

The Alliance Herald

Official Paper of Box Butte County

TWICE A WEEK—TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

Official Paper of the City of Alliance

VOLUME XXIX

(Twelve Pages)

ALLIANCE, BOX BUTTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1921.

No. 5

POTASH INDUSTRY NOW THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION

AGREEMENT WITH GERMAN REFINERIES THE CAUSE.

American Corporations Have Agreed to Give the Preference to German Product.

The potash industry of western Nebraska, which during the war came to be one of the most important products of the state, is now threatened with extinction. The plants at Antioch, Lakeside and Hoffland have been doing little or nothing the past year, but the men behind the industry have had hopes that congress would come to the rescue with adequate tariff protection to enable the plants to run again, high as during the big days of the industry. The Omaha Bee yesterday discussed the situation editorially as follows:

The potash industry arose in the United States in 1914, after the war had cut off imports from Germany, even though the prices were not so high as they are now. It was in the sandhills, leaping into first rank as the producer of this fertilizer material. By 1917 the district about Alliance was supplying 45 per cent of the potash produced in the United States. From the brine of these Nebraska ponds 61,053 tons of crude potash were secured in that year.

Now, with prices lowered, and Germany with its immense beds of potash salts, estimated sufficient to supply the world for 2,000 years at the present rate of consumption, the Nebraska potash industry is at a standstill. Costs of labor, supplies and fuel are greater here than in Germany, and it is probable that it costs more to move the product from Nebraska to the west coast than from Germany.

At all events, the American potash industry which boomed so a few years ago is now threatened with extinction. Some of the disadvantages factors in the cost of production might be improved by new chemical processes or otherwise, but according to the charge of a great chemist, not even this could assure recovery of the lost market. Commercial agreements made between German producers and the American distributing companies, he declares, eliminate every possibility of competition with what will become a German monopoly. Under this agreement the American corporations handling fertilizer agree to give the preference to German potash, even when the German quotation is undercut by American producers, the Germans will be given the opportunity of meeting it. If this arrangement is allowed to stand, it can not be expected that the potash beds of America will be put to any use.

This perhaps is good business on the part of the two interests concerned. The German potash companies are not to be blamed for striving to recover and extend their market, but it is not a pretty thing to see American business men ignoring national considerations and denying so little as an even opportunity to the American potash companies.

A Dodge Touring Car Disappeared On Friday Night

J. F. Spatman, living about three miles east of Alliance on the Potash highway, had his new Dodge touring car stolen last Friday night. It was in the garage Friday night but turned up missing Saturday morning. Harold Watkins, former employee of Mr. Spatman's was seen about 12 o'clock Friday night at the Dowsy & Harlow garage in this city, driving the Spatman car. He bought some gasoline and had it charged to Spatman. Chief of Police Jeffers was at the garage at the time but thought nothing of the matter as Watkins had been working for Spatman until about a week ago. Watkins was accompanied by a man by the name of Thomas.

Sheriff Miller went to Antioch Sunday to investigate a rumor that the thieves had been seen there, and found that they had been there Saturday but left after buying some cigars. So far nothing has been learned regarding their whereabouts.

The Fashion Shop Announces Special Price Reductions

The Fashion Shop in this issue makes announcement of some remarkable price reductions on their entire stock of ladies' suits, coats, dresses, furs, skirts, blouses, sweaters and hawls. An unrestricted choice of their complete line will be placed on sale Wednesday at a fifty per cent reduction in price. This price reduction comes just in time for Christmas purchasers to get the greatest benefit. There are also some special inducements to purchasers in other lines handled by this establishment.

THE WEATHER

Forecast for Alliance: Fair tonight, and Wednesday somewhat colder Wednesday and tonight.

