

The Alliance Herald

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For the first ten days of the new year, not a single pardon, furlough or reprieve was granted by Governor McKelvie. Not a man was released on parole. This good record is not due to any sudden virtue on the part of the governor, or to the clamoring of the press and public for a reform in this direction. The new constitution went into effect January 1, and took this power away from the governor and placed it in the hands of a board composed of the governor, secretary of state and attorney general. The new pardon board hasn't had opportunity to meet. Presumably, after they get organized for work, conditions will improve. If not, there's hope that the legislature will take a hand.

It now appears that Eugene V. Debs, who made the race for the presidency on the socialist ticket from a cell in the Atlanta penitentiary, will be released some of these days, along with other political prisoners. This is something that should have been done long ago. Imprisonment has simply made a martyr out of Debs, who, in reality, isn't made out of the same mud that martyrs are usually made. Outside of the penitentiary, he is only an old man with the habit of ranting fastened on him for life, and as such his influence will diminish year by year. The longer he stays in the penitentiary, the more followers he'll have. Compared with the L. W. W. and the bolsheviks, the worst socialist is getting to be a pretty good sort of a citizen.

Unless the newspaper reporters are running wild—and very few of them have ever been guilty of such a thing—President Harding is already beginning to trim his political sales to appease both the wet and dry element of the country. The president-elect is said to have given out the word that the minute he assumes office, the lid will be clamped down exceedingly tight. Then, if public sentiment does not approve of such a course, recommendations that the prohibitory laws be amended will be made. Of course, if the president-elect said anything of this sort, it will be taken simply an invitation to the wets to raise a row, which they will be glad to do. Such a stand isn't a stand at all—it's a sidestep—a sop to both elements of the voters.

John F. Kramer, national prohibition commissioner, after a year or two of trying to keep the wets from buying and making booze, seems to be somewhat discouraged. He admits that the country isn't dry now, that it won't be dry for at least a generation, and that the only hope of making it dry lies in a crystallization of public sentiment, which occasionally happens. (Look at the result of the last presidential election.) The illicit liquor traffic is characterized as the largest "unrecognized" business in the country, with millions of capital and thousands of men engaged in it. Mr. Kramer, however, is not as one without hope. So long as congress makes appropriations, and his salary continues to be paid, he and the men under him will continue trying to do what they admit is impossible. What earthly chance is there of enforcing prohibition if the enforcement officers talk this way?

Another bubble has been pricked. We learn that the speediest method of transporting mail between New York and Chicago is not by air. Chairman Madden of the house appropriations subcommittee has compiled some interesting figures on the expense of aeroplane mail delivery. He is authority for the statement that delivering mail in the new way costs \$5 a ton mile, as compared with a cost of 7 cents per ton mile where the mail is carried by railroads. If all mail were carried by air, the cost would reach ten billion dollars a year, and the total receipts would be less than one-twentieth of that amount. He denies that there is any time saved by the air route. If this is true, why shouldn't the postal department see to it that airplane mail routes are discontinued. It takes weeks of work and considerable red tape to secure a rural mail route to take care of sixty families at a cost slightly in excess of a thousand dollars a year, but there is no move to do away with a fast like aero mail delivery. At the rate it is costing the government, it would be profitable to require those who are in such a fearful hurry to have their letters delivered to patronize the telephone and telegraph companies, and boost receipts of those concerns enough to cause a reduction in rates in fifty or sixty years. Congress ought to put a stop to this foolishness before many of the smaller cities have built landing stations. After that, it will be impossible to end it.

With fine restraint, the new legislators struggled on for four days without introducing a single bill. Saturday morning the dam gave way, and the flood began. There were only four-

NOT GUILTY

Half a dozen Alliance business men have slyly suggested that The Herald editor might be the author of the anonymous communication published in this newspaper on the eve of the special city manager election. It is with regret—because it was a well written letter—that we disclaim authorship.

The editor of this newspaper was quite free in speaking his mind on the disadvantages of the city manager plan, while admitting the advantages. What would be his object in openly arguing against its adoption, and later arguing anonymously in the same direction?

These be the facts: We worked with that brother, and prayed with him, to sign his name to his communication. When he argued back at us that one or two councilmen had been granted the privilege of anonymous interviews by the newspaper supporting the plan, we had no adequate comeback. We suggested that a signed communication was bound to have more weight than one not signed, but he expressed himself as satisfied and we, perforce, had to be.

If we hear any more of this sort of thing, we're going to plead with the author to come out of the cellar, and let his light so shine that everyone may see it.

teen in the legislative hopper by Saturday night, but the pockets of every representative and senator are bulging with bills. The first day's crop is very similar to that of other years. One bill provides for a joint resolution memorializing congress for an amendment to the federal constitution requiring a referendum vote before a declaration of war. The introducer of this humane measure bears a German name. Another bill is a war-time measure making it unlawful to hold foodstuffs until spoiled, to destroy them, or to purchase crops and hold them until spoiled to control the prices. There's a bill requiring county clerks to keep a separate book in which soldiers' discharge papers will be recorded free of charge, and another dealing with packing houses. Probably not more than one of the entire fourteen will stand a show to become a law, and ten to one it will die a painless death in some committee room, along with hundreds of others. Each year someone suggests that legislators eliminate the unnecessary bills and get down to passing needed legislation, but no proposition is so foolish that it can't find some legislator to sponsor it. About nine-tenths of the session will be wasted in weeding out the wildest of the bills, and there will be such a rush during the closing days that those passed will get only partial consideration.

RANDOM SHOTS

Gug Hyers has a new official title. The boss of all the booze hounds is now known as state sheriff.

A rose by any other name—  
 It's no harder luck to be arrested by a sheriff than by any other booze hound—it's only more unusual.

Bill Marjain: "The Alliance Herald came to us one day last week with four pages blank. If it happens again we are going to be just mean enough to say that the blank pages are the most interesting ones of the lot."

Yeah, and if it happens again we're going to chew an ear off the press-feeder and the gink that shoves 'em through the folder.

We cursed under our breath this morning, when the expressman collected \$2.20 for carriage charges on a box of metal from Lincoln. Thereby we exhausted our profanity, and when we looked over the month's phone bill and found a charge of \$2.15 (plus war tax) for a three-minute call to Aurora, we didn't have a word to say.

The express company is still in the primer class in profiteering. In this case they sent a wagon twenty-five blocks to get a 100-pound box of metal; carried it to the train; