

# The Alliance Herald

Official Paper of Box Butte County

TWICE A WEEK—TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

Official Paper of the City of Alliance

VOLUME XXIX

(Eight

ALLIANCE, BOX BUTTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1921.

No. 10

## PHONE COMPANY HAVING TROUBLE AT RATE BOOST

### TWENTY-FIVE CITIES JOIN TO FIGHT THE REQUEST.

#### State Railway Commission Shows a Disposition to Make the Company Prove Its Case.

Prospects that the state railway commission would grant the request of the Northwestern Bell Telephone company, which owns the Alliance exchange, for an increase in rates are not so bright since Wednesday, when the hearing at Lincoln began. Some twenty-five towns are banded together in opposing the increase. P. E. Romig is representing the Alliance chamber of commerce at the hearing. The city of Alliance will be given a hearing at a later date, due to the fact that the telephone company failed to furnish the city council with a copy of its applications and certain data on its operating expenses here, as provided for in a franchise recently granted the company.

There is considerable feeling in Alliance, as well as in other towns over the state, over the application, and there is already talk of a county telephone company, such as is now operating in Hamilton county. In other towns threats of a telephone strike are made openly.

City manager Kemmish, who has received word from telephone company officials that the figures called for by the franchise are being prepared and will be sent to him as soon as possible, is counseling moderation. "We want to go on the theory that the railway commission will treat us fairly," he said, "and not run hog wild until we have something to get wild about. We have been promised a special hearing, and it is noted that the railway commission has decided to extend to other towns affected by the increase the same privilege of calling for figures from the company."

#### Commission to Investigate.

The state railway commission will conduct a thorough investigation into the cost and efficiency of operation of the Northwestern Bell Telephone company, rather than rely altogether on figures presented by the company to prove why the 10 per cent surcharge now charged should be continued, according to H. G. Taylor, chairman of the commission.

The Northwestern Bell Telephone company of Omaha must furnish some data on local exchange revenues, and investments that communities may demand before the Nebraska railway commission will set a date for the hearing on its application for a new permanent rate schedule incorporating a 10 per cent surcharge in the North Platte territory where it serves 103,000 subscribers.

It is probable that more details as to operating costs will be requested to show that figures of the company for operating expense are not higher than they should be, either during the present hearing or after its close.

It was brought out Wednesday in cross examination of Guy H. Pratt, vice president of the company in charge of operation, that the cost of phone service to the public was 30 per cent higher than in 1914.

E. M. Morsman, attorney for the company, stated that wages paid the operators made up a great part of the expense, and that they were paid a minimum of \$10 per week. He further stated that the company would welcome an investigation into the reasonableness of the girls' salaries.

"Why lay the high cost altogether on the 'widows and orphans,'" Thorne Brown, member of the commission, asked him. "Don't you think the salaries of the general officers might have some effect on operating costs?"

#### Big Depreciation Fund.

Other facts brought out: The American Telephone and Telegraph company, which owns all the stock of the Northwestern Bell Telephone company, is paying and has paid for years 9 per cent on its own stock.

The Northwestern Bell Telephone company about January 1, 1921, absorbed the old Nebraska Telephone company.

The company, which serves the people of Nebraska, has a reserve fund to cover depreciation of its property of \$14,000,000, or nearly 20 per cent of the total value. This fund has been built up from the earnings.

Expert testimony by a company engineer was that the property today is worth 85 per cent of what it would cost to reproduce it new, so well has it been maintained, in addition to the creation of a large depreciation reserve.

The annual cost of maintenance and the amount set aside for depreciation amount to 42 per cent of the annual revenue of the company in Nebraska.

The Northwestern company buys practically all its material and supplies from the Western Electric company, which also is owned by the American Telephone and Telegraph company.

At noon Thursday, the Northwestern Bell Telephone company concluded its showing before the state railway commission in support of its applica-

## THE OTHER

Forecast for Saturday and Sunday. Generally fair tonight and Sunday. Colder Saturday and northwesterly winds tonight. Strong northwest winds tomorrow, diminishing by Saturday morning.

tion for a continuance of the 10 per cent surcharge on exchange rates in Nebraska, after December 31.

This left the afternoon session open to attorneys and other representatives of twenty or more communities in the state which are demanding that the surcharge be dropped the first of the year. These towns have formed a committee which is fighting the continuance of the surcharge.

