

The Alliance Herald

Official Paper of Box Butte County

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Official Paper of the City of Alliance

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ALLIANCE, BOX BUTTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1921.

No. 6

GET TOGETHER ON A ROAD PROGRAM FOR THE COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS AND BUSINESS MEN IRON OUT DIFFICULTIES.

To Recommend Road Up the Track to Hemingford—May Throw Support to Broadwater Road.

One of the biggest forward steps taken in Box Butte county in years came Thursday afternoon, when the county commissioners and Alliance business men, who have been at loggerheads over a road building program for the county, got together, ironed out all their differences, and decided to get together on a program that will mean the building of roads in all parts of the county. The meeting was held at the instance of the commissioners, who returned a few days ago from a trip to the state convention of commissioners and clerks, where they got a lot of inside information on the way to make progress. Shortly after their return, they invited the warring chamber of commerce faction to meet with them, and the result was a completely harmonious meeting which evolved out of discussion an agreement that should mean much to the future of Box Butte county.

The county's road program, as agreed to by the three commissioners and a delegation of twenty-five or thirty business men and citizens, included several important roads, over which there has been almost endless discussion during the past year or two. Among the routes agreed upon was the Alliance-Hemingford-Crawford line. An agreement was also reached in regard to the attitude to take toward the Morrill county situation, which has turned out a puzzler.

The keynote of the session was uttered by Commissioner Cal Hashman. Chairman Duncan had called on two or three people for some sort of a keynote speech, but all of them had declined the honor. He then turned to Mr. Hashman, and asked him to say a few words. "I believe we've all done too much talking," was the only response he got, but it was all that was needed to get the men present on a friendly footing.

The agreement of first importance to Box Butte county was in regard to a route for the Alliance-Hemingford-Crawford road. This has been the cause of most of the scrapping within the county. A year or two ago the commissioners suggested two or three routes, to be inspected by Division Engineer McLean. Mr. McLean wanted to sell one of the state's supply of war tractors, and he did it, and at the same time gave his approval to a road to Hemingford that has since been known as the Hashman road. This entered Alliance from the north, and passed through a farming territory. The Alliance road boosters conceded it was a needed road, but declared that a through road should go along the Burlington railroad track. Acting under authority from Division Engineer McLean, the commissioners proceeded to build the road. After over \$2,000 had been expended on it, the state authorities this summer announced that it would not be approved for state and federal aid. Commissioner Hashman proceeded to get out a petition, which was signed by over two thousand residents of the county. This was taken with the commissioners when they went to Omaha and Lincoln last week. They discovered, after talking with officials from other counties, that petitions counted little with the state board, and decided not to submit it. Later, they decided that the war had gone on long enough, and that it was time to make a strong effort to get all the road factions together.

The Hemingford road was responsible, among other things, for a most unpleasant meeting at Hemingford a few months ago, when Alliance road boosters, who went there to arrive at a compromise, found that supporters of Commissioner Carrell were not disposed to agree with them on anything.

Carrell Solves Problem. It was Commissioner Carrell himself who suggested the solution of the Hemingford road problem. He suggested that the commissioners designate the route along the Burlington track for federal aid in the bad spots, and for maintenance by state funds. This started the ball rolling. Within ten minutes a comprehensive road program had been mapped out, by-gones were by-gones, and there was nothing but co-operation apparent.

Commissioner Cal Hashman suggested the course of action in regard to a south road. Some months ago, Alliance road boosters went to Bridgeport and were responsible for ending a deadlock in that county. The understanding was that a road connecting Alliance and Bridgeport would be built. Later understandings were that this road would be built to Angola and then follow the Burlington tracks to the county line. Bridgeport road enthusiasts secured a right-of-way for this road, and one night came to Alliance, got two commissioners out of bed and had them sign a statement that

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THE WEATHER

For Nebraska: Fair tonight and Saturday; colder tonight, rising temperature Saturday afternoon northwest portion. Strong southwest winds this afternoon decreasing tonight.

