

## RUSH CALL FROM HEMINGFORD WAS NOT IMPORTANT

SHERIFF MILLER WAS SOMEWHAT VEXED OVER TRIP

Mysterious Phone Message Turned Out to be Due to Frank of Mischievous Boys

The mysterious telephone call from Hemingford, which had a good many men and women in Alliance excited for a good many hours on last Friday, turned out to be like a good many such cases, a flivver, a false alarm and a wild goose chase. There was every indication that it was a most sensational happening of some sort, murder, suicide, sudden death or a massacre, but it wasn't anything of the sort.

County Attorney Basye got the call. A stern voice came over the wire about 11:30 a. m. Friday bearing a tale of deep mystery. "Get the sheriff and come to Hemingford at once," the voice said. The Hemingford man who did the talking, K. L. Pierce, is a banker and a citizen who is ordinarily never carried away by excitement. The county attorney put both ears to the receiver.

"What's wrong?" was the first question. "I can't tell you over the telephone," was the mysterious reply. "Get the sheriff and make haste."

"Shall I bring a search warrant?" asked Attorney Basye, who had visions of another New Year's raid. "No, nothing like that," said the Hemingford man, "but come at once."

With such a summons ringing in their ears, Sheriff Miller and County Attorney Basye immediately hitched up the automobile, and began burning up the roads, stopping for neither food, air, gas or water. As they left the miles behind them, they thought up all the possible crimes or terrible disasters that might have happened.

Rumors Abroad at Alliance. The sheriff and the county attorney are not telling all the things they considered on the wild trip to Hemingford. But the people at home, who soon heard whispers of the summons, thought the same things, and maybe more of them. The lack of details only heightened the interest and made the field for guessing wider.

The newspaper men were particularly wrought up. Here it was only a couple of hours until the usual hour for the presses to start on the Tuesday edition. Indications were that the biggest story since the McElhanev murder was about to break loose—and there wasn't a single shred of information to shed any light on the mystery. There wasn't time to go to Hemingford, even if the jitney could get over the roads. The telephone was the only hope.

The Herald put in calls for half a dozen Hemingford citizens, and one by one they answered. Most of them knew nothing about it. One had seen the sheriff and the county attorney in the town, but didn't know what they were doing. One patriot promised to investigate and report. He saved the day. His story was that there had been a small blaze at the rear of the Hemingford Ledger printing office, and that some people, with well developed imaginations, had conceived the idea that it might be an attempt at incendiarism. Others, he reported, had an idea that some mischievous boys had stuffed up the exhaust pipe of the plant's gasoline engine with rags and old papers.

## THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nebraska: Generally fair tonight and Wednesday; not quite so cold tonight in northeast portion.

—In fact, some reports say he sat up the night waiting for something to happen. The county attorney was conducted to the scene of the crime. "See that pile of rags—soaked with kerosene, the excited informant. "See those rags, all charred. Remember the dog poisoner killed off most of the watch dogs in town? Well, here's my theory: With no dogs to give the alarm, the intention was to set this building on fire and get everybody in town here, and then rob the banks and maybe burn up the whole town."

## AN ALARM CLOCK SAVES LIVES OF FAMILY OF SIX

COAL GAS FORMS DUE TO A DEFECTIVE FLUE.

F. T. Hamelt Awakened and Able to Call on C. H. Jones, a Neighbor, for Assistance.

The family of F. T. Hamelt, 415 Big Horn avenue, were nearly asphyxiated Sunday morning when a defective flue caused coal gas to fill the house. Mr. Hamelt was awakened at 6 o'clock by an alarm clock and realized that he was nearly overcome by gas. He was able, however, to stagger to the door and aroused his next door neighbor, C. M. Jones, a mail carrier, who telephoned for a doctor and then did all he could to revive the sufferers by raising the windows and removing them to the outside.

## Boy Scout Council Plans Radiophone Concert for Public

The Boy Scout council met at Thiele's Saturday, February 11 at a noon luncheon with President A. V. Gavin, Vice President Moses Wright, Secretary W. R. Pate and members H. P. Coursey, D. C. Bradbury, Dr. Minor Morris, H. F. Thiele, N. A. Kemmish, Dr. J. P. Maxfield, Edwin Burr, Dr. G. J. Hand, and Scout Commissioner Ben Keach, present.

President Gavin then appointed a building committee consisting of Mr. Wright, Coursey and Morris, who are to see to the upkeep and repair of the club house at the lake. Another committee, the finance committee, consisting of Thiele, Bradbury and Brittan, was appointed to raise funds and to see to the collection of the donations promised during the recent drive.

Scout Commissioner Keach was then appointed to arrange for a radiophone concert sometime next week, the finance committee to arrange for the building in which it was to be held. The next meeting will be held at Thiele's on Saturday the 18th.