#### Strikes Are Threatened.

"Unless the surcharge is discontinued until the commission finds whether it is actually necessary or not, from sixty to seventy exchanges in Nebraska will become new Bloomfields," Chairman Stugh said in arguing his motion. E. M. Morsman, for the company, replied that if sufficient revenue was denied the company, it would immediately turn to federal courts for relief.

"While other businesses during the war were making as high as 100 per cent, this company was limited to 7 per cent," Morsman said. "If we are limited in money-making times, we should not be cut off from revenue in such times as these."

Morsman resisted the motion to discontinue the surcharge with the argument (Continued on Page 8.)

## LEGISLATURE SAVED BACON FOR RUSSELL

### CHANGES PENALTY FOR WORTHLESS CHECKS.

#### His Offense, Formerly a Felony, Now Ranks as Petit Larceny—Allowed to Return Home.

It was the Nebraska state legislature, which at its last session passed an amendment to the law relating to the uttering of bank checks, which stepped in and saved Dewey L. Russell, young Green River, Wyo., youth, who last Saturday passed worthless checks for \$25 and \$10 at the Thiele drug store and later was caught when he attempted to pass one for \$25 at the W. R. Harper department store. Had the law remained unchanged, Russell would be even now in the county jail, awaiting trial in district court. As it is, he left Alliance early this morning, bound for Green River, where his job is waiting for him, and he hopes, a certain girl whom he came near losing through his philandering.

The heart affairs of Mr. Russell colored by his inspired imagination, made interesting reading during a dull week in Alliance. He had a story of an inheritance of ten thousand dollars contingent on his marriage by a certain date, of a want-ad romance with an Alliance high school girl which flattered, and he told his yarn with a wealth of details.

Russell cut quite a different figure in county court before Judge Tash Tuesday afternoon. His voice was tremulous and he was inclined to snivel just a trifle. "But," he said weepingly to County Attorney Basye, "The man I passed the check on said he wouldn't prosecute me. Won't you give me another chance?" The tears trickled down his face during a good share of the proceedings, during which Russell several times promised to be good and never do it again.

#### Change in the Law.

Had Russell pulled his little stunt just a few weeks ago, it would have been Denis for him. As it is, the legislature, in amending the law, made a distinction in the size of the check. Under the old law, the uttering of any worthless check was a felony, and punishable by a penitentiary term. Under the amended law, the distinction is the same as between grand and petit larceny. No check written by Russell was for an amount greater than \$35. Had it been larger, he'd have been out of luck. Under that amount, the maximum sentence was a fine and ninety days in jail.

Tuesday afternoon, Judge Tash sentenced the youth to thirty days in the county jail. Thursday morning another letter from his Green River sweetheart arrived, which mentioned the fact that his old job as engine dispatcher for the Union Pacific was open to him, and Judge Tash, convinced that he had been both punished and scared, and that his repentance would last at least until he was out of the city, permitted him to leave on payment of the costs in the case.

Russell paid a visit to The Herald office before leaving, and unfolded a few more of his future plans, saying that he intended to go from here to Tulsa, Okla., to see the administrator of his uncle's estate. He says he intends to sue the estate, if the administrator doesn't kick through with the ten thousand dollars left him by his uncle. He evaded further questioning by saying that publicity would interfere with his plans and that he had already told more than was good for him.

## LIONS FAVOR A SPUD EXPERT FOR STATE NORMAL

### ENDORSE PLAN OF PRESIDENT R. I. ELLIOTT.

#### Chadron Man Makes Vigorous Talk on the Growing Importance of Seed Potato Industry.

The members of the Alliance club, at their regular weekly dinner at the Alliance hotel Thursday evening, passed a resolution endorsing the plan of President R. I. Elliott of the Chadron state normal to install a seed potato expert in the school, following an address by Mr. Elliott. The club also discussed the petition for a county agent, now being circulated in Box Butte county, favoring the matter, but declining to take action, on the ground that this was a matter for the farmers to decide. Robert I. Elliott of Chadron, Dr. Q. H. Steven of Broken Bow, Dr. A. H. Francis of Lincoln and Dr. H. E. Smith of North Platte, were visitors.

Cub Lloyd C. Thomas reviewed the steps taken to date in Alliance to defeat the application of the Northwestern Bell Telephone company, which has asked of the state railway commission to increase rates. The city of Alliance, he said, has gained permission for a special hearing, following the submission of certain data relative to the cost of doing business in this city, and provided for in the franchise recently passed. The chamber of commerce has sent a representative, Attorney Penrose E. Romig, to attend the hearing which started Wednesday. There is a disposition, Mr. Thomas pointed out, to drag out the hearing. This will work to the advantage of the telephone company. It is expensive for the smaller cities and towns to maintain a representative at the hearing, while the telephone company isn't worried at all.

Cub Charles E. Brittan brought up the matter of the county agent for Box Butte county. He stated that petitions are now being circulated, signed by 150 farmers, requesting the commissioners to employ a county agent. Cub Rhein made a motion to endorse the movement. There was discussion by Cubs Brittan, Basye, Rhein, Graham, Guthrie and Dr. Francis, one of the visitors, and the club finally voted to lay the matter on the table. This, it was brought out by the discussion, was not because the Lions are opposed to it, but they feel that it is a matter which concerns the farmers particularly, and that they should be allowed not only to have the lead in the movement, but to decide whether they want a county agent.

#### Seed Potato Expert.

President Robert I. Elliott of the Chadron state normal made an interesting and vigorous talk concerning his plan to install a seed potato expert at the Chadron normal. He discussed the growing importance of the seed potato industry in western Nebraska. He said that it was possible for twenty-five or fifty times as many seed potatoes to be grown here, the soil and high altitude being favorable to the growth of the highest grade seed potatoes. K. L. Pierce of Hemingford (Continued on Page 8.)

## Property Owners Object to Closing Big Horn Avenue

A remonstrance, which is being proffered generally signed, is being circulated in Alliance this week, protesting against the closing of Big Horn avenue between D. and Eighth and Twelfth street north of those two blocks. St. Agnes academy recently filed a request with the city council that this be done in order that it might extend its proposed school building over on the streets. The council discovered at the time that the city water mains are now located on Big Horn avenue and Twelfth street north of block D, and that Twelfth street is the main cross-town connection, and the matter was laid over. The remonstrance points out that the closing of the street is likely to interfere with fire protection and that people living to the north of the academy will be greatly inconvenienced.

## Candle Service At Methodist Church Sunday Evening

There will be a New Year's candle light service at the Methodist church Sunday night at 7:30. The opening service will be as usual, then all the lights will be turned out except one lighting a cross. A large candle will be lighted in front of this cross. Twelve girls, representing the twelve months of the new year, each carrying a candle, will light their candles from this one, while the minister explains the significance of each new month. Music to interpret the symbolic acts will be played during the entire service.

## ROTARIANS HEAR ABLE DISCUSSION OF DISARMAMENT

### REV. STEPHEN J. EPLER TELLS OF COST OF WAR.

#### Alliance Minister Points Out What Could Be Done With Money Now Devoted to War Purposes.

Rev. Stephen J. Epler of the First Baptist church of this city was the speaker at the Wednesday evening dinner of the Rotary club. L. L. Raymond, Scottsbluff attorney, was present as the guest of one of the members, as was H. F. Anderson of Mission, S. D. Mr. Raymond told of his first trip to Alliance, by ox team, and discussed briefly the changes that had taken place in thirty years. Mr. Anderson greeted the members of the club.

Mr. Epler discussed the work of the arms limitation conference, now in session at Washington. He said, in part:

"My subject will not be announced, for if any of you have been bored by my remarks during this Christmas season, you already are aware that I have only one subject to present. You are permitted to guess what that subject is. Your guess may be a little nearer than that of the school teacher who said, 'Johnny, I know what you had for breakfast this morning. It was egg, for I see some on your face.' Johnny replied, 'Teacher, you're mistaken—I had egg yesterday morning.' The one message is the message of good cheer, or 'Peace and good will to all men.'"

"It was my earnest hope that the conference on limitation of armaments could be able to announce as a Christmas present to the world that an agreement had been reached whereby the possibility of war would be minimized to such an extent that nations would have no fear or suspicion of each other. Certainly we are in need of a perpetual peace among all nations.

#### War a Menace to Civilization.

Listen to General John J. Pershing, who, in an address delivered in New York in 1920 said, 'Unless some such move to limit armament' be made we may well ask ourselves whether civilization does not really reach a point where it begins to destroy itself, and whether we are thus doomed to go headlong down through destructive war and darkness to barbarism.'

"The cost of war is told in figures almost too large for our comprehension. All the wars from the years 1790 to 1910 cost twenty-three billions of dollars. These included the Napoleonic wars, when the little emperor designed to lay the whole world at his feet. He, like the Kaiser, was not a student of Scriptures, or he would have understood from the Book of Daniel that there were to be only four universal empires, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. The cost of the world war was eight times as much as the wars just mentioned, or 186 billions of dollars.