Fire Boys Go to Gering Tonight to Return a Visit

Five or six automobile loads of members of the Alliance volunteer fire department left this afternoon for Gering, where they will pay a social call upon the fire department of that place. The Gering bunch came to Alliance a week or two ago, bringing with them their home talent play, "The Midnight Belles of Gering," which proved a decided success. Following the play, the Gering men and women were entertained at the armory and later with a feed at the Palm Room. They enjoyed their trip here so much that the Alliance men have been invited to pay a visit to Gering and partake of their brand of hospitality, which has the reputation of being one of the finest in western Nebraska.

Another reason for the visit is that the two fire departments expect to get together in the matter of sending delegates to the state firemen's convention, which meets at Norfolk January 17, 18 and 19. The Alliance department, at a recent meeting, selected five delegates, Fire Chief "Bud" Schaefer, Dr. G. J. Hand, Carl Anderson, Charles Safford and Henry Blume. Usually, a number of other firemen attend the state meeting from Alliance.

TRAVELER HAS VISION OF OIL WELL IN ACTION

IMAGINES HE SEES GUSHER AT LAKESIDE.

Thought Steam was Petroleum and Couldn't Give Out the News Fast Enough.

A traveler on No. 43 Sunday afternoon gazed from the car windows. As the train passed the Lakeside oil derrick, he happened to look in that direction, and saw oil gushing over the top of the derrick. At least he thought that he saw oil. He was sure of it. Actually, it was either steam or some sections of casing that he saw. Maybe the car windows were smoky and the white steam looked as black as crude petroleum. Maybe the visionary traveler carried homemade hooch on his hip, but this is doubtful.

Arriving at Alliance, the traveler told the news of the oil gusher. Had it been any other day but Sunday, there might have been a rush to the oil well. As it was, he told groups of loungers at the station and anyone else who would listen to him, and then took the next train out. His story couldn't be shaken—he had seen the oil pouring over the top of the derrick and falling to the ground in a fine spray. It looked just like the pictures in the current events section of the movies.

But there were one or two sober heads among those who heard the news. Some of these remembered that the Lakeside well had ceased drilling last week, about the time that the derrick began using the standard tools, and that it will be idle for the next thirty days, during which time the derrick will be rebuilt. It is now a trifle too high, and the plans are to lower it about thirty feet, which will materially strengthen the structure. This ended the gusher yarn.

From other places come letters from men who have come upon this traveler. W. M. Bevington of the Forest Lumber company has a letter from one of the company inspectors, who met the man-who-saw-a-gusher at Scottsbluff, and hastened to write a cheery note to Bill. Traveling men come here in fear and trembling, not knowing whether the oil rush was on and on or a premium.

Drummer Boy of the Rappahannock at Baptist Church

Major Henry Hendershott, who at the age of eleven years enlisted in the union army as drummer boy, is here to give an entertainment with his son at the Baptist church tonight. He will use the snare drum given him by Horace Greeley and the drum sticks given him by Presidents Author and Garfield. He has the distinction of being highly commended for bravery and will go down in history as the subject of that poem written in his honor, "The Drummer of Rappahannock," of civil war fame.

Major Hendershott has been on the road as an entertainer for over twenty-five years. He has been decorated by several national figures and distinctions. He and his son are brought here through the effort of the B. Y. of U. of the Baptist church.

Grand Army members will be guests of honor and will be admitted free.

Why Shop Early?

It is a fair question. Any one can find—does find, every day in the month and almost every hour in the day—pressing reasons for deferring Christmas shopping until it shall be more convenient in point of time or money. Why not, then, demand real, substantial reasons for the annual urge "Shop Early" which, at this time of the month, is due for paraphrasing into the older American adoration, "Do it now," supplemented with—Do it early in the day.

The many business interests which, within the past few years, have done their utmost to impress the public with the wisdom of early Christmas shopping, have reviewed in detail the advantages accruing to the shoppers as well as to the employees of the stores. But we are strong for sentiment in the United States, and the people at large, with the national instinct dominant, have seen the tired sales girl as the only figure in the picture.

Well, it's all there, and it's all true. The sales girl does get very tired. She does need every bit of help the public can give in averting the crushing congestion of trade that commonly develops during and just prior to Christmas week.

