

**The Alliance Herald**  
TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

BURR PRINTING CO., Owners

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**A REAL ACHIEVEMENT**

Two Nebraska stories in the daily newspapers last Saturday should be of interest to Alliance. One of them was from Kearney and told of the resignation of two of the city commissioners following a vote to return to the councilmanic form of government. The other was a dispatch from Grand Island, which indicated that the people of some residence districts are up in arms over certain diabolical smells which emanate from some large horse barns in the eastern part of that city, and are threatening to set fire to the barns and to shoot cattle driven through the streets.

These two dispatches show simply that Alliance has got away from turbulence and distrust that used to be a feature of our city government. However the city manager plan may work out in other places, it has certainly been successful here. Alliance has no intention of going back to the old councilmanic system. The business of the city in all departments is running along so smoothly that we have to stop and think before we realize that there is a city government. Economy and achievement have been of such common occurrence that they no longer excite comment. The city manager plan has gone over big.

The second dispatch mentioned brings to mind an old evil that we used to have in Alliance—the smell from the septic tank which at one time prevailed over east Alliance and, when the wind was from a certain direction, offended the nostrils of the rest of the town. If you'll stop to consider, it has been some months since that all-powerful, all-pervading odor smote your nostrils. How long has it been since you heard anyone complain of the perfume from the lowlands on the other side of the track?

The truth is that the city manager plan has been responsible for this change. Alterations in the construction of the septic tank has done away with the greatest nuisance we ever had. The tanks are old-timers; they are built in accordance with the ideas of sanitary engineers a decade or two ago, but they have been made to function with as little offense to the nostrils as is possible. Some of these days, we are told, it may be necessary to build new ones, but for the first summer in years the east siders can draw a long breath without regret.

It is well, once in a while, to give credit where credit is due. And in future days, when the old-time septic tank goes to the bad and it is necessary to undergo a little more torture while its successor is being installed, let's not forget the first pleasant days we've had free from that nuisance.

**AN ENCOURAGING SIGN.**

One of the most encouraging signs of intellectual growth in this community is the interest shown in such events as the music memory contest, planned by Mrs. Inice Dunning for the grades. It means something when as large an audience are sufficiently interested in a musical program to brave had weather, and it means even more when that same audience, despite an infinite amount of chatter and unnecessary noise during the program, will remain seated to the end of the last number.

From just such beginnings, there is a possibility of building up a taste for good music. And it is badly needed. Too long have all of us been willing to accept what has been given us in the name of music. For the most part, this is due to the fact that there has been no effort to lead us toward better things. The despised phonograph has done a whole lot toward cultivating an appreciation for the best in music, but in the contest, jazz has won hands down. The plan carried out by the music supervisors of the country starts where it should, with the children. By the time they are out of school, they should have an intimate knowledge of at least the best of the world's musical masterpieces.

Music is apparently coming into its own, at last. For years, no man has been accounted well educated without a knowledge of the world's best books. The world's best music hasn't figured at all. Men schooled in books and in experience have, for the most part, been rather disdainful of music. If they admitted a liking for it, they did so rather apologetically. The man who

knows anything more about music than the tune to the national anthem and one or two popular songs has been regarded by his associates as a bit of a highbrow, a man of artistic instincts, which unconsciously is opposed to the practical side of life. As a result of this mental attitude toward music, men have not learned to love music as they have books. And they have missed something.

Times are changing, thank fortune. Ten years ago, boys in the high school would have been ashamed to take part in a chorus—it would have seemed effeminate. Now look at the increasing number of children's orchestras and the generally growing popularity of music. Anything that will stimulate interest in music on the part of children is to be commended, provided it is good music, for it will insure a more perfect development of the child. It will increase his capacity for enjoyment, and if it interests him in taking musical training of some sort, will give him the capacity of giving pleasure to others.