"The German dreadnought Ostfriesland was sunk in twenty-five minutes by seven one-ton bombs dropped from airplanes. How long before our six-

## Agate Oil Well Proves Failure and Is Abandoned

The oil well at Agate, Neb., has proved a failure and they are now taking the machinery and casing away says a Hemingford dispatch to the State Journal. High hopes have been entertained of this prospect hole bringing in oil but only light and unsatisfactory oil indications were developed. It is understood that at about 2300 feet a light flow of oil was encountered, but of no commercial value. A depth of about 4,700 feet was reached. Sioux county's hopes of oil seem thus to be blasted in the first test that has ever been made, but those interested in the well at Lakeside, Neb., now down about 2600 feet, are very sanguine of success. The well was located by a wigglestick artist whose instrument performed such wonders that a number of the most capable and sane capitalists of western Nebraska became convinced that there was oil at about 3500 feet. Believers in the wigglestick men assert there is an immense pool of oil south, southeast and southwest of Alliance, and the local Box Butte papers are running legal ads wherein the school lands of the state are being advertised for oil lease. The wigglestick man says that the north end of Box Butte county has not any chance for oil and he is reported to have said that there was none in the vicinity of the Agate prospect hole.

The high wind that came late this morning proved too strong for some windows and signs about the city, among the store buildings that suffered being the Horace Bogue store, the Newberry Hardware company, George D. Darling and the Model Cleaners. A couple of windows were also blown in at the Reuler store.

## ADVERTISING IS NEWS

It is a safe venture that 80 per cent of the readers of news read the advertisements also sheerly because of the general interest to be found in them. There is news value in a well-written advertisement, which is a thought for the consideration of those who think an advertising contract is something of a speculation, or who are careless in the preparation of their "copy."

An attractive advertisement compels the reader's attention. Everyone knows how at times, even in the midst of an interesting news item, his eye has been deflected by some outstanding sentence in a nearby "ad," and how he has read the "ad" before returning to the news story. Advertisements narrate the romance of business, they represent an individual art, they are instructive.

"For instance, the classified advertisement page. The persons are innumerable who read it, not because they are searching for something definite, but because each little "ad" tells of something of interest to the active mind. Many are those who, reading the classified page because of this general interest only, find something there that interests them individually and directly, prompts a reply, and performs a concrete service both for the advertiser and the reader. —Billings Gazette.

## SHERIFF MILLER OFF ON A TRIP WITH PRISONERS

### TAKES TWO MEN TO LINCOLN AND RETURNS WITH TWO.

#### Enzor and Dolan to Go to the New Reformatory—Auto Thieves to Be Brought Back.

Joe Dolan and Archie Enzor, the two eighteen-year-old youths who pleaded guilty to the charge of grand larceny in connection with the robbery of the Wilson Bros. store last week, were taken to Rushville Wednesday before District Judge W. H. Westover to receive sentence. There were two charges against them, grand larceny and burglary, but when they pleaded guilty to the first charge, County Attorney Basye dismissed the second count and recommended that they be sent to Hawthorne, the new state reformatory at Lincoln, instead of the penitentiary.

In pronouncing the sentence, Judge Westover gave the boys a very impressive lecture, pointing out that crime was not a paying business and nor one in which they could ever hope to become respectable citizens. The sentence was from one to seven years in the reformatory.

Sheriff Miller left Thursday night on 42 to take them to Hawthorne, and will go from there to St. Paul, Minn., to bring back Harold Watkins and Peter Schieve, who are being held there for the theft of the J. F. Spatman car recently. The men have stated that they are willing to return to Alliance without extradition papers, but County Attorney Basye doesn't care to take any chances, and made out the papers for Sheriff Miller to have signed by the governor and take along in case they change their minds. Jack Dye accompanied the sheriff and will drive the car back.

## Coyote Roundup Next Sunday in West Box Butte

Arrangements have been made for a big coyote roundup which will take place next Sunday in the western part of the county. Rifles are barred, but almost any other kind of weapon, from shotguns to crowbars, will be in use. A general invitation has been issued to those who care to participate in the hunt.

The territory to be included in the hunt follows:

North line—From Hemingford to Lawn church. Hunters will meet at the Roy Phillips farm.

