

## THE PUBLIC FORUM

(Editorials by Our Readers.)

### INVENTORY: MR. MINORT AND HIS RELIGION.

This is the time of year to take stock of things, and not only of things, but of men and their ways. Mr. Minort's religious views have been vomited forth without let or hindrance on an unsuspecting public for about a year in this, our lovely little city, whose very name, Alliance, is suggestive of unity, harmony and co-operation, instead of dismay, discord and class hatred. It might be well to make a casual excursion into some of these publicly expressed semi-religious views of Mr. Minort and determine where they lead us and our community life. Let us see whether they are wholesome and healthy, or disintegrating and demoralizing. Will the things Mr. Minort emphasizes tend to build up or to destroy a true communal life among our people?

For instance, is class prejudice and class hatred beneficial or detrimental to our American institutions? We believe it to be detrimental and alien to our best interests and thoroughly un-American. Yet, by pandering to the lowest passions of class prejudice and hatred, Mr. Minort has built up a personal following, and he calls this thing a church. He boasts of this class following, claiming his church to be 90 per cent laboring class, and from the tenor of these boasts one would infer that Mr. Minort devoutly prays that it might be 100 per cent of this class. Mr. Minort's church is a close communion body, but this is the first time we ever heard of one of them striving to be a closed shop. The slogan is something like this: "There is no God but the Labor Union Baptist God, and Mr. Minort is his prophet."

Mr. Minort assumes in one of his articles that all churches have accepted the Baptist position as correct, whatever that may mean, which of course is the very thing they have not done. According to Mr. Minort's views, as publicly expressed, you will have to be drawn through many waters and come with a union card, if you expect St. Peter to honor your presence at the Pearly Gates. The card is almost a passport, but it is still necessary to have the other rites. This catering to one class is not only un-American, but it is also un-Christian. One class doesn't represent a full orb'd gospel. This may represent a personal demagogic success, but it is far from a Christian success, for the dear God loves all of us, vile and sinful though we be. And if the other classes of society are sinning against the "innocent" laboring classes, our gospel must be as wide as God's mercy and able to save to the uttermost even these other classes from their sinful ways.

Now, every great national church body is keenly alive to the application of the social gospel and the doing away with injustice to every class and condition of men and the achievements of these united endeavors have been remarkable. But these things are not being brought to pass by arraying one class against another, but by the humanizing tendencies evident wherever there has been a wide application of the great Christian doctrines of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, among all classes.

We would gladly rejoice in any true success any Christian brother might enjoy. We rejoice when the gospel is preached, but we cannot rejoice in a one-sided gospel. But even if we were to rejoice, Mr. Minort would have none of it. He would not let any other Christian worker rejoice. His spirit is too selfish. It is all to his glory—other preachers, even, have done nothing. Mr. Minort cannot rejoice in other preachers; he calls them his competitors. Paul was not far removed from Christ, but he rejoiced in the labors of other Christian workers so long as Christ was preached.

Mr. Minort goes one better than calling his fellow ministers competitors. He calls us adversaries. The Good Book tells him to be ever vigilant against his adversary the devil, and so when he calls us an adversary we know what he thinks of us. Mr. Minort says there are a great many men in the ministry who should be behind the soda fountain or in the manicuring parlor. If Mr. Minort represents the acme of perfection for the Christian ministry and the pulpit is to become a place to pander to the passions of men and a private arena for every demagogue, then deliver us from the pulpit. We would prefer any honest service to the physical needs of men rather than to be a party to any such spiritual renegeing.

This wholesale slurring of the Christian ministry is not Christian. It is not Christ-like. There are misfits in the ministry as in other callings, but Mr. Minort, "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." On the whole, we have found the men in the ministry to be as noble-hearted a body of men as grace any other calling.

We write without the slightest bit of animosity. We have sometimes almost wept when we have read the crass and cloddish statements of our erstwhile pulpiter. But also credit to whom credit is due, and let us give Mr. Minort the credit of being an adept in the art of free advertising. When it comes to exploiting Mr. Minort he is not at all bashful. But as to really extending the kingdom, we doubt it. The kingdom of God is not coming to this community or any other or to the world by attempting to array one class against another. The harvest of such preaching delays the coming of the kingdom. Such preaching decies the first principles of Christianity.

The great weakness in the government of those churches which are congregational or independent of any other body in their church government is that the ministerial fitness of their pastors is not diligently inquired into by any body superior to the local church. If satisfactory to the local church they are O. K. and no one can say them nay. If a local church hasn't

the wisdom, grace or spiritual acumen to discern that their minister is a wolf in sheep's clothing, a community is forced to bear the harvest of discord and spiritual disruption such as an individual sows in his attempts at self-aggrandizement.

Mr. Minort will probably tell you we are crabbing. Although Mr. Minort has unsparingly assailed his brethren as fools, weak, effeminate, and do nothings, we have held our peace. We are not crabbing, we are simply making a calm inventory for the community of the results that may be expected from such a spirit in our midst and in our communal affairs. A spirit such as Mr. Minort has represented as Christian is both un-Christian and un-American. It is based on class hatred and is a sower of discord and disunion. America is no place for class hatred. United we stand and divided we fall. The church is no field for class warfare. God is no poor meet together, the Lord is respecter of persons, for "the rich and the maker of them all."