A meeting of Boy Scouts has been called for the city armory at 7:30 p. m. Thursday, at which all boys who wish to join the organization are asked to be present. Troop 1, it is understood, will be split up and part of its members transferred to other troops, in order to make this troop comprise all the band members. The boys assigned to troop 2 will be those from fourteen to eighteen years of age, and troop 3 will be made up of boys from 12 to 14.

## UNION MEN AND FARMERS HOLD A JOINT MEETING

WILL WORK TOGETHER AT PRIMARY AND FALL ELECTIONS

Rev. B. J. Minort Opposes Move to Organize a Local Branch of the New Third Party

One of the most important political movements in several years has taken place in Box Butte county, in the attempt, which bids fair to be successful, to unite the farmers and the labor unionist in a local political "bloc". Just what influences have been responsible for the movement are somewhat in doubt, but the fact remains that the laboring men, who have been considering organizing a branch of the new third party in the county, have also made successful overtures to the farmers. So far the attempt of some of the more radical to do away with the present party affiliations and get under the banner of the new "progressive" party have not been successful, but representatives of these two groups have got together and have agreed to work together in local politics.

The first joint meeting of the two groups was held at the Baptist church in this city Friday evening, with an attendance that practically filled the building. There was a big representation of both farmers and members of labor unions, and very little difficulty was experienced in forming a coalition. The big struggle came over the question of uniting with the third party, and as on previous occasions, when labor unionists were considering the present political problems, this step was not taken.

The Friday evening meeting was the first of a series that is planned, at which the two groups of citizens will decide what they want in the way of officials, and plan a program that they can endorse, and then go out and see if they cannot get their plans across.

### Some Strong for Third Party

Some of those present were hard to dissuade from their belief that a third party was the solution of all the political troubles of the state and county. After an hour's discussion, pro and con, Rev. B. J. Minort took the floor. Mr. Minort was selected by the labor unionists of this city as their official delegate to the first state convention of the new party, which was held at Grand Island some weeks ago. He was present at the meeting, heard all the discussion and took part in some committee activities, but returned to Alliance without affiliating with the party and apparently without being convinced that it was a political panacea.

Mr. Minort is not without knowledge of the game of politics, as it is played. He pointed out that the public in general over the state is slow to warm up to a new party, and that indications are that several years of education will be needed before enough voters will fall in line and elect a ticket. He suggested that even Roosevelt, astute statesman as he was, had made a mistake in bringing out his new party when he did. Had he waited four years before bringing out the "Bull Moose" ticket, Mr. Minort declared, he would have won hands down.

It was argued by Mr. Minort that the time was not yet ripe in Nebraska or Box Butte county for a new party, and advocated that farmers and labor unionists take advantage of existing parties, and exert their influence in making party leaders do the change. He insisted that time, money and effort would be saved, by working through the two dominant political parties, and that there would be much better opportunity to influence this election of officers in this way.

### Committee Is Appointed

Following Mr. Minort's talk, a temporary committee, headed by S. B. Mitchell, was appointed to keep the various organizations, farmers' unions and labor unions, posted as to developments and to arrange for another meeting, at which some permanent organization will be formed and plans made to exert pressure upon all parties to put progressive men upon the tickets.

Much discontent was pressed by the farmers on the road situation. It was evident that an effort will be made to seek a change in personnel of the county commissioners for the next year. A hope that the farmer's "bloc system" would be carried out in all phases of this year's election was expressed. A desire to fuse with other tickets perhaps stronger than a desire for a new party. Whatever the final outcome of this meeting, it is evident that the farmers and the union men will work together in the primary and fall election.

An all-day meeting of the county farmers' union will be held Friday at the home of Fred Nason of Fairview. The chief order of business will be the preparation for the next reunion and consideration of the plan to organize a countrywide potato selling association.

## FEBRUARY TERM DISTRICT COURT IS IN SESSION

SEVERAL OF THE BOOZE CASES WERE DISMISSED.

Four Divorces Granted by Judge W. H. Westover Monday—No Hint of McElhanev Case.

The February 6 term of district court, with Judge W. H. Westover presiding, began Monday morning, and a considerable amount of business was disposed of the first day of the term, in addition to setting the cases for trial.

So far, friends of Mrs. Evelyn McElhanev who is now serving a thirty-year penitentiary sentence for the murder of Earl B. Anderson in this city some fourteen months ago, have not presented their affidavits to County Attorney Basye. This official last Friday issued a statement in which he pointed out that no relief was possible in this court, because only the state pardons board has jurisdiction.

