

The Alliance Herald

Official Paper of Box Butte County

TWICE A WEEK—TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

Official Paper of the City of Alliance

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(Ten Pages)

ALLIANCE, BOX BUTTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1921.

No. 96

RAILWAY STRIKE IS CALLED OFF BY "BIG FIVE"

UNION OFFICIALS ADOPT RESOLUTIONS THURSDAY NIGHT

Growing Public Opinion That Strike Would Be Against Government Declared Responsible.

The railroad strike, scheduled to hit the Burlington railroad on November 3, has been averted, according to press dispatches from Chicago published in late editions reaching Alliance about noon today. At the railroad offices in Alliance it was said no definite word had been received here to this effect, and local officials of the unions included in the strike call have not yet been notified.

According to news reports, which are regarded as authentic, leaders of the switchmen, trainmen, conductors, engineers and firemen, the "big five," at a joint meeting held in Chicago last night, adopted resolutions withdrawing authorization of a walkout, and officials of the railroad telegrapher's organization announced they would take similar action. These were the only unions which had authorized a strike. It had been expected that the other unions would join the "big five" in the walkout, but a few days ago it was announced that this would not be done. A meeting of the federated shop craft in Alliance was held Tuesday night, at which the workers were instructed, it was said, not to walk out, but they were also urged not to perform work of the striking men in the event the strike took place.

The official wording of the resolution calling off the strike was that it "be declared not effective." Reports were that the firemen's executives had opposed adoption of the resolution, but the vote calling off the strike was unanimous by organizations.

Vote Unusually Close.

The vote in the individual unions was said to be close. In some of the groups the ballot was described as "the closest in history on a similar question." All of the differences were ironed out by the different unions and the final showdown found them casting their ballots in favor of industrial peace.

The union leaders are quoted as saying that the strike "absolutely is off," and that a walkout cannot now be called until a new vote has taken place.

The code messages calling off the strike, arranged in advance, will be sent out today, the union heads said. A code word will be sent to each general chairman of the unions, and he will in turn, forward orders to each of the officials under him.

The resolution adopted by the labor board announcing that no further wage reduction petitions for any one group of employes would be considered until rules and working conditions for that group had been settled was "decidedly instrumental" in bringing about the action calling off the walkout. They declared that they believed under this resolution that it would be months before their pay again could be reduced.

Public Opinion Responsible

In discussing the resolution annulling the strike orders, union presidents declared that it was based on statements made to the unions that wage reductions would not be considered by the board for any employes until the rules and working conditions for those employes had been settled. This argument was the turning point in the discussion.

L. E. Sheppard, president of the Order of Railway Conductors, said that the unions had decided to call off the strike because of "the growing public opinion that the strike would be against the labor board, and consequently the government, and not against the railroad. It was evident also that the entire Washington administration was opposed to us and that we had little chance of gaining our objectives. We called this strike to gain certain rights to which our men were entitled," Mr. Sheppard said.

"It soon became evident, however, that the roads were succeeding in their misleading propaganda to the effect that we really would be striking against the government.

"This propaganda found its way to the United States railroad labor board. This governmental agency told us that it would look on a strike as against it and the government and not against the roads, and that the full force of the government would be brought to bear against us if we walked out. Under the circumstances there was nothing to do but annul our orders for the October 30 walkout."

Allie Farrar will take charge of the Mutual Oil company's station in Alliance today, relieving R. J. Witschy who will go back on the road on special work for the company. Mr. Farrar has been in the oil game for several years, and was a former resident of Alliance about four years ago, at which time he married Miss Vera E. Rodgers. He expects to move his family to Alliance in the near future.

Walter Perry of Crawford, former proprietor of the Van Graven studio, was in Alliance on business Tuesday.

ALLIANCE WINS!

(Scottsbluff Republican)

As a matter of fact the merchants of Scottsbluff have been led to believe that other things advertised the towns and brought people here that would do them as much good as newspaper advertising, and they perhaps have charged up to advertising this year many times what they ever paid for newspaper advertising in any one year.

The merchants of rival places have taken advantage of the lack of advertising on the part of the merchants here, and at Alliance, Sidney and Bridgeport are engaged in a larger campaign of newspaper advertising until the newspapers are full to overflowing with good wholesome advertising, and the volume of business that they have been doing is ample payment for the money spent during the trying time just passing.