A. J. KEARNS.

## CHURCHES

### CHURCH OF CHRIST.

"Life's School of Experience" and "The Growth of Ecclesiasticism" are the subjects the minister will use for his discourses next Lord's day. Sometimes we ask the question, "Why is life?" This question will be answered at the morning service. At the evening hour a chart will be used which will help the understanding. It was a happy sight last Sunday evening to see another stalwart man come forward and confess his faith in Christ. It is a positive assurance of confidence and trust to look over the congregation and see the many who have come into the church under the ministry of the present pastor. This is not for our glory, but for the glory of our Lord.

The Bible school attendance is the best ever, but still there are the many who are not attending any school. This invitation is to you. You will find a class where you will be at home. We must grow in numbers and efficiency this year or we cannot keep up with the record of preceding years. The new superintendent will be presented to the school next Lord's day morning. This is Fremont Wilson, one of our splendid young men who has accepted this important position.

While we are well pleased with the settlement of our fire damages by the insurance company through Snoddy & Graham, yet we find, on account of some extras we had done by the carpenters, that we lack some of meeting all bills. Bring or send an offering next Sunday to help meet this expense and come to the church with a message and a welcome.

STEPHEN J. EPLER, Minister.

### METHODIST CHURCH.

We announce with pleasure that Mr. Hillis, the efficient sexton of the church who has been east on a vacation for three weeks, has returned to Alliance and we can safely promise our people that Sunday morning the church will be well heated and properly cared for. No one thing adds more to the comfort and success of a church than the proper heating, cleaning, and ventilating, and our people greatly appreciate the splendid service that Mr. Hillis has rendered us, and will be pleased to know he is here again.

A number of muffs and pairs of children's rubbers have been left at the church. Owners may have same by identifying them. A large audience attended the New Year's candlelight service last Sunday night, and many people kindly expressed their appreciation of the unique features. All lights were turned out except one illuminating a cross. Then candles were lighted at the altar, and twelve young ladies representing the twelve months of the new year, lighted their candles at the altar and took their places in various parts of the room, which represented the world.

These in turn lighted candles held by members of the congregation. Music representing the various months was played during the entire service. An added musical feature was a song by eight little children with lighted candles, and a solo at the close by Miss Janet Grassman.

The topic for Sunday morning will be "An Ancient Labor Movement". The pastor will interpret the strife between capital and labor when Pharaoh ruled and the Hebrew children, in the light of the twentieth century. While this is a burning question today, it was four thousand years ago, and will be until the selfishness of human hearts is changed to the altruism of Jesus. Sunday night the topic will be, "God's Progressive Revelation."

One week from Sunday night we will dismiss our evening service to attend the W. C. T. U. meeting at the Presbyterian church. It will be an anniversary of the Eighteenth Amendment and there will be state and national officers present. We will mention it further next week.

M. C. SMITH, Pastor.

### BAPTIST CHURCH.

One of the happiest, if not the happiest, business meetings we have ever seen took place last Wednesday when the pastor, trustees and deacons met and passed upon the program made out by the pastor for the year 1922. The church meeting after this session was conspicuous for the same jovial spirit. It will go down as the most significant meeting in the history of the church. It was decided, among

other things, that we hold an all day meeting at the end of the present pastoral year, which ends a week from Sunday next. Detailed announcements of the program will be made Sunday.

The parents of our children in Sunday school are taking an added interest, and we expect to reach 250 in Bible school before long, which will mean more than double what we had last year at this time. The program for next year is one that is worthy of the effort of the best of the church. It is great enough to call forth every bit of christian manhood and womanhood at our command. It is not so great as to be beyond our reach, or so small as to be "put across" without the greatest of effort on the part of all members. The Sunday school teachers will be asked to set the example for the pupils in being faithful to the church by attendance at the various services and support of the church financially. Any that fails will be replaced by another who will. A committee on discipline will soon be appointed by the pastor, and a campaign of education as to our doctrines will be put on by it. It is greatly gratifying to see so many of the men and wives coming with their children to school. Let the good work go on. Shall we have twenty-five men in the men's Bible class Sunday? Lessons prepared by the pastor are studied. Next Sunday week the men's Bible lesson topic is: "Baptists and the Government of the United States."

Next Sunday's sermons are as follows: Morning, "He Went a Little Further." Evening, "A Manly Gospel for Manly Men."

Come to the church that is always full.  
B. J. MINORT, Pastor.

### LUTHERAN CHURCH.

Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, English service. Sunday school after the service.  
F. DROEGEMUELLER, Pastor.

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The Sacrament of the Holy Communion will be observed next Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. This is the Lord's table and all believers are invited to this fellowship and means of Grace.

Sunday school at 9:45. Let us keep up and even surpass the splendid records of the past quarter.

