

**The Alliance Herald**

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

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**ROAD PROGRESS AHEAD.**

Box Butte county has received a Christmas present this year, which is all the more welcome because it is unexpected. The county commissioners, who staged a get-together conference which brought results, are responsible for the news which means as much to the county as any other one thing that has happened this year. To these three men should go the credit for taking steps which should mean the end of wrangling over the location of roads in this county for all time to come.

Both sides have long since seen the folly of carrying on the road war. For in the designation of roads to receive federal and state aid, there must be harmony. Roads are for the benefit of the whole people, not for the business men as a class, for the farmers as a class, or for the county commissioners. They are intended to be of benefit to every citizen. Box Butte county for a year, due to disagreements and scraps of one kind and another, has not built roads this year. It has devoted its energies to scrapping. When road building is completed, there is something to show for it. When the end of a scrap comes, there's nothing much to show but sore heads, literal or figurative, and one kind is about as bad as the other.

The understanding arrived at Thursday is fully as important to Box Butte county as the disarmament treaty is to the country. It means progress. The chief loss from wars isn't the expense, although that's an important item, but the fact that during the time war is going on, there's no time to go ahead. The Box Butte commissioners deserve a lot of credit for seeing the situation clearly, and, having once seen it, taking the obvious steps to get back to business. All of us have wanted it, earnestly, but the outlook hasn't been favorable. We seem to have been able to help other counties settle their deadlocks, but our own has been too much for us, and our friends haven't been able to use any good offices in our behalf.

Of course, we're not out of the woods yet. It is probable that even with the warring factions united on the best road program that has ever been suggested, there may be something to delay the game. It's pretty well understood by everybody that the final say in these road questions rests with the state authorities. If they are opposed to any part of the program, it's pretty hard to get it through. But there is this much advantage—that a united county stands a better show of getting what it wants than a county that is split up into two or three factions, each making all the noise it can.

For the first time in months, The Herald has words of commendation for Commissioner George Carrell, and he deserves them. Mr. Carrell made the suggestion that settled the argument over the location of the Hemingford road—the argument which developed into the worst scrap of the lot. It took courage to do it. Alliance hasn't been any too friendly toward the big Hemingford commissioner. It matters little, under the present conditions, as to just where the blame may lie. Alliance is big enough to give its one-time announced enemy a loud cheer for suggesting a solution that is not in accord with the announced desires of his constituents. At the now famous Hemingford road meeting, the sentiment was so strong against Alliance that they wouldn't listen to any talk of a compromise road down the track. It's pretty generally understood that Hemingford's attitude was due largely to a desire to stand by Mr. Carrell, but some irreconcilables may be unpleasant. Every man who wants to see roads built in Box Butte county will understand, however. The others don't count.

Commissioner Hashman is another man who is responsible for the ironing out of all difficulties. With the support that he has in Box Butte county among the farmers, it was a considerable sacrifice to toss his cherished plan into the discard simply to make harmony possible. The fight wasn't over by a long shot—the game lacked a whole lot of being played out. It might have been anybody's victory. That's what makes the Alliance men feel good toward the commissioners.

As to the program that has been

adopted, it's the best that could be framed. It means that there will be a state maintained road between Alliance and Hemingford, built the shortest way, up the track. It means that, if there is any way to accomplish it, Morrill county will make the Alliance-Bridgeport road a real thoroughfare, or else an effort will be made to advance the Broadwater road. It means that there will be a real system of connecting county roads. It means a Scottsbluff road some of these days. And better than all, it means that all Box Butte will co-operate to build roads where the majority wants roads. There's now an end of bickering and wrangling, of good friends fighting. It's an opportunity to get somewhere—and we've made a start.

**THE NEW MYSTERY**

One of the latest mysteries is contained in the announcement that President Harding is in favor of a soldier bonus at this session of congress, provided the payments can be worked out in connection with the refunding of the foreign debt. Of course, the president has not stated so openly, but the information, which comes from three congressmen who are fully as mysterious as the reason for Mr. Harding's change of heart, comes most opportunely.

To be frank, there must be something done that will popularize the present administration. The disarmament conference isn't filling the bill. It's coming off according to schedule, and it's getting somewhere, apparently, if one may judge by the voluminous and varied press reports, but the great bulk of the people are strangely apathetic. The disarmament affair, while charged with great possibilities, somehow hasn't the magnetic appeal to either friends or foes that the league of nations possessed. It has neither pronounced champions nor pronounced objectors. It has all the publicity in the world, and yet have you noted that there are few public discussions and almost no sermons preached about it. It hasn't put the Harding administration on the map.

But the bonus—ah, there's a topic that will set the tongues of four million American soldiers wagging. It will also make the huge financial interests begin roaring. Mr. Harding has not come out into the open yet. If the disarmament conference ever takes the public eye, it may not be necessary. But, come to think of it, there's a great deal of dissatisfaction. The ex-soldiers are saying unkind things. Their families are talking in the same vein. There's a money stringency, lots of unemployment, capital is idle, profits are being lost. It's time to start something. If, as indications seem to point, there is to be a distribution of huge sums of money to the ex-soldiers, industry may start humming again, and who knows but the road may lead straight to normalcy?