The volume of business of a town is reflected through the columns of its press, and it is to the press the public looks for information as to the best place to trade, and when the public fail to see what they are looking for, they soon hear or see something in the papers of other places which attract their attention, and it is not long before they are trading at the place where goods are advertised. It may not be noticeable in any time, but sooner or later the town that has live advertisers is soon doing the business that naturally belongs to the town that depends upon its natural resources for business.

BROADWATER MEN ARE GRADING THE ALLIANCE ROAD

FEEL SURE OF SUPPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEN HERE.

Say That When Completed It Will Be the Only Outlet Used to Reach the Lincoln Highway.

Good progress is being made on the grading of the Broadwater-Alliance road, which has been going on for several weeks past. The Morrill county commissioner residing in the Broadwater district has furnished a considerable amount of grading machinery, and there has been much volunteer work, as well as contributions of gasoline for the tractor. A number of Alliance business men have contributed toward the fund to build the road, according to the Broadwater News, which takes this as an indication that Alliance realizes the G-P-C highway is the best.

In the settlement of the road squabble in Morrill county, it was agreed that two roads should be built, one following the North Star route from Bridgeport to Alliance, which was designated as the first to receive state aid, and the other the Broadwater-Alliance route on the G-P-C highway, which was designated as No. 2. Both roads will undoubtedly be built, and in time both will receive state funds for maintenance, and both of them should be valuable routes for Alliance.

A few Alliance men have been strongly in favor of the Broadwater road all the time, and desiring its completion before any other road, but at the various road meetings it was found that the sentiment was pretty well divided and that there were fully as many, if not more, who favored the Bridgeport route.

However, the News' story of progress shows that the Broadwater people believe that Alliance is really in favor of that road above all others. The News says:

"Since the big grader has been grading on the G-P-C highway between Broadwater and Alliance the Alliance business faction have come to the conclusion that this road will eventually be the real north and south highway, and the Broadwater chamber of commerce received the very good news this week that their chamber of commerce were putting on a drive for funds to help the road along. Alliance has always leaned toward this road more than any other north and south road and tourists are beginning to realize that this will be in the future the only north and south outlet to the Lincoln highway in this section.

"The grader has been doing good work up through the meadows and the low places, which are impassable in the wet season, are being graded deep. A good part of it grade can be traveled on at the present time and it has not even been surfaced. The grade through the sand cannot be traveled, but since the rain, would be the proper time to get it surfaced and a passage way thereon, which will no doubt be done immediately, if the weather permits. All the ranchers up north claim the work is alright, and that they will soon have a road through their section as good as the most of them, and probably better. Of course, at the present time the journey from Alliance to Broadwater is rather rough because traffic must travel the meadow along considerable of the grade, as is the case on any freshly graded highway."

Wanted: Home for orphan child. Address 386, Hemingford, Neb. 95-96

GIVES POSITION OF RAILROADS IN THE STRIKE

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT SMART TALKS TO ROTARIANS.

Not a Strike Against Railroads But Labor Board—Strike Ballot Taken on the Wage Question.

General Superintendent A. G. Smart of the Burlington, with headquarters at Alliance, and Superintendent of Motive Power Roop of Chicago were guests of Division Superintendent Fred G. Gurley at the Wednesday evening dinner of the Alliance Rotary club. Following the dinner, the visitors were asked to give their views concerning the strike situation.

Mr. Roop made a brief talk, in which he said that he was in Alliance to attend a conference of rail officials, to determine what steps should be taken in the event the strike actually took place. He gave the impression that he was not actually looking for a walkout, but that preparations were being made to meet it if it should come. Mr. Roop said a number of pleasant things of Alliance, and spoke with especial emphasis of the good water supply here. He had never been able to find drinking water that he liked any better.

Mr. Smart gave a most interesting summary of the strike situation from the standpoint of the railroads. He began by correcting the chairman, who had referred to the strike as one "against the railroads." He made it plain that in his opinion, the strike was not against the railroads, but against the federal labor board, a government agency, and with authority of the federal government behind it. He had been given to understand that other speakers in the past have told the club that the strike was not directed primarily against a decrease in wages, and pointed out that the strike ballot itself mentioned only the wage cut authorized by the labor board on July 1, last, which reduced wages of the employes approximately 12½ per cent. Mr. Smart declared that working rules and other matters did not enter into the strike vote.