West Line—From Lawn church to the old Caha place. Hunters will meet at the Will Roth farm.

South line—From the Floyd Trine farm to the old Caha place. Hunters will meet at the Jaspersen home.

East line—From Hemingford to the Floyd Trine farm. Hunters will meet at the H. O. Strong place.

Hunters are asked to meet at the line nearest their place at 10 a. m., when the hunt is scheduled to begin.

Chief of Police C. W. Jeffers received a telephone call yesterday from Sheriff Neumann at Bridgeport, asking the Alliance police to keep an eye open for a Ford runabout which left that city yesterday morning. The car was taken by two days, the driver being Edward Jackett, some twenty-one years of age. The car was described as having a rebuilt body, painted blue, with built-on top.

## SCHOOL GIRL DENIES STORY RUSSELL TOLD

### INTIMATES THAT ARTIST WAS OUT FOR THE MONEY.

#### Declares She Answered Advertisement Just for the Fun of It and Never Had Any Serious Intentions.

The tale of his love affairs told by Dewey L. Russell, Green River, Wyo., young man who was arrested in Alliance last Saturday and charged with uttering three checks on the First National bank, in which he had no account, were read with considerable amusement in Alliance. There were a few people, however, who were moved to indignation rather than smiles. Among them is Miss Nellie Price, daughter of M. B. Price, living in the outer limits of the city. This was the young high school girl who answered an advertisement of Russell's in a Denver newspaper, in which he announced that he was searching for a wife.

According to Russell's tale, the young lady had agreed after a series of letters to marry him, but the girl in the case denies it strenuously, along with a number of other remarks the Green River swain was reported to have made. In a letter to The Herald, she says:

"I did not demand particulars of Mr. Russell (she corresponded with him under the name of Rusaum, which he apparently assumed for the occasion) when I was writing him, and indeed I am not a 'husband seeker.' I only answered his ad in the Denver Post really for fun and as a pastime. We did not exchange photographs. I have none of his and he has none of mine.

"He did not send me a diamond engagement ring, but he presented one after I arrived here. And no arrangements were made for his visit until December 22, when he called me from Sidney, Neb.

"No agreement was made to meet Mr. Russell by me and my father on Saturday, December 24, for I didn't care to see him after my first talk with him. I saw him Saturday morning several times, although I always sidestepped or ditched him, and never talked with him. He also came out to my home Saturday afternoon and I didn't even come out of my room to see him. I asked my father to take the ringer to town and give it to him, for I didn't care to see him. And he did not call me up at all that afternoon.

#### Never Promised to Marry Him.

"I had never said that I would marry him. Never. I was only writing for a pastime.

"He told the reporters that he had planned to assume management of a picture show at Tulsa, Okla., and make this his home. In my talk with him, he said as soon as he got enough cash, he was going to Oklahoma and start a chicken farm.

"In his talk with me, he said that he had got in bad with an express company in Oklahoma, was accused of taking \$640, and was sent to the state penitentiary at McAlester. He also told me that his parents sent him to the state reform school at Paula Valley, Okla., in his younger years. When I heard all these statements, I began to feel afraid of him and at once began to shun him.

"Before he came here, and while at Ogden, Utah, I received a telegram from him asking me to wire him \$30, and I had to pay the charges on the telegram. I did not know who it was from until later, or I would not have paid for the telegram. And I wasn't foolish enough to wire him the cash.

"On the following day, a long distance call came from him, still at Ogden, wanting me to pay for it, and I refused to talk. In several of the letters he wrote me, he asked to send him money. All he is is a fortune seeker."

#### Unsuccessful With Father.

The girl's letter also contains an explanation, written at the request of her father, which shows that Russell, while in Alliance, was pretty busily engaged in trying to get hold of some ready money. Mr. Price's statement follows:

"When my daughter told me that he wanted her to wire him \$30, pay for the long distance call from Utah, and that he had written her several times asking for money, I told her at once that he must surely be a crook.

"The first time I saw him was at my home Thursday noon, when I was introduced to him. Then, Saturday morning, when I was in town, he met me and asked me to go on his note for \$50, and I absolutely refused him. Then, again that afternoon, when I was in the First National bank, he entered and once more asked me for the money. I refused, and he proceeded to follow me to the First State bank and asked again, and once more I turned him down. This was the last I saw of him.

"While Russell was at my home, he had \$30 or \$40 with him, and said he wished he knew where he could double that sum. He certainly was a crook or a mighty nerry guy."