**HANG THE COST**

We hear a lot about saving money these days. People who scorned economies, large or small, two or three years ago, are watching the dimes where they were once careless with the dollars. It's a splendid sign when a nation grows thrifty. But there is such a thing, even when money is none too plentiful, as being too economical. There are some things on which it is unwise to save money at the expense of efficiency. One of them is our schools.

In the great change of sentiment that has come over the nation in regard to expenditures, both personal and public, the result has been a mad scramble to save money without much regard to the places from which the money is lopped. The schools take a large percentage of the money derived from taxation, and there are those who talk of economizing at the expense of the coming generation. It's short-sighted economy.

The schools cost a tremendous amount of money, it's true, but they are our best-paying investment. Here we get value received for our tax dollars. It costs us more money to run them than it did ten or twenty years ago, but they're worth more. The cost will increase during the next ten years, in all probability. But the training is gradually getting better. There's but one step more needed, the linking of the schools with industry—the teaching of every student a trade, in addition to giving him a general training in mental development and the mental facilities to appreciate the finer things in life.

The complaints concerning the cost of the schools come, as a rule, from those who have no children, or from those who have sufficient funds to have their children educated in private institutions. Under the present system, the public schools are the poor man's college. They give the poorest lad, if he wishes to take advantage of them, the same opportunity as his richer playmate. To date, this is not the case with the institutions of higher learning, but the time is coming when the universities will be avail-

able without charge to men who have the ability to make good. The last few years has seen a tremendous rush to universities and colleges. There are more students than can be accommodated. Already university authorities are discussing the adoption of regulations to kick out the sluffers, and as an inducement to the poorer students, there is talk of remitting registration fees to all students who attain a certain rank in scholarship. This will cost money, but it will be worth it.

The Alliance school board recently voted not to cut teachers' salaries. There may be some criticism, but not on the part of those who consider the situation well. Alliance students need the best instructors they can get. So long as we are not paying prices above the average, we can't afford to put ourselves in a position where we must accept inferior instructors.

Don't let the need for cutting down expenses persuade you to sanction the sacrifice of the school system. Cutting down school appropriations means going backward. If necessary, other means can be devised to furnish needed funds. We can't afford to do it, no matter how tight money gets. We owe the coming generation the best we can give them. Look over the staggering total paid for non-essentials in this country, for luxuries and pleasures. There's plenty of room to pare down expenses. It may be that the youths won't appreciate the sacrifice now, but they will later, and it will inspire them to do their bit for those who follow them.

Hard times: A season during which manufacturers must sell to individuals instead of selling to the government.—Lincoln Star.

That marriage ceremony in Esperanto has its advantages if it includes the obligation not to obtain a divorce except by the same means.

Mr. I of Hawaii is said to have the shortest name in the world, but he doesn't use it oftener than a congressman.

Another costly variety of paper is that upon which are written the notes that are bases for breach of promise suits.

Maine fisherman says he knows fish can talk: When they have anything to say they probably tell it to the marines.

If you tell a girl she is pretty and she pouts and deprecates it, keep on telling her. There is no music to equal it so far as her ears are concerned.

As soon as a possible shortage of leather was announced Dame Fashion, with characteristic extravagance, made the shoe top higher than ever.

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—IN—

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SUNDAY, DEC. 18

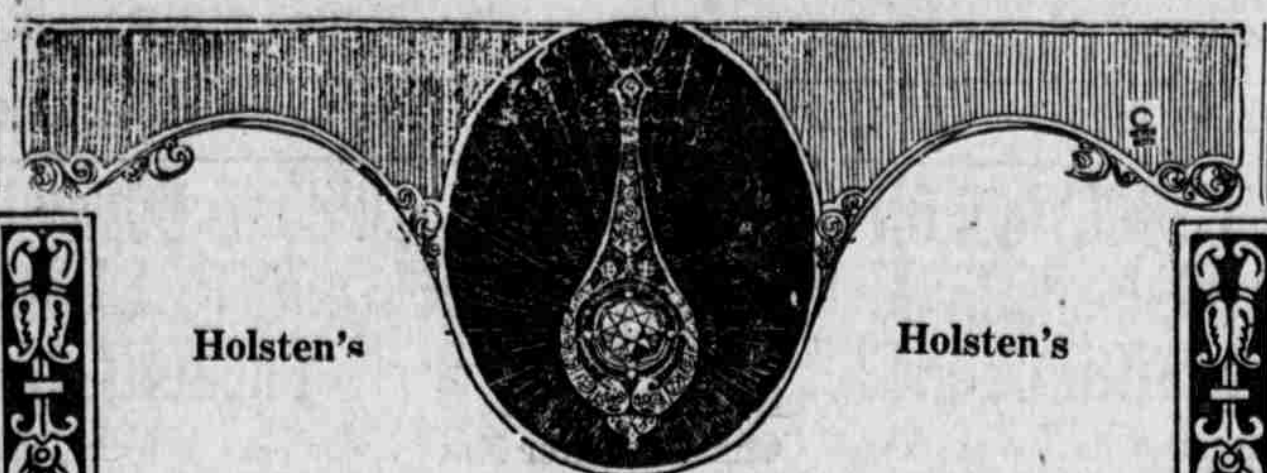
**Justine Johnstone**

—IN—

**"SHELTERED DAUGHTERS"**

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