The speaker drew a picture of the conditions under which railroads must operate by asking the business men present what they would do, in their business, if one government agency told them what price they must pay for their goods, and a totally different agency told them the price at which the goods must be sold. The railroads are in this position, he declared, with one government board telling them the wages they must pay, and the interstate commerce commission fixing freight and passenger rates.

Mr. Smart told the Rotarians that there was but one source of revenue for the railroads—the public. The railway employes represent but 2 per cent of the workers of the country. They have received increases in wages during the past ten years much greater than the workmen in any other line of industry. Other businesses are getting back to earth, he said, and the railroads must do the same. In order to accomplish this, there must be cuts in wages as well as in other places. Freight rates and passenger rates cannot be materially reduced until the labor cost comes down. If not, he declared, the bill must be paid by every man who pays freight bills or uses the passenger service.

Mr. Hemingway, of the general offices of the Forest Lumber company, who was present as a guest of W. M. Bevington, made a brief talk. He mentioned Mr. Roop's reference to Alliance's splendid water supply, and repeated a toast to "Water—how good it would taste if it were only illegal to drink it." The speaker was well acquainted with conditions in Alliance and gave an entertaining talk.

Ellsworth Ex-Soldier In Vocational Training at the City Light Plant

Marvin Ellsbery of Ellsworth, discharged from the U. S. Navy some six months ago, is now on government compensation and is receiving vocational training at government expense. He has been assigned duties at the Alliance city electric light plant which occupation is to be a school, teaching him the electrical business. During his training he will be under government salary and expense indefinitely. He's staying in Alliance at 601 Cheyenne avenue.

Louis A. Lyons Is Sought by Public Health Service

The local Red Cross secretary has received word from the Ninth district veterans' bureau that it is unable to locate Louis A. Lyons. The United States public health service is very desirous of getting in touch with him, and any Alliance person who knows his address is requested to forward it to The Herald office. My Lyons gave his address as Alliance when entering the service.

CITY MANAGER TALKS TO THE ALLIANCE LIONS

FINANCING OF THE CITY IS THE CHIEF PROBLEM.

Mr. Kemmish Has Plans to Bring Buildings From Antioch for City's Tourist Camp.

City Manager N. A. Kemmish spoke to the Alliance Lions at their luncheon Thursday noon, giving the cubs a good insight into the difficulties of his position, as well as explaining some of the things he hoped to be able to accomplish for Alliance. He also reviewed some accomplishments of the new city administration.

Co-operation, Mr. Kemmish said, is the keynote in Alliance today, and it is getting results. There's no big "I" or little "it" these days. All of us are on the same plane and all of us are working for Alliance. The Lions club and the Rotary club are looking out for the best interests of the city; the two newspapers are co-operating and boosting for anything that will be of benefit to the community. With this sort of co-operation, Mr. Kemmish said, the city can progress.

The city manager told of co-operation in law enforcement matters. The city and county police authorities are working together on every important case. There has been no friction of any kind. As a result, Alliance along with the rest of Box Butte county is getting cleaned up. There are fewer violations of law. It has been found possible to reduce expenses \$100 a month in the department by cutting off the salary of the police judge. The work is such that it doesn't require all of one man's time.

Expenses have also been reduced in the fire department to an even greater extent, \$150 a month having been lopped off the payroll. There was some danger, for a time, that changes in the fire department would bring about an increase of insurance rates, but with the co-operation of the insurance agents of the city, exactly the opposite is taking place. Alliance is now being re-rated and when the new figures are reported, it is almost certain that there will be a reduction. Mr. Kemmish expressed his thanks to the insurance men present for their support.

Easy on Expenses.

City Manager Kemmish announced that the policy of the city was to go easy on expenses until conditions were such that an increase was justified. In making the levy for this year, the council had placed it as low as possible, and in practically every department the figures had been lowered. A sinking fund was provided to meet the city's bonded indebtedness. With about half of the fiscal year gone, the city is lower than our estimate of expense in almost every department.

