address, Judge Corcoran paid a tribute to the veterans of the three wars, giving special honor to the civil war veterans, of whom there were only a scant half dozen left. The men who served in the later wars, he said, had endured hardships, but these were as nothing compared with those who had undergone the rigors of war in the days when there was no hospital service and almost no organized means for caring for the comfort of the soldiery.

Mr. Corcoran called attention to the high aims and ideals of the United States in its various wars. The United States, he said, was the first true constitutional government. He spoke at some length on the constitution of the United States, and the heritage that the veterans of the various wars had preserved for the people.

The speaker told of the menace of bolshevism and predicted that the next great struggle would be from the enemies within the country. His remarks drew considerable applause from the audience. He urged that a campaign of education and Americanization be carried on, and that every effort be made to make true Americans out of the foreign-born element of our population. He endorsed the use of the American language for those living in America.

Following the program at the Imperial, the ex-soldiers marched to Tenth and Box Butte, where various citizens furnished cars to take them to the cemetery. Twelve memorial pine trees were planted with appropriate ceremonies. Rev. Stephen J. Epler being in charge of the services. The graves of the following soldiers were then decorated:

- Civil War Veterans buried in Greenwood Cemetery: Akers, W. R., Co. G., 7th Iowa Infantry. Applegate, H. W. Co. G., 3 Minnesota Infantry. Bauer, Frank, 11 Illinois Cavalry. Benedict, J. H., Co. H., 74 Indiana Infantry. Blair, D. G., Co. K., 169 Pennsylvania Infantry. Baumgardner, S. G., Co. B., 165 Pennsylvania Infantry. Barkhurst, J., Co. M., 2 Nebraska Cavalry. Crane, Alex., Co. C., 26 Indiana Infantry. Conklin, Abe., Co. B., 134 N. Y. Infantry. Dye, Nathan, Co. K., 175 Ohio Infantry. Douglas, D. G. Fenner, R. Co. H., 55 Illinois Infantry. Froeshia, A., 15 Ohio Artillery. Guttessell, R. D., Pennsylvania Artillery. Hoffland, Alex., Co. A., 43 Iowa Infantry. Hannan, John, Co. B., 15 Iowa Infantry. Hubble, W. H., Co. B., 9 Illinois Cavalry. Hill, Able, Co. K., 2 Nebraska Cavalry. Hagan, G. P., Co. F., 20 Ohio Infantry. Jesse, S., Co. D., 10 Iowa Infantry. Jennings, Col., California. Kinney, John, Co. B., 9 Kentucky Cavalry. Muntz, Peter, Co. F., 12 Illinois Cavalry. May, J. H., Co. B., 27 Iowa Infantry. McCutchen, S., Co. F., 11 Pennsylvania Cavalry. Mackey, L. J., Co. E., 116 Illinois Infantry. Martin, John, 39 Illinois Infantry. Martin, Frank, Co. F., 76 Illinois Infantry. Miller, H. H., Co. E., 11 Pennsylvania Infantry. Mumpher, W., Co. K., 55 Pennsylvania Infantry. Payne, A. F., Co. F., 9 Indiana Infantry. Ragan, G. W., Co. L., 19 Kentucky Infantry.

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