The following cases have been set for trial:

- February 14—State vs. Shepard; State vs. Vogel and State vs. Jacobs.
- February 15—State vs. Watkins and Scheive; State vs. Watkins.
- These cases dispose of the criminal docket for the term. The state vs. Rosetta and the state vs. Haseltine, adultery, have been passed to February 21.
- The following civil cases will be tried to the jury:
- February 16—Lowry & Henry vs. Nebraska Land Co.; Leader Supply Co. vs. Hann.
- February 17—Stern-Rodgers Mfg. Co. vs. Peterson Potash Co.; Sturgeon vs. Wilson.
- February 18—Box Butte county vs. Moline Plow Co.; Kirchbaum Co. vs. E. G. Laing.
- February 20—Miller vs. Baker; Paxton & Gallagher vs. Brennan; C. B. & Q. R. vs. Nolan.
- February 21—Owens vs. Palmer; Farmers Union Co-op. Assn. vs. John Burton Payne; Herman vs. Reeves and Hadley vs. Brost.

### Four Divorces Granted.

Divorces were granted in the case of Gribble vs. Gribble; Vallas vs. Vallas, Rawlins vs. Rawlins and Cornforth vs. Cornforth. A number of cases on appeal from the county and city courts were settled. In the state vs. Frank Gilleran and Dwight Zediker, appeal from police court, the case was dismissed because of the fact that the complaint as drawn, did not charge any violation of city ordinance. The complaint charged that the two men were guilty of yelling and howling, and this is no offense under city ordinances.

The court dismissed the cases of the state vs. Klordan, Reddington and Kiskis, fined \$15 apiece for gambling by the county court, on the ground that the fine of \$15 was not in accordance with state law, which provides a minimum of \$100 for this offense. In the matter of Harve Shepard, charged with illegally transporting intoxicating liquor and fined on that count in county court, the defendant was discharged, there being no evidence in court. Shepard was fined in police court, although he had smashed the bottle containing the alleged hooch on the sidewalk. There were but ten drops of evidence, and this was not in existence when district court convened.

State vs. Willis, dismissed. Charged with forging a bad check about two years ago.

## Judge W. H. Westover Has No Ambitions to Be Congressman

Valentine Democrat: A political movement that is reported to have originated at Alliance to have Judge W. H. Westover enter the race for congress against Moses P. Kinkaid has been heartily condemned by Judge Westover. Petitions have been circulated in several cities in the Sixth district, which have been signed by the race for congress states that he does not harbor the slightest desire to enter congress but that he does strongly desire a seat on the state supreme court bench. After twenty-seven years service on the district court bench the work has become so trying that he feels that he will have to give up the labors and return to the active practice of law should he fail to be elected to the state supreme court. Twenty-seven years is a long time to serve the people in the trying position of district judge and the most faithful work that Judge Westover has rendered the people during all those years merits his elevation to the higher office. His candidacy for the supreme court will meet with the hearty approval of the people not only of this district but of the entire state as his capabilities and high character are widely known.

## Chamber of Commerce Wants New Location for the High School

The Chamber of Commerce met at the regular noon luncheon Monday and took up a number of matters of interest. The members voted unanimously to endorse the project of locating the new high school building directly across Box Butte avenue facing south instead of on the same lot as the present high school facing Laramie. This according to the supporters of the plan would improve the appearance of Box Butte avenue giving the depot on one end and the new school on the other.

Baked potatoes were served which were furnished by Kibble and Hopkins. Mr. Kibble also gave an interesting talk on the potato raising industry in Box Butte county and stressed the advantage of using the best seed. The annual election of officers will be held Monday evening, March 6, which will be in connection with a big public banquet which it is expected will be attended by several hundred. This banquet will not be limited to members but will be open to all holders of tickets, both ladies and gentlemen.

H. P. Coursey was appointed to investigate the proposition of a county agricultural agent and will make a report at the next meeting.

In the absence of President Glen Miller on account of sickness Vice President J. S. Rhein presided.

## SEARCHING OF FIREMEN'S GRIPS DIDN'T HAPPEN

A. G. ISAACSON WRITES OPEN LETTER TO CITY MANAGER.

Offers to Give \$1,000 to Charity if Proof Is Submitted that the Search Took Place.

A. G. Isaacson, Alliance business man who accompanied four volunteer firemen on the first lap of their trip to the state convention at Norfolk on January 15 last, returned to Alliance last Wednesday and has written the following open letter to City Manager N. A. Kemmish: "ALLIANCE, Neb., Feb. 13.—To City Manager N. A. Kemmish:—Dear Mr. Kemmish: I have just learned of your reported search of the luggage of members of the Alliance fire department when the boys left to attend the state convention in the interests of the people of Alliance. Seidlem have seen so much newspaper space given over to the publication of "junk" as was used to belittle the standing of the volunteer firemen of Alliance.