Financing the city is some problem these days, Mr. Kemmish said. In order to keep the city's credit good, it is necessary to meet interest payments and assessments when due. By November 29, there must come from Alliance taxpayers \$22,000, which is one-tenth of the paving assessment and some \$9,000 in interest. There is really more than this amount due, but this money must come in in order to pay principal and interest to the holders of the city's bonds. Next July there is another \$5,000 interest payment. Mr. Kemmish said some complimentary things of the Alliance banks, which, he said, had stood by the city whenever support was needed, thus showing not only what the banks think of the city, but that the banks are friendly and accommodating.

In reply to questions from the Lions, Mr. Kemmish said that the city park board was waiting until times get better and money a little more plentiful before going ahead with planned improvements. Among the plans for the future, the city manager said, is the bringing of a number of buildings from the potash plants and fix them up for the convenience of the tourists.

Re-elect Directors.

Frank Abegg and John W. Guthrie were re-elected as directors by an unanimous vote of the members. Penrose E. Romig, a new member, was introduced and made a short initiatory talk.

The matter of assisting the Salvation army was brought to the attention of the club by Cub Rhein, and the members voted \$35 toward the \$400 quota for the county.

NEW FIXTURES FOR THE W. R. HARPER STORE

The W. R. Harper department store has installed a set of new mahogany fixtures in the ladies' ready to wear and millinery sections. The fixtures are of the same design as those in the Marshall Field store in Chicago, and include two hat cabinets, ready to wear cabinets, dressing tables, glass alcoves and display tables. The installation of these fixtures adds greatly to the appearance of the store. The public is invited to inspect them Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Caha of Hemingford were in Alliance today on business.

THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nebraska: Generally fair tonight and Saturday, except possibly rain the extreme east portion tonight. Slightly colder east and central portions tonight.

Report on Autopsy Will Not Be Made Public Till Mrs. Brost Returns

County Attorney Basye has received a report of findings from the four physicians who performed the autopsy on the body of Adolph Brost last Monday, following his death Saturday on the operating table during the performing of an operation for removal of tonsils by Drs. Hand and Baskin. The report will not be made public, Mr. Basye says, until Mrs. Brost returns from Peoria, Ill., where she took the remains of her husband.

Herman Krause Gets a Fractured Ankle When Horse Threw Him

Herman Krause suffered a fractured right ankle Wednesday afternoon about 4:30 when he was thrown from an unruly horse. While the fracture is not serious, it will probably be two months before Mr. Krause will be able to use his foot, according to Dr. Weyrens who attended him.

MAY STAGE A ROLL CALL FOR THE RED CROSS

COMMITTEE TO MEET SATURDAY OF THIS WEEK.

Will Decide on the Activities for the Coming Year—Soldier Relief Has Been Chief Concern.

Thomas N. Temple of Chicago, representing the division headquarters of the American Red Cross, will be in Alliance Saturday of this week, and will address the executive committee of the local Red Cross organization. It is expected that plans will be made at this meeting for the annual Red Cross roll call, which this year will take place from Armistice day, November 11, to Thanksgiving day.

The Red Cross for Box Butte and Sheridan county the past year has chiefly concerned itself with caring for ex-soldiers and assisting them in pushing their claims against the government. The local organization in May, when the claims pending had shrunk to only a few cases, closed the offices in the court house, and the executive secretary has since been attending only to urgent cases.

The federal clean-up squad, composed of officials from the various governmental agencies for the relief of ex-soldiers visited Alliance in August, and some seventy-two claims were filed. A number of these were new claims. The Red Cross has been the principal agency for following up on these claims, and the visit of the clean-up squad brought a new responsibility for the local Red Cross organization. There are still some funds on hand, from last year's roll call, and at the meeting Saturday, the committee will decide whether a campaign for funds will be staged this year.

The Red Cross has a big peace time program, but only a small portion of this has been inaugurated in Box Butte county. Should the committee decide to make a campaign for funds, it is probable that a definite program for other activities will be planned for this Red Cross district, which includes Box Butte county and the south half of Sheridan county. Red Cross funds the past year have been devoted almost wholly to caring for ex-soldiers, although there has been some additional civilian relief. The local organization has cared for two Alliance families almost the entire year, where sickness prevented the head of the family from working, and a compensation claim could not be pushed through to a successful conclusion. There are numerous other instances of financial relief to soldiers and their families.

Hirst Grocery Is Sold to Virgil Lehr and W. O. Packard

Virgil Lehr and W. O. Packard is the new owners of the H. Hirst store, arrangements for the sale having been completed Friday of last week. Mr. Lehr and Mr. Packard have had wide experience in the grocery business. Both being employed at present as salesmen for the H. P. Lau company of Lincoln. The new owners will take possession of the store on November 7, and it is understood that Mr. Lehr will take over the active management, while Mr. Packard will continue as salesman with the Lau company.

Mr. Hirst expects to find a new location in Colorado or Idaho, and will probably leave Alliance about the first of the year.

COMMITTEE IS APPOINTED TO WORK ON BOARD

LIONS CLUB IS INVESTIGATING THE SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Will Discuss Advisability of Going Ahead With Buildings Under Present Conditions.

At the Thursday noon luncheon of the Lions club, held at the Palm Room of the Alliance hotel, following a discussion by the members concerning the recent action of the Alliance school board in calling for bids for \$200,000 of a \$250,000 bond issue, with a view to proceeding with construction in the spring, a committee consisting of True Miller, J. S. Rhein and C. L. Reynolds was appointed. This committee will confer with the school board as to the advisability of going ahead with any building program at this time, as well as the matter of the sale of bonds.

The sentiment was made plain that the club members had no thought of dictating to the school board, or of conducting their business for them, but that in view of the effect of this huge bond issue on taxes in Alliance, it was but right that the school board should know something of public opinion. The statement was made that if a vote were to be taken at this time, over 90 per cent of the taxpayers would be found opposed to going ahead with a building program so long as it can be avoided. The intent is to discover whether the building program can be delayed without material damage to the school system.

Using the City Hall.

There is not now room for the pupils in the school buildings, but the city has given the school board the use of the entire upper story of the city hall, which has been fitted up for the fourth grade of both Central and Emerson schools. The rooms are light and airy, the heat is excellent, and the playground is one of the best in the city. The city has no objection to the school board using these rooms indefinitely, and it is hoped that this will take care of the overflow from other school buildings until such time as business conditions and taxes get back to normal.

There is already an indicated decrease in the freight rates on building material, and it is believed that further decreases will come. The labor supply is plentiful enough, but wages are still at a fairly high level. The belief of the average man seems to be that the building program can be delayed for another year, at least, that the bonds voted will be ample to take care of all the added facilities that are deemed to be necessary, and that it will hold up taxes on an already overburdened public. Of course, if the committee is satisfied that the conditions are such that additional buildings are imperative, there is no disposition to fight the building program simply to keep down taxes, but the hope is expressed in a good many quarters that the delay can take place without any more damage than a little inconvenience.

Some Past History

At the time the bonds were voted in May, 1920, the schools were said to be in a badly crowded condition, but it was found that the bond issue would not come anywhere near providing the facilities it was intended to provide, and the board voluntarily decided that their duty to the men who paid the taxes was to delay building. In May of this year, when the matter was again brought up, it was found that public sentiment was against building at the time, although a star chamber session of a few picked "representative" business men were favorable to proceeding. When it was discovered that taxes would be increased \$15,000 a year in interest alone, and that the tax burden was apt to be a back-breaker anyway, the board again decided to delay action.

Recently the board announced that it would accept bids up to November 7 on \$200,000 of the bonds, presumably preparatory to beginning building operations in the spring. The interest on this amount of money will run up to \$1,000 a month, and the Lions who discussed the plan were unanimously of the opinion that there was no reason why the board should begin paying interest until it is actually ready to build.

The demand for tax-free securities, according to men who are acquainted with market conditions, is steadily improving, and there is reason to believe that by spring, when the income tax payments are beginning to be felt, it should be possible to sell these bonds above par. The board has already received an offer of 98.

TRAFFIC DELAYED BY DRAWBAR PULLING OUT

Traffic was delayed Thursday for a short time when a drawbar was pulled out in the first section of east-bound freight No. 48, about three miles east of the city.

BIRTHS

To Mr. and Mrs. Albert Acker, Thursday, October 27, twin girls.
To Mr. and Mrs. Frank Abegg, Thursday, October 27, a boy.