This is called—and probably rightly so—the jazz age. It is characterized by cheap pleasures, cheap music and cheap literature. The man who has once got the habit of reading worthwhile books and magazines will find that the trash no longer satisfies him or brings pleasure. Acquaintance with and appreciation of good music will have the same effect—but it takes time. Those who were disheartened over the chattering and the inattention at the Sunday concert should instead feel encouraged that such a representative audience came out at all. It's a good sign for the future. The movement to popularize good music should be given every assistance. It means much to the world. There are other things that should also be brought into public favor, but real progress comes slowly.

**THE CLOUDS REMAIN.**

Rev. B. J. Minort, who seems to be the chief spokesman and publicity agent for the Box Butte county farmer-labor bloc, has submitted the requested "explanation" of the aims and purposes of this political coalition. With all due deference to the brother of the cloth, it must be admitted that the explanation leaves much to be desired, and much to be surmised. Many of the points which he endeavors to elucidate are still a bit clouded, as may be seen from a perusal of his letter, which appears in the "Public Forum" column.

Mr. Minort, in the most friendly spirit imaginable, of course, proceeds to point out a few "errors" in our recent editorial on "The School Election." The Herald editor is unable to follow the line of reasoning with the usual success that attends upon efforts to follow Mr. Minort, and it may be well under the circumstances, to discuss the rather fine points that he essays to make.

In the first place, he says, it was not a railmen's election, because both of the candidates chosen were not railmen. The Herald has, of course, never thought for a minute that the farmer-labor bloc, although its chief supporters are members of the rip-track unions and farmers' unions, was confined to these two classes. It is reasonable to suppose that men who seek political success are willing to get votes where they find them. The fact remains, however, that the bloc was responsible for the two "dark horse" candidates, and inasmuch as the farmer element was probably not consulted in regard to the course to be followed in the school election, it is surely not far wrong to speak of a "railmen's election." Whether both candidates were railroaders has little to do with the case, if, as seems apparent, the railroaders selected them and made sure that they were friend-

ly. Even had Mr. Minort himself consented to be one of the candidates for the group, and he admits not only that he was urged, but that he gave advice for conducting the campaign which proved successful, this would not have altered the fact that it was a coup desired by the railroaders and accomplished chiefly through their votes and efforts. Even the support of the four "business houses" and the personal efforts of "one business man" do not materially alter the fact that had it not been for the railroaders in the farmer-labor group, there would have been no candidates put up.

Mr. Minort says there was no "organized effort." Yet he admits that the Alliance supporters of the farmer-labor group planned to back two candidates; that they spent several days getting two men lined up who would make the race; that friendly business men worked with them; and that one railroad man, not working, was told to help get out the railmen's vote, and presumably drew pay for his efforts; that bills were printed and distributed at all the polls. What do you mean, B. J., no "organized" effort?

The explanation says that the men who planned this coup object to the use of the term "dark horses." Why? There's no disgrace in it. There has never been a national convention without at least one "dark horse". Warren G. Harding, now in the president's chair, was a "dark horse." In this case the two candidates, who were unsuspected until the morning of election, certainly come under that classification. There's always prospect of one or more tickets, and unless the men were named openly, this term really applies to them. The friends of the school who suggested their candidates did so openly. The names were published, and there was ample opportunity to investigate the standing of the candidates and their qualifications. The two men elected may be better material than those who were defeated, but the fact is that their qualifications were not mentioned in the campaign made for them. The whole effort to get votes was by stirring up prejudice of one kind or another, by promising the east siders a better school; by promising to work for the discharge of a member of the faculty; by appealing to union men to stand by their colors.