Christian Endeavor society at 6:30, topic, "Utilizing Opportunities". Mark Anderson, leader. The Christian endeavor society is giving a party and taffy-pull at the church basement tonight at 7:30. All the young people of the church are invited.

Our Sunday evening theme will be, "The Majority and Mystery of God", text, "Lo there are parts of His ways, but how little a portion is heard of Him" Job XXVI, 14.

The coming regional conference of the W. C. T. U. will convene at the Presbyterian church for all day meetings Saturday, January 14. They will also hold a union service at the church the following Sunday night.

All are cordially invited to these services.

It appears that open diplomacy is not to be worn this year as generally as could be wished.

### BARBER SHOP "WHY'S"

Why does a haircut always cost the same no matter how much hair you have?  
Why does a barber always ask you if you shave yourself?  
Why is no barber ever satisfied with the weather?  
Why does no barber ever have a good word for the last fellow that cut your hair?  
Why does a barber always try to persuade you to buy out the shop when all you want is a shave?  
Why does a barber, when drying your face, always overlook that little corner of your ear?  
Why does your nose always begin to tickle just as soon as your hands are tucked under the covering?  
Why is the foot-rest on the shine stand always too small for your feet?  
Why does the shine boy always have a vigorous argument with the other shine boy right in the middle of polishing your shoes?

AND

Why is the best-looking man in the neighborhood working down in the other end of the room?—G. S. K., in Life.

### THE EASIER JOB.

"What are you going to be when you grow up, Jennie?"  
"I'm going to be an old maid."  
"An old maid, dear. Why?"  
"Cause I don't think I'd like to kiss a man a hundred times and tell him he's handsome every time I want to go shopping. I'd rather earn money and buy things for myself."—Baptist Boys and Girls.

# FINAL SALE

of What Remains of the  
**HIGHLAND-HOLLOWAY  
BANKRUPT STOCK**

Next Saturday, January 15, practically all that remains of this stock will be sold and shipped away to a large Denver concern. Shortly after that Reuler's will open with a new Spring 1922 stock of Women's and Misses' Apparel—lovely styles, impossible to be had elsewhere in Alliance at prices that will meet with your instant approval.

## HERE ARE THE FINAL PRICES

Many, Many Items Not Listed, but Everything is Marked at Away Less Than Wholesale Cost

AT HALF PRICE	AT - <b>1 / 2</b> PRICE	Deduct 2/3	AT - <b>1 / 3</b> PRICE
All Women's Hosiery		All Jewelry	
All Children's Hosiery		All Neckwear	
All Knit Underwear		All Ribbons	
All Infant's Wear		All Furs	
All Umbrellas		All Handbags	
		Pay Only 1-3 of Regular	

Choice of any Hat, formerly to \$15	98c	Plush Coats	\$6.95, \$9.90, \$16.98, \$24.75
Choice of any Skirt, formerly to \$22.50	\$4.98	Cloth Coats	\$2.98, \$3.98, \$10, \$16.98, \$24.75
Choice of Wool Dresses, formerly to \$15.00	\$4.98	Silk or Cloth Dresses	\$7.95, \$12.98, \$17.85, \$24.75
Choice of all the Best Blouses	\$5.00	Girls' All Wool Serge Dresses	\$2.98, \$3.69
Choice big lot Coats, Suits, Dresses for	\$10.00	Children 3 to 6 Plush Coats	\$4.98
Choice of Children's \$5 Wool Sweaters	\$1.98	Girls' 8 to 14 Plush Coats	\$8.98
Choice of Women's \$5 Wool Sweaters	\$1.98	Choice of all the Best Suits	\$15

## NEW LOTS ON 4 BARGAIN TABLES

<b>49c Table</b> Consists of— Misses' Outing Gowns, Jersey and Satin Bloomers, Gingham Rompers, Knit Caps and Tams, Children's Hats, Women's Waists, Women's Hats, etc. Odds and Ends of all kinds amazingly cheap.	<b>98c Table</b> Consists of— Wool Smock Sweaters, Blouses of all kinds, Children's Rompers and Overalls, Gingham Dresses and Aprons, Serge Bloomers, Middies and Smocks. Women's \$2.98 outing gowns.	<b>\$1.98 table</b> Consists of— \$5.00 Wool Scarfs, \$5.00 Wool Skirts, Crepe and Flannel ette Kimonos, Women's and Children's high grade Gingham Dresses, Munsingwear, higher grade Cotton Blouses, formerly to \$12.50.	<b>\$2.98 table</b> Consists of— Silk Jersey Petticoats and Bloomers, Serge Dresses, sizes 2 to 6; Children's Winter Coats, \$7.50 Wool Scarfs, high grade Kimonos, fine Wool Sweaters. Included are some Women's Coats and Skirts worth to \$15.
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### Specials For The Week End

35c can pure Cocoa, 2 for **36c**

2 pints pure Olive Oil **\$1.26**



Two Columbia Records for the price of one.

40c Opeka Tea, two for **41c**

50c Violet Dulce Face Powder, two for **51c**

**HOLSTEN'S**