"It happened to be leaving for New York on the same train with the firemen and I stand ready to post a forfeit of \$1,000 for charity if you can submit any proof that your officers searched any luggage belonging to members of the fire department as you claim they did. The firemen went to the depot before time for the train and while they were over to the hotel getting a lunch they placed their luggage in the ticket office. The ticket agent will tell you that none of your officers searched any of the luggage in there. When the train came the men carried their luggage into their compartment and it remained there, unopened and unsearched by your officers, until they reached Grand Island the next morning.

"If, as you say, the officers went as far as Hyannis on the train, they must have remained hidden away in some corner of another car. They never appeared and they were never seen by any member of the fire department. The next morning after the train left Grand Island where the local firemen got off, I met a Burlington officer from

## Elks Vaudeville Show Was the Big Hit of the Season

The Elks vaudeville show given last Friday at the Imperial under the management and direction of A. H. Harper was the hit of the season. There were seven numbers, all of which were of professional caliber. Harper himself and Miss Winnie Barry in the final number drew a large bit of applause, and Bob Gavin and Miss Dorothy Fricke in a Bowery sketch were among the topnotchers. Mrs. Bert Duncan sang two good numbers, substituting for Mrs. Alice Buechsenstein, who was ill. "The Battle of the S. O. S.," an A. E. F. sketch, was very well received. A male quartette Wible and Phillips in song and story and "Tilly Twinkletoes," with George Dorr in the Hebrew role, went over big. The house was well filled and the audience most liberal with applause.

The troupe will put on the show at Sidney Wednesday night, Al Gavis having arranged for a special car for them to make the trip. There is some talk of a performance in Chadron later.

## COUNTY CLERK ASKED TO GIVE ROAD FIGURES

STATE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE READY FOR PROBE.

Impossible to Furnish Most of the Information Requested Because of Accounting Methods.

The state committee which is to make a probe of road costs, comparing results secured by the various counties and the state highway department, will get small assistance from Box Butte county, according to present indications. County Clerk Joder has received from the committee a request to furnish certain figures on the cost of road construction, and while all the figures are some place in the records, the situation resembles the famous Humpty Dumpty case. When that gentleman fell off the wall, it will be recalled, all the king's horses and all the king's men labored in vain. It appears that it will require a corps of trained accountants, as well as marvelous memories, to ever get the information required from the Box Butte county records.

The fact is, that until the last year, when R. E. Knight assumed the office of county highway commissioner, the county of Box Butte has kept no systematic records of the money spent on county roads. In fact, according to one of the commissioners, many of the county roads have no numbers or any official designation at all. There are on file, in the office of the county clerk, all of the claims that have been allowed, giving the names and the amount paid. Commissioner Hashman has stated that he believes most of these claims can be accounted for and that he can remember which roads they apply on, but this is the only way out of the difficulty.

Highway Commissioner Reuben Knight, however, is not so sure of this. He knows of claims that have been paid as many as four or five times, due to the fact that claims were presented regularly every month until the commissioners met and finally allowed them, and no books were kept so that the county could tell just how much was owing to any particular claimant. When Mr. Knight was appointed county commissioner, he was particularly impressed with the lack of system, and kept a set of books of his own. Aside from the records for this one year, kept by Mr. Knight, there are no records for individual roads, and only a big pile of claims covering the entire county.

### Can't Furnish Information.

The state committee making the probe is desirous of getting the road costs for the past five years, and making a thorough investigation of costs. Due to the absolute lack of records in Box Butte county save for the year 1921, the questions asked covering the road activities in Box Butte county cannot be answered unless the old claims for five years back are gone over and the road claims sorted out. Commissioner Hashman is quoted as saying that "this would take a month to accomplish," and would then be of little value, as there would be no record of the road on which the money was spent.

In regard to the value of the road equipment, Mr. Knight said that a record has been kept as the state required a statement of this at the end of each year. The state also requires that a detailed record be kept of the road expenditures, but this has unfortunately not been enforced and this will probably be the cause of some explanations on the part of the commissioners. From the condition of the county books, it is very doubtful whether the committee will get any information of value from Box Butte county.

### Law Requires Records.

The statutes provide that each county shall keep a record of each road, its plat, expenses and charges made against that road. The counties are required to establish the office of county highway commissioner who shall keep a record of each bridge and road by number which shall show the cost of construction and maintenance. The committee concludes that: "Assuming the county records have been kept according to law by the road overseers, by the county highway commissioner and by the county board, it ought to be easily possible to take each road number as set forth in the questionnaire, to transfer from your books the data called for by the questionnaires.

"If the county records or the highway commissioner or road overseers have not kept their records in the form outlined in the sections of the statute above cited, you are requested to advise this committee to that effect, and if the information submitted on the questionnaire is submitted from any other basis than a copy of your records you are asked to advise the commission of that fact.

A number of local Shriners will go to Crawford Wednesday, February 22, to attend a dance and supper to be given by the Crawford Shriners.