

**The Alliance Herald**  
TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

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**THE SCHOOL ELECTION.**

According to the fine old system of American politics, the man who gets the most votes is the best fellow. The man who cherishes any sore spots after an election is a chump of the first water. Aside from the fact that it's needless, it's also useless.

The labor union men of Alliance, who entered into a political combine with the farmers of the county, have tried out their strength, and the result must be pleasant. Victory is proverbially sweet. But the attitude of the laboring men in this election brings up the question as to just how much of their original platform remains intact.

First announcements of the farmer-labor bloc brought the word that they were out to purify politics in Box Butte county. Their spokesman, Rev. B. J. Minort, said that the coalition was not formed with the intent to gobble all of the offices in sight and parcel them out among farmers and union men. A Scottsbluff newspaper carried an editorial telling of the usual trend of such alliances, and the usual windup of such offensive and defensive agreement, and Mr. Minort called the editor down. Then he took ill and went to bed.

While the chief spokesman of the bloc was confined to his home, the more radical laborers and farmers took the reins into their own hand. They suggested a list of candidates which would be acceptable to them, and left the door open a little way for others by saying that a committee of twenty-eight, composed of representatives of labor and farmers' unions, would pass on the qualifications of other candidates and endorse those whose ideas appealed to them. Mr. Minort wasn't pleased with the action, apparently. He declined to make the race for the office for which he was suggested, the state senate.

The second step in the campaign was the school election. Friends of the schools, in the absence of filings for the place, suggested the re-election of one member of the board, and another candidate, whose fitness was unquestioned. On the morning of the election the labor group announced their candidates and got busy with a vengeance. They succeeded, by a comfortable margin.

The two men who will serve on the school board are undoubtedly good citizens, and will serve to the best of their ability. Some of the people who voted for them have the idea that they will bring about some considerable changes in the spring building program, but it isn't likely.

But there should be some way for the public to know exactly what is contemplated by the farmer-labor bloc. Is the intent, as stated, to see that the best candidates are elected, or is it simply an effort to get the offices all filled with farmers or members of labor unions? This is an important matter. The Herald has no quarrel with the results of the school election—the men who get the votes are entitled to serve—but if this is an indication of the plan for the fall campaign, it is up to voters of Box Butte county to decide whether they want to be governed by any class of citizens exclusively. Our own opinion is that no one class contains all the good men, or is fitted to hold all the offices. There are some mighty good men within the coalition, but the best material has not been suggested for office.

There isn't any question but that public dissatisfaction is growing. There is a tendency to vote against anyone who is up for re-election to any office, simply because of the overwhelming desire for a change. But the choice of county officials should be dictated by something more than a desire to start something. If the farmer-labor bloc will honestly try to get the best available men elected—not the best farmers, or the best union men, but the best lineup of candidates, they will be doing a service to the county. If not, they will be working for themselves, selfishly. The public, from whom they hope to draw support, should know what the bloc intends to do, and whether they intend to work through existing parties or on their own. They have a perfect right to utilize their political power in any manner or for any purpose that they see fit, of course, but the apparent difference between promise and performance calls for an explanation.

**A THEORY AT STAKE**

Most of us have always held a cherished belief that so far as Washington is concerned, political pull is everything. The general idea is that if a man, or a concern, or a committee, or anything else, has the right amount of political support from congressmen and senators, success is assured. We are about to test this theory, and see whether it will hold water.

Alliance, according to an order from the department of the interior, will lose its land office. The action is taken under the provisions of a law passed in 1840, some years before the civil war, which does not fit present-day conditions any more than the road laws of 1840 would meet present-day requirements. There are still 150,000 acres of dry and irrigated land subject to homestead entry and patent within the district; there are 1,500 unfinished cases in the files, and the removal of the office would work a serious inconvenience on hundreds of ranchers and prospective homesteaders.

The department is firm in its intention to close the office—but there is one ray of hope—the political influence. Alliance is fortunate, in one way, for the order to close the land office could not have come at a better time. This is a general election year, and the present United States senator and the congressman from the Sixth district are both up for re-election. The retention of the land office will please the entire Sixth district. Therefore, Senator Hitchcock and Congressman Kinkaid are on their mettle. Each wants to have the credit of doing Alliance and western Nebraska a favor.

Congressman Kinkaid has entered into the spirit of the competition with all of the zeal for the homesteaders that has characterized his congressional career. Senator Hitchcock got off to a late start, but he is also on the job, apparently determined that the credit for saving the land office shall go to the democratic party, with a share of it for himself, of course. And the fight is on.

Mr. Kinkaid has taken the hard course of convincing the department officials that their action is not justified by the conditions in the district. Officials are proverbially hard to convince, but Mr. Kinkaid has not hesitated to tackle them in other cases, and is not wavering now. Mr. Hitchcock has appealed to the secretary of the interior to suspend the order, and believes that a joint resolution of house and senate can settle the problem at the end of the fiscal year. The order is to take effect in June, unless rescinded.

Our cherished convictions about the influence of senators and congressmen are at stake. We are soon to learn whether there is anything to it. It seems strange, when millions of dollars are wasted annually, that it should be necessary to put up this kind of a fight to save an institution that really justifies its existence, but this is politics. If our hunch is correct, all we'll have to do will be to wait to see which gets credit for re-creating the land office. And if there's nothing to this theory of political influence, we can cheer ourselves with the thought that we would have lost the land office, anyway.

**ABANDONING FLAPPERISMS.**

At last, after years of patient waiting and wading through columns of the best effusions of the leading reformers, we have come upon a crusade that appeals to us. We are only fearing that our paeans of joy may be premature. In these days, above all others, it is unwise to count chickens before they are hatched, and unfulfilled promises are among the most unreliable things in existence.

The Campfire Girls of the nation, to the number of two hundred thousand, have pledged themselves to give up the use of rouge, ear puffs and have decided that their skirts shall measure fifty inches around the hem. They are attempting to set the fashion in sensible dress.

Up to the last sentence, we are with them and for them, with all the poor and feeble power of our pen. In the last of their promises—that setting the fashion in sensible dress—they may be biting off more than they can conveniently masticate. It all depends on what they mean by the phrase. If they mean that they will attempt to set the fashion for girls of their own age, well and good. If they hope to bring about a revolutionary change in fashions for all women, they had better take aim again.

The Campfire Girls include among their members girls from twelve to eighteen years of age. The average age is rather lower than the mean of those two figures. At the age of the average Campfire Girl, there should be no temptation to use rouge habitually, or to wear ear puffs or too narrow skirts. All boys—and probably all girls, too, if they will admit it—"grow up" too rapidly. The days of childhood and youth and the hours of simple pleasures are the finest of treasures for memory later in life. If two hundred thousand Campfire Girls will pledge themselves to be just plain

girls until they are old enough to grow up, they will pass through the dangerous "flapper" days hurriedly and without regrets. Here's hoping that they do it—and better still, that they make it a popular fad for children to be children just as long as possible. The boy or girl who grows up overnight and graduates from childhood directly into manhood or womanhood without taking full advantage of the days of youth is piling up a lot of regrets, for once skipped, it's impossible to go back.

The time will come, all too soon, when ear puffs and rouge and all that sort of thing will be indispensable. But kids between twelve and eighteen shouldn't have to be banding together to get courage to forego the aids they will need ten or twenty years later. Years ago it was said that "a little child shall lead them," but there are some kinds of leadership that children shouldn't be forced to assume. However, they have done it, and provided they don't make a lifetime fetish of their crusade, we wish them all the success they can hope for.

**BEEF FIELD WORKERS.**

Most of our good friends who edit newspapers over in the valley have, at one time or another, been considerably exercised over what they term the unwarranted interference and general nosiness of officials of the state child welfare bureau, who have from time to time urged that the child workers in the beet fields receive adequate schooling and be given the same advantages as other youths. Probably a good deal of the opposition was due to the manner in which the officials went to work to accomplish the reforms they desired.

But the fact remains that it's little enough that the children of the beet workers get out of the industry, and

that to date, they haven't had any protection to speak of. The national child labor committee and the federal children's bureau have made extensive investigations, and while Nebraska hasn't figured in these investigations prominently, if conditions here are the same as they are in Colorado, Michigan and other places, and there is no reason to doubt it, we suggest humbly that in their anxiety to put the noses of the Nebraska child welfare officials out of joint, our friends of the press take care not to condone or encourage the evil.

In Colorado alone, one of the most important beet sugar states, the National Child Labor Committee found 5,000 children between the ages of six and fifteen years, practically all of alien parents, regularly engaged in the cultivation of sugar beets.

From the time the beets are in the ground until they are delivered at the factory the hardest kind of manual labor is required. And much of this is done by small children. These children spend long, hard hours on their hands and knees weeding and thinning the beets. Then when the beets are full grown they spend more long, hard hours lifting the heavy roots to their knees and with a wide sweep of a dangerously sharp knife cut off the tops.

The federal children's bureau made an intensive study of the Colorado situation. Of 1,077 included in this study seven-tenths were the children of contract laborers. Over one-fourth of them were under ten years old, a small percentage under eight. Less than one-fifth were as much as fourteen years old. Considerably over a half ranged from nine to thirteen. From 69 to 85 per cent, according to the process in which the child was engaged, worked nine hours or more a day. From one-seventh to one-third, again varying with the process, worked eleven hours or more a day. The average working day for all processes was usually between nine and ten hours.

Postural deformities and malpositions were found in 70 per cent of the children examined by the bureau's physicians. Another serious effect is the interference with their education.

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Among 930 children from nine to sixteen years of age for whom school records were obtained over 40 per cent were from one to seven years below the normal grade for their age.

The number of acres a laborer contracts to care for is based largely on the number of children he has.

The labor employed in the Colorado beet fields is practically all foreign labor, Mexican, Japanese and Russian.

The Mexicans and Japanese, however, do not work their children as much as do the Russians. The Russian children often begin work as early as four or five years of age.

This is Nebraska, and not Russia or Germany. Children in this state, of whatever parentage, are entitled to all the protection the law gives them, and it's little enough.

**Newspaper Not Limited to Printing All the News**

**Conserving of People's Rights and Fidelity to Principles of America's Democracy Are Basis of World-Herald Conduct.**

For more than a third of a century the Omaha World-Herald, under the ownership of Senator G. M. Hitchcock, has been the champion of true Americanism and of good government.

It has fought without swerving for fundamental democracy.

It has been the exponent of popular rights guaranteed by the constitution—the rights of free speech and a free press, of freedom of assembly, of religion, and of education—and has defended them whenever and by whomsoever assailed.

The World-Herald, under Senator Hitchcock's direction, has devoted itself to teaching understanding and respect for the constitution of the United States, respect for the law, the liberties of all citizens under the law, and the duty of the government, under the constitution, to protect the lives and activities of the people and to respond to the settled popular will.

A daily reading of the World-Herald affords a liberal course of study and enlightenment in not only the duties and obligations, but the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

The World-Herald is a newspaper that does not stop with printing the news and commenting upon it. It believes that an American newspaper owes to its readers an educational duty as to basic principles, to help men and women fit themselves for the responsibilities of citizenship. Ours is a government of the people. It will be such as the people make it. And they will make it such as they are themselves. The stream cannot rise higher than its source. If greed and privilege trench upon people's rights, if cunning triumphs, if liberties are lost, it will be because the people do not understand, because they do not, are unable to help and protect themselves.

It is more light and less heat that is needed in dealing intelligently with our public problems. Light that will enable the people to know what Americanism really is, the soul and truth of it, what are their powers and opportunities as electors in our government, what the government actually means to them.

There has been published recently a wonderful little book, called "The Short Constitution." It is the work of Judge Martin J. Wade of the United States federal court and of Dean William F. Russell of the college of education of the Iowa State university. This book translates the guarantees of the constitution into the language of the ordinary man, woman and child. It affords to the ordinary citizen knowledge of the relation of the constitution to his life and the lives of his children. It is a most helpful and inspiring work in the field of true, not spurious Americanism.

The World-Herald, beginning April 9th, will publish this book in daily installments. It takes the form of lectures delivered by a judge to children in the school room. It brings home to every man and woman, and to every child, the great truth Abraham Lincoln had in mind when he said: "Government—Liberty—Authority—law—the man or woman who fails to appreciate the true meaning of these terms, lacks the training necessary to be a good citizen of the republic."

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The World-Herald wants all its readers to read these lectures. Especially it wants to interest the children, for the future of our republic is in their hands.

Therefore, the World-Herald is offering liberal prizes, open to all children in common schools, parochial schools and high schools, for essays based on these lectures, on "What the Constitution Means to Me." The study of the lectures, followed by writing a short essay—not to exceed 500 words—on the subject, will be an influence for good citizenship that will last through life. The World-Herald urges fathers and mothers to read these lectures themselves and to interest their children in them and in the prize essay contest.

This is only an example of the work the World-Herald is doing to promote the cause of good citizenship and good government. It is a newspaper with ideals and convictions and with the courage to fight for them. While in a partisan sense it is democratic, as Senator Hitchcock is, it is something more than a partisan newspaper. It is independent and free, and it does not hesitate to disagree with the democratic party when it believes the party is wrong. It is the property solely of Senator Hitchcock and his close associates engaged in producing it. No corporations, no outside interests of any kind, own a dollar of its stock. Its owners are not financially interested in other enterprises or corporations. Its soul is its own, and it is free always to speak its own mind. It is a clean newspaper, free from sensationalism or objectionable matter in both its news and advertising columns. You can safely take it into your home and encourage your children to read it.

The World-Herald is by far the largest newspaper in Nebraska and by far the best. Much more money is spent to produce it. Yet the price is reasonable. It gives you more for the money not only than any other Nebraska paper, but than anything else you can buy. A year's subscription for the Daily and Sunday World-Herald is \$6.00, or it will be sent you six months for \$3.00. You could make no better investment for yourself and for your family—over 500 pages in a year's issue.—Advertisement.

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