Mr. Minort says that the original platform of his civic forum is still intact. That platform, as expressed by himself, was opposed to any "third party," presumably under any name. The farmer-labor coalition, is as it worked out in the school election, is nothing more or less than a third party. The action at the Hemingford meeting, which suggested a full lineup of candidates, with provisions for endorsing others should they qualify for support by answers to a questionnaire which has not yet been made public, certainly points that way. Mr. Minort, who was not present at the Hemingford meeting, says that the action of endorsing the candidates was a sort of a "straw vote", taken after "practically everyone had gone home from the meeting," and after the regular meeting had adjourned. The Herald's reporter, who was present at the meeting, says that at the time this action was taken, the word adjournment had not even been mentioned, and that if anyone had left the meeting, he failed to see them depart.

Altogether, the explanation is not exactly satisfactory. And yet The Herald hopes that the farmer-labor bloc will model its course upon lines laid down by Mr. Minort. If the school election was won through his counsel, it might be well for them to plan for the primary and fall campaigns in accordance with his ideas.

But the object of the civic forum, as Mr. Minort calls the farmer-labor bloc, is still obscure. Will it work for the best lineup of candidates, the men whom it considers best qualified for the place, or does its qualifications include

membership in a farm or labor union, or complete accord with their ideals? Will it put up its slate and work for their success, or will it select the best of the men who file? Will it work through the democratic primary, as the Hemingford meeting preferred, or will it observe party lines? Will it wait until candidates for the leading parties file, as Mr. Minort suggests it is doing; if so, just what is meant by the statement that "we will work for the best lineup of candidates, and quite a number have said they will file when the proper time comes"?

All these are interesting points, and there are others equally interesting which should be made clear if the public is to support the farmer-labor bloc? Presumably they want public support, and if so, they should not object to making their aims known.

Mr. Minort takes occasion to take a swat at the chamber of commerce and business men generally. Despite the four business houses which did most of the work in electing the dark horse candidates, there is a belief among the bloc that business men are not friendly, he says. Granted, for the sake of argument, that this is true, the next step logically should be to let the business men know what is being done. Confidence begets confidence. "Noising about" their intentions among a select few will not fill the bill of publicity. The Herald is willing to allow any body of men space to present their arguments in any matter that affects the public.

On the other hand, Mr. Minort shows that he has not helped to convince his followers that the business men are not fighting them. The impression to be drawn from his letter is that he, too, feels that the business men have treated his project and his proteges rather coldly, and he proceeds to tell of some plan of his for uniting the various elements of the community that was turned down by some official of a business organization, presumably the chamber of commerce. Not knowing the nature of the plan, it is possible that it may have been feasible, or it may not. Mr. Minort believed it was, and his reference to it seeks to give the impression that the business men didn't want the farmers and laborers to unite with them. The Herald knows this is not the case with a majority of members of the chamber of commerce.

If Mr. Minort knows of any way in which the various elements of the city can be brought into closer harmony and co-operation, the course to take is to present it publicly. He had had a column in both Alliance newspapers, and could have done so at any time. He still has the opportunity. But much depends on the idea of what co-operation means. If it means allowing the railmen and farmers to dictate the course of action, that's a horse of an-

other color.

Finally, friends of the dark horse candidates should realize that no one is "sore" over the school election coup. The Herald, which has looked upon the bloc as a purifying influence in politics, is simply in doubt as to whether the organization has been turned from its original object and is now a political machine. The spokesman for the bloc has made it clear that he does not think so, but the actions of his followers do not jibe with his words.

Wet wash calls received before 8:30 will be returned by 2 p. m. 20 lbs. for \$1. Alliance Steam Laundry. 38-41

Special prices this week on millinery. McVicker's. 39

**OBITUARY**

**MARY KATHERINE ROWE.**

Mary Katherine Rowe, who died Saturday at the Underwood home, west of town, was buried in Evergreen cemetery Sunday, after a brief service at the cemetery, held by B. J. Minort. She was but six hours old. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bud Rowe of Alliance.

**NOTICE**

Teachers' Examination will be held at the Court House, Saturday April 15, 1922.

OPAL RUSSELL, County Superintendent 38-40

The Bogue Store is now open for business. Bargains in every department. 39

Herald Want Ads are read.

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