But the public's burdens and handicaps, which arise from its tendency to neglect its own welfare, come nearer home and are well worthy of sober consideration—even of sentiment.

Selections Are Better.

The stores, as a rule, do everything within their power to present, well in advance of the holidays, the widest variety of holiday merchandise. It is a service to the public that costs real money in addition to much thought and care. Early investment of capital, requisite for early display of goods, represents a direct expense and one felt in ways beyond mere loss of interest on the funds employed. There is also an obvious encroachment of holiday merchandise on the advertising and store display space, on the time of the working forces, on the whole conduct of the business, at the expense of other merchandise that is usually regarded as more seasonable for Fall and early Winter than for the actual Christmas tide. The public is afforded every possible opportunity to enjoy, in a distinctively holiday purchase, the broadest range of selection and the best possible service.

In Spring and again in Fall, people always know what they need. If, at the opening of the two seasons, they don't know, they make all haste to find out. They do real shopping then. They give ample time and close observation to the obvious duty of getting precisely what they want at such prices as they feel they can afford.

Hurried Purchases Unsatisfactory.

Yet in the matter of Christmas shopping, although such has been accomplished in the way of popular education, millions remain who let it go until the last few days forfeit all the

costly and carefully planned opportunities for judicious choice; and spend money for hurried purchases which have been neither well weighed nor well selected.

If we, as a people, are prone to be moved by sentiment, we are also peculiarly alive to the significance of figures. Suppose we supplement the sympathy we feel for the sales girl, whom we so callously overlook, with some figures that come mighty near home to ourselves:

The yearly volume of sales in the department stores, specialty shops and dry goods stores of the United States is \$7,000,000,000. Of that immense sum 14 per cent, or about \$1,000,000,000 is laid out in the month of December—very close to \$50 for every family in the United States. Any grown person can approximate, in the instance of his or her own family, what percentage goes for "Christmas presents." If no more than one-half—\$25 per family, \$500,000,000 in the aggregate—is so spent, it equals the sum laid out in any one of several months of the year for what are considered common necessities. Yet every other half billion out of the seven billions is expended with the utmost forethought and care in selection. Then why not this half billion for our Christmas gifts?

Spend to Best Advantage.

Why not, then, shop early, systematically, carefully, for one's own satisfaction and, what is more important in shopping of this kind, for the real satisfaction of our kin and our friends? Why not spend our \$500,000,000—if that is a fair estimate—to our own very best advantage, instead of delaying, guessing and, in the end, taking the leavings of the thousands who have already had their pick of the best?

For there are thousands of early shoppers now, many thousands, who shop not only early in the pre-Christmas season but early in the day. They are the shrewd shoppers who have observed that stocks are always comest, well ordered, freshest in the forenoon, and that the sales girl is then at her best and brightest for their service.

Their numbers are not now restricted to our own country. The Shop Early movement has extended to Canada, England, Scotland and even to New Zealand. The substantial reasons, backing up the desire—which is so amply justified—to relieve retail sales forces of needless overwork, have given it international scope.

It may be because the pounds, shillings and pence are scarcer there than the dollar is here. But there are a good many millions of us in the United States, these days, who have reason enough to make a dollar go as far as it can. And half a billion of them are surely worthy of careful expenditure and early, selective shopping. To "Do Your Christmas Shopping Early" is true wisdom.

Police Holding John Schrader for Investigation

The Alliance police are still holding John Schrader, arrested Thursday last week when he decided to wash his clothing in a bunk house in little Mexico against the wishes of the occupants. John's appearance was against him. In addition to the fact that he carried a wicked looking shotgun, John's head was closely shaven, after the fashion in vogue at certain state institutions.

The officers were so little impressed with their visitors that his fingerprints were taken and sent to the state bureau of identification. The police say that Schrader has admitted that he served two penitentiary terms, one of three years in Nebraska and a ten-year hitch in the Colorado pen. Both sentences were for theft, Schrader says. It is thought he may be wanted by some road camp.

New Officers Are Elected for the Alliance Elks

At the Friday evening meeting of Alliance lodge No. 961, B. P. O. Elks, a special election of officers was held, necessitated by the resignation of Exalted Ruler F. P. Condit, who was transferred by the Burlington to Chicago some weeks ago.

Earl L. Meyer was elected exalted ruler; Elliott Strand esteemed leading knight; and Edwin M. Burr esteemed loyal knight. Appointment of esquire and inner guard, are to be made, and the office of esteemed lecturing knight is as yet unfilled.

The Elks voted to send Exalted Ruler Meyer to Lincoln Sunday to attend a meeting of exalted rulers and secretaries to be held there.

J. L. Nicholai of Denver, at one time a well known garage man of Alliance, is back in the city visiting friends, who say that he is planning to start an automobile repair establishment here if suitable arrangements can be made.

Commissioners Decide Not to Present Petition

The three Box Butte county commissioners, who attended the convention of county officers at Omaha last week, took with them the huge petition, signed by between two and three thousand Box Butte county citizens, asking that the so-called Hashman road be approved for state aid. The commissioners stopped in at the Lincoln headquarters of State Engineer Johnson, but decided not to present the petition.

"We discovered," said one of the board, "that petitions have very little weight with the state engineer's office, and after discussing road problems with commissioners from other counties, decided that the state engineer's office would do about as it pleased. Of course, no road can be approved without their sanction, nor without ours, for that matter, but we are the losers where there is any deadlock. So far as we are concerned, we will do our best to get the roads desired by the taxpayers, but if the state board decides to fight us, we'll do the best we can, that's all. We'll probably be blamed for it, but our hands are tied."

Another member of the board tells an interesting story of a Cherry county commissioner, who explained how his county was forced to spend over \$400,000 for a twenty-four-mile stretch of road, the original contract price of which was \$200,000. This man had to fight a good many objections before he was allowed to tell his story, and even then the state press put a soft pedal on the incident.

MEXICANS GET AWAY WITH SILK AT HEMINGFORD

WORK AN OLD SCHEME AT THE LOCKWOOD STORE

One Engages Attention of Clerk While Two Others Help Themselves to the Merchandise

Three Mexicans worked an old game at the Lockwood store in Hemingford early Monday morning, and got away with several bolts of silk, valued at about \$300. The three of them entered the store about 9 a. m., at a time when there was only one clerk on duty. One of them purchased some cold meats and other materials for a lunch, and while the clerk's attention was held, the two others helped themselves to merchandise, principally silks. Several bolts were discovered missing but not until some time later.

Marshall S. A. Grime of Hemingford arrived late in the afternoon, and with Sheriff Miller made a search of the bunk cars of little Mexico seeking the stolen silk. A thorough search of the cars was made, and a number of Mexicans examined, but the search was without results.

Later in the evening word was received from Crawford that some Mexicans had been apprehended, their description tallying with the Hemingford thieves. Marshall Grimes left for Crawford to identify the stuff and bring back the prisoners.

The same stunt has been worked at two or three Alliance stores, and in most of the cases has proved a quite effective method of shoplifting.

Three Mexicans were brought back from Crawford this morning. They gave the names of Carlos Rodriguez, Jose A. Montes and Enrique M. Fovar, and told the officers they had been working in Gering and Scottsbluff. The trio denied they had ever been in Hemingford, as well as any knowledge of the robbery. None of the stolen stuff was recovered. The men were cross-examined on arrival by County Attorney Basye, and are being held for further investigation.

Osborne to Meet County Assessors At Alliance Soon

W. H. Osborne, state tax commissioner, has announced that he will call a meeting of county assessors in this part of western Nebraska for Alliance about January 10, at which time he will be present and give them instructions in regard to their duties. There have been so many changes in the laws and regulations governing assessments, that this method has been adopted to insure uniformity.

Revard for Arrest of Vandals Damaging the Cemetery Chape

All but one of the window lights at the cemetery chapel have been demolished by vandals. City Manager Kemmish expressed himself as willing to pay a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons guilty of the damage.

SPRINGS ALIBI FOR BRIDGEPORT ROAD BOOSTERS

DENIES THERE HAS BEEN ANY CHANGE OF FRONT.

Bridgeport Newspaper Says Season North Star Doesn't Follow Track Due to Prohibitive Cost.

The News-Blade of Bridgeport, stung by some plain speaking on the part of The Herald, has come to a defense of the actions of the Bridgeport road boosters and Morrill county commissioners in an editorial published Thursday. The Herald has intimated that at least some of the Bridgeport road boosters were guilty of at least a failure in reciprocity, inasmuch as the Alliance road boosters were the deciding factor in settling a deadlock of two or three years' standing in the neighboring county, yet, when it was settled, North Star route, the road boosters who were so friendly with Alliance, and who had intimated they would reciprocate by urging the route from Angola to Alliance favored by this city, suddenly discovered that they had urgent work that must be attended to without delay.

According to the Bridgeport newspaper, the road boosters of Alliance didn't really care about which route was followed, and ought to be satisfied with the road, which, as approved, leaves Angola and ends somewhere in the sandhills near Bonner. Alliance had favored a road along the Burlington tracks. So did Bridgeport, according to the News-Blade, but the cost would be about \$85,000, as against \$5,000 for the route selected, and the taxpayers couldn't be expected to spend all that money merely because a few ambitious Alliance men wanted it.

The News-Blade says, in part: "Some months ago and upon the inception of the North Star highway, the Alliance road boosters assured the county commissioners of Morrill county and those present at the convention held in this city, that all they wanted was a connection, from the south, at the Box Butte county line. This road, it was stated, had been definitely located to the Morrill county southern border, and with the designation of a route through this county all would be serene. They, or at least a part of them, went so far even as to declare that Alliance had no absolute choice in the matter, that any route, any (Continued on Page 7)

Torrington Referee Picks All-Star Team From West Nebraska

The habit's spreading. Every year, about this time, every sports writer in the cities gets busy on framing a mythical All-Star team. Ordinarily, he hasn't seen in action one man out of ten that he selects, but football players, nevertheless, seem to be anxious to be numbered among the elect. The Scottsbluff Republican gives the following dope about the selection of an All-Star Western Nebraska eleven by Professor Carrig who hails from Torrington. Mr. Carrig has the advantage over most of the men who select lineups of this sort, for he has seen a good share of the men he selected in action on the gridiron. The Republican says:

"Professor Carrig of Torrington, who was the referee for the football teams of the Platte Valley or Western Nebraska football association, has announced his decision as to who are entitled to places on the All-Star eleven, or in other words says in his opinion who is entitled to be called as the best players on each of the teams which played during the fall.

"Scottsbluff comes in for first position in the line up of both the first and second teams having three players on each team, making a total of six. Gering comes in for three on the first and two on the second team. Alliance has three on the first and two on the second; Sidney has none in the first and has three on the second. Bayard has two on the first and one on the second. The following is how Mr. Carrig lines them up:

- First Team.
- Chrisman, Scottsbluff, left end.
- Gentry, Gering, left tackle.
- Purdy, Alliance, left guard.
- Wiser, Scottsbluff, center.
- Herman, Alliance, right guard.
- Vivian, Bayard, right tackle.
- Steele, Gering, right end.
- Herron, Bayard, quarterback.
- Daley, Alliance, captain, left half.
- Roland, Gering, full back.
- Second Team.
- Flo, Sidney, left end.
- Cox, Scottsbluff, right end.
- Clark, Sidney, left tackle.
- Fanning, Gering, right tackle.
- Dormann, Scottsbluff, left guard.
- Fowler, Alliance, right guard.
- Joliff, Sidney, center.
- Pickett, Scottsbluff, captain, quarterback.
- Garvin, Alliance, right half.
- Miller, Gering, left half.
- Hartman, Bayard, full back.