Purported Will of Charles Coker Not Admitted to Probate

County Judge Tash Thursday refused to admit to probate the purported last will and testament of Charles C. Coker, who committed suicide in Alliance some weeks ago following his arrest on charges of arson and cattle theft. The will, as filed for probate, consisted of the last sheet of a letter written by Coker to his brother, W. S. Coker, shortly before he took his life, and discovered by the attorneys who went to look for him on the day his trial was slated to come up at Bridgeport. The letter, it is understood, consisted of several pages in which he told his brother of certain bills that had been paid. The last sheet said that he wanted a certain farmer to have one thousand dollars of his money. This sheet contained Coker's signature. The court rejected the purported will and refused to permit it to go to probate for the reason that the document did not conform to the statutory requirements for a will, in that it was undated, unwitnessed, vague, indefinite and illegal.

OMAHA BANKER TELLS OF WORK OF LOAN AGENCY

JOHN FLANAGAN ADDRESSES MEETING OF BANKERS

Expect to Loan a Million Dollars a Week From Now Until the First of July.

John Flanagan of Omaha, secretary of the war finance corporation of Nebraska, addressed a meeting of twenty-five representatives from eleven banks in this territory at the Palm Room of the Alliance hotel Thursday evening. Representatives from the four Alliance banks, the Seneca State bank, Bank of Hyannis, Bank of Bingham, Lakeside State, Angola State, and First State and First National of Hemingford were present.

The bank representatives formed a local association, to be known as the Box Butte county bankers' association, with R. M. Hampton as chairman, Fred Harris, vice chairman and Charles Brittan, secretary-treasurer. These men, with Bankers Barney of Lakeside and Potmesil of Hemingford will form an advisory board, which will meet four times a year, according to present plans.

The Nebraska corporation secured \$1,800,000 in loans last week, and expects to make a record of a million dollars a week between now and the first of July. Any of the banks which had representatives present at the meeting are willing to explain the plan to those interested.

Mr. Flanagan, in his address, said that although only about \$3,000,000 had been brought into the state already by the Nebraska organization, it had made a distinct change in the feeling in financial districts in Omaha, South Omaha and Lincoln and that "we are going to load up Nebraska with money."

He said that there is no limit to the amount that can be borrowed by either state or national banks and that there is plenty of money—\$500,000,000 now available at Washington and probably half a billion more if needed. "In this country the banks are in good shape," Mr. Flanagan said. "Our best paper is from the cattle country. We have only made two loans in the Alliance territory to date. We want loan applications. Send down your paper."

He explained that the loaning of money would stop on July 1, 1922, unless the present law was amended and that banks should have their applications in and approved before that date. He also explained that the rate of interest to be charged banks depended upon the rate charged their customers, only a 2 per cent margin being allowed.

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Auto Electric Service Shop at the Buick Garage

The Auto Electric Service Shop is now open for business at the show room of the Buick Garage. The new electrical battery and repair shop is managed by B. W. Keach, who has had fifteen years experience, having received his training at the U. S. naval electrical school. Mr. Keach, who is well known to Alliance patrons, makes a specialty of motor repair work and rewinding motors, and has new and complete equipment for repairing, rebuilding and recharging batteries. He is distributor in Alliance for the Exide battery.

PHONE COMPANY WANTS TO KEEP PRESENT RATES

WILL ASK CONTINUATION OF 10 PER CENT SURCHARGE.

Application to Railway Commission to Make the Present Increase a Permanent Affair.

The Northwestern Bell Telephone company, which owns the Alliance exchange, has prepared an application to the state railway commission asking that body to make permanent the 10 per cent surcharge allowed in December, 1920, as a temporary relief for six months, and again, in July of this year, extended for another six months. The last six months will be up the first of the year, and the company, in its petition, sets forth that this increase in rates is necessary if the company is to make a profit on its investment. If the railway commission does not see fit to allow the continuance of the 10 per cent surcharge, a revision of rates will be asked.

S. B. Windham, local commercial manager, says that the company desires that the application shall have full publicity. "The company doesn't want the public to think that it is trying to put over anything without giving them an opportunity to be heard," he said. According to the petition, the company is making but 3.8 per cent profit on its investment, and this sum is insufficient return. The stock must pay better dividends if new capital is to be brought in, and additional funds are needed for extension, such as the one recently constructed in Alliance.

Some Objections Expected.

The telephone men are expecting some objections on the part of the public, especially their patrons, and are prepared to answer them. For instance, it is pointed out that stock of the American Telephone & Telegraph company, of which the Northwestern Bell is a subsidiary, is selling away above par, at 160, and paying 9 per cent dividends. This may be true, it is pointed out, and at the same time the Northwestern Bell may not be paying adequate returns. The American concern is composed of a number of companies, some of which may be exceedingly prosperous, while others are just the opposite.

So far as saving money by a decrease in salaries is concerned, phone officials say that it isn't hardly feasible. The salaries paid, including officials and others, amount to 52 per cent of the expenses, and of this 32 per cent, 70 per cent is paid to the operators, who draw the lowest wages. A salary cut wouldn't accomplish sufficient saving to meet the deficit.

The rest of the money spent by the company goes for materials and supplies, and there isn't any way in which the company can reduce this expense. They are compelled to pay what the manufacturers demand or go without.

Educational Rally at Methodist Church On Sunday Evening

The Methodists of this city will hold an educational rally at the church Sunday night at 7:30. The speaker of the occasion will be the Reverend F. E. Bagley of the board of education of the Methodist church. Mr. Bagley is a pleasing speaker and has had large experience in educational and public work.

The Nebraska Wesleyan University, as many know, is raising an endowment of a million and a quarter dollars in this state at the present time. Alliance will be as loyal to the educational institution as any town in the state, but with the church building on its hands, still uncompleted, it probably will not get in on the endowment at the present time as the other Methodist churches are doing, but it will do its full share when it gets on its feet again. But the public should be fully informed about this most important part of the church's program, and this will be their privilege Sunday night.

Highland-Holloway Stock Purchased by Reuler's of Denver

Earl D. Mallory, trustee for the bankrupt Highland-Holloway company stock, on Thursday of this week arranged a sale of the stock to Reuler's of Denver. H. J. Maas arrived in the city this morning and has already made plans for a sale of the stock.

It is announced that when the stock is disposed of, Reuler's will open a branch store in this city in the old Highland-Holloway location, with Mr. Maas in charge. The new store will handle ladies' ready-to-wear and millinery exclusively, and a complete stock of high grade merchandise will be installed. Reuler's now operate a chain of fifteen stores in Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming.

Have your seats reserved at Holsten's for "Nothing But the Truth."

NO DECREASE IN SALARIES OF TEACHERS

SCHOOL BOARD NOT IN FAVOR OF ANY REDUCTION.

High School Instructors Slightly Below and Grade Teachers a Trifle Above Average.

There is no sentiment among members of the Alliance school board in favor of a reduction in the salaries of teachers in the city's schools, it was discovered when the board, at a recent meeting, discussed the situation from a number of angles. Further than this, the board does not believe that there is any sentiment in favor of lowering wages of teachers among any great proportion of the citizens. If there is, the citizens have kept remarkably quiet about it, for not a member of the board recalled a single objection.

The matter was brought up during a discussion of an attack upon the school system of the state by A. N. Mather, a Gering banker. Mr. Mather made a number of charges, some of them quite unpleasant, and the members of the board were inclined to think that most of them were considerably overdrawn.

The board's decision in regard to keeping salaries at their present status was influenced by a comparison of the salaries paid to teachers in cities in Alliance's class, where there are from thirty-six to fifty teachers. Alliance has forty teachers on the list.

There are eight cities in the state which are classed with Alliance, including Blair, Columbus, Fairbury, Falls City, McCook, Nebraska City, Plattsmouth and University Place. Alliance ranks second in number of pupils, fifth in the number of teachers employed, and third in the levy required to keep the schools running. In the nine schools in this class, the average salary paid to high school teachers is \$1,557, as compared with \$1,548 in Alliance, while the average salary paid in the nine towns to grade teachers is \$1,197, as compared with \$1,242 in Alliance. High school teachers in this town draw salaries below the average, while the grade teachers are but slightly above the average, for the nine cities. A comparison of the salaries paid teachers of various high school subjects shows that Alliance is, in most cases, paying less than other cities of the same class.

Salaries Slow in Rising.

Alliance citizens will recall the fact that it has only been during the past year or two that salaries for teachers here were as high as in other cities of this class. Now that they are on a par, the board does not propose to put Alliance at a disadvantage in competing with other schools for high grade instructors. As one of the board put it, "A cut in salary at this time would mean that the schools will go backward five or ten years. We can't afford it."

The board also discussed some of Banker Mather's charges that the schools were controlled by state and university authorities. It was explained that the state superintendent has absolutely no authority over the city schools, and that the university exercises only an indirect authority. That is, the university controls the Alliance schools through its system of accrediting. Alliance is on the list of accredited schools, and it must meet the university's requirements. If not, its graduates will not be admitted to the university save an examination.

The requirements for an accredited school are that high school teachers have a university bachelor of arts degree, and teachers in the grades must be graduates of normal schools. The university or state authorities have nothing to say as to salaries paid, and their control lies in the system of accrediting only. The requirements they make are those that the school authorities would enforce, anyway. The local school board has everything to say about the way the schools are conducted, it was declared.

Spud Benefit Play at The Imperial Next Thursday Eve

The Spud benefit play, "Nothing But the Truth," will be presented at the Imperial theater by a cast of high school players on next Thursday evening, December 22. The proceeds of the performance are to be devoted to clearing up debts inherited by the present management of the Spud, the high school paper.

"Nothing But the Truth" is a three-act comedy, dealing with the tribulations that come to a broker when he makes a \$10,000 wager that for twenty-four hours he will tell nothing but the truth. His first truthful statement bankrupts a half million dollar concern. His wager causes him to have a fall-out with his sweetheart, makes domestic trouble for his partner, and plays hob generally, but when the twenty-four hours are up he manages to straighten out most of the tangles by a series of white lies.

Herman-Winters Assault Cause Up in County Court

After a delay of several weeks, the case of the state of Nebraska vs. James Winters came to trial in county court Wednesday morning before Judge Tash. A good sized gallery from Hemingford was present to hear the details of the battle between two potato buyers. The complaining witness, Emil G. Herman, testified that Winters had feloniously assaulted him on October 14 last, with intent to do great bodily injury. The testimony was quite interesting, indicating that the battle had some of the earmarks of a footrace. Judge Tash discharged the defendant, holding that the state had failed to prove the assault charge.

The battle originated over a wager concerning a carload of potatoes purchased by Herman. Winters had offered to bet a thousand dollars that Herman would lose \$100 on the deal. The two men went to the bank to get certified checks for the wager, but the bank was closed. Later the two men met and Herman insinuated Winters was bluffing. This Winters took as a deadly insult. He removed his coat and glasses and, declaring that he would "lick hell" out of Herman, proceeded to attempt it. Friends separated them before any damage was done. Later the two men met and tangled, Winters kicking at Herman as he passed him. Herman declared that Winters drew a knife, but this was not substantiated.

RANCHERS MUST AGAIN REGISTER CATTLE BRANDS

THE FIVE-YEAR REGISTRATION PERIOD ENDS JANUARY 1.

No Matter When Brands Were Recorded, Owners Must Take Steps to Protect Themselves.

Renewal of cattle brands registered with the secretary of state must be made next year, the five-year period of registration closing January 1, 1922. Darius M. Amsberry, secretary of state, announced recently, says the Lincoln Star. Those cattle owners who have individual brands registered with the state must renew registration next year to keep them in force, even if the brand was registered as late as December 30, this year, according to Mr. Amsberry.

Between 7,000 and 7,000 individual brands are registered with the secretary of state, it was stated, and this number does not represent all the brands in the state. A fee of \$1.50 for five-year "protection" is charged for registration, with a fee of fifty cents for renewal.

It is pointed out that the "protection" is not one afforded by the state, the state being an agency only as an official recorder. The registration is conducted and maintained by a cattle owners' association, working in conjunction with the stockyards at Omaha. An instructor is maintained at the stockyards to inspect the brands of all cattle that come to market for sale. This inspector visits the secretary of state twice a year to check registered brands and obtain copies of new ones.

The purpose of the registration is to provide against sale of cattle at the yards with brands that do not coincide with those of the owner selling the cattle, it is explained. For instance, if a load of cattle comes to the market for sale, and included in the load are two or three head with brands different from those registered by the party selling the stock, these cattle are singled out and, unless the seller can show a bill of sale of the cattle in question payment for these cattle is sent to the person who has that brand registered. In the event the seller was the rightful owner of the cattle, the one to whom the payment was sent, in turn must send the money to the man who marketed the stock.

That the system is one of great saving to the members is indicated in the frequent member of cattle that get to market with questionable sales records. On the other hand, it is stated, the occasions are numerous when membership would have saved the sale of cattle but no brands were registered for trace.

Last Chance for Ex-Soldiers to Save Insurance

Any soldier, sailor or marine who had war risk insurance and let it lapse, except those receiving compensation for a total permanent disability, can reinstatement. Ex-soldiers have until December 31, 1921, to do this. This is the last opportunity, and they are advised to attend to it at once. The U. S. Veterans Bureau, Kearney, Neb., will furnish particulars.

Clarence Basker, of Casper, Wyo., formerly of Alliance was in the city the first of the week visiting friends. He returned to Casper Tuesday.

ROTARIANS WILL UNDERWRITE THE FOOTBALL TEAM

FINANCIAL BACKERS OF LOCAL GRIDIRON WARRIORS

Entertain Football Squad and Second Team Wednesday Evening, With Uni Coach as Speaker

The Alliance Rotary club has undertaken the underwriting of the Alliance high school football team for the coming season, it was announced at the Wednesday dinner of the club. Members of the first and second teams and Coach Prince were guests of honor on the occasion, and the club was able to secure the presence of Coach Dawson of the University of Nebraska football team as a feature of the dinner. Coach Dawson made the address of the evening, and for nearly an hour talked to the football teams about the subject that was nearest their hearts.

Rotarian E. L. Meyer explained the decision of the Rotary club in regard to standing back of the team next year. Alliance has, in the six years it has had football, risen to among the top-notchers in western Nebraska, he said, and under present conditions, should be a strong contender for the state championship. Due to the expense, however, it has not made any efforts to secure games with the strong eastern teams, and until the last year or two its record did not entitle it to a place on their schedules. Now, however, the team ranks with the best of them, and the only stumbling block to games with such cities as North Platte and Lincoln has been removed. The Rotary club has agreed to stand back of the team financially, and will guarantee to get the crowds to make the games profitable, or will make up the deficit.

Coach Prince has already taken up with North Platte and Lincoln the question of games with Alliance, and while no definite decision has been announced, these cities are considering the proposition favorably. It is believed that Alliance will get to the top in football circles with the proper kind of backing, and it will be no fault of the Rotarians if encouragement is lacking.

Dawson Gives Advice

Rotarian Meyer concluded his address with some good thoughts on playing the game in school, and urging football players not only to keep on with their studies, but keep up with them. This theme was developed by Coach Dawson, who made the kind of a talk to the football players that he is in the habit of making to gridiron warriors at Nebraska.

Mr. Dawson spoke of Nebraska's rank as a great university; of the support it is receiving from all over the state, the same kind of support that Alliance Rotarians are giving their football team. He urged the football boys not to consider going to any other school, saying that they could have ample pride in Nebraska's university. He contrasted the eastern universities, with their endowments, to the Nebraska institution, supported by an entire state. He told how the western universities are gradually taking the pick of the professional talent from the eastern schools, and how they are gradually coming to the front in scholastic and athletic circles.

The balance of Coach Dawson's talk was regular football exhortation, that put the desire to fight into not only the football boys, but the Rotarians as well. He told the players what game-ness meant, and how the true gridiron warrior regarded his studies in the same light as he did his football opponents, as something to be conquered. It was a remarkably interesting address, and at its close the football boys delivered a bunch of cheers that made the rafters rock.

Following the address by the university man, the thirteen letter men on the Alliance squad this year held an election for captain, Frank Daily being elected by an almost unanimous vote. The thirteen letter men, Frank Daily, James Fowler, Raymond Brown, Robert Bicknell, Newman Kilgore, Cecil Beal, Fred Purdy, Bernard Nolan, Lester Herman, Martin Brennan, Seth Joder, Ralph Garvin and Leslie Miskimen were then introduced by Coach Prince, who told of each man's position and his record.

Burlington Officials Coming to Alliance On Inspection Trip

Hale Holden, president of the Burlington system, and E. F. Bracken, vice president, and staffs, left Denver Wednesday for an inspection trip over all northwestern Burlington lines, planning to stop around Hardin for some time, where the new branch line of the Burlington will soon be completed. This extension will give considerable more oil business to the west end, even though the line when completed will be but little more than thirty miles in length, the territory covered is a very rich oil field and is also within reach of farm lands.

The above named officials will visit the Alliance division on the return trip which will probably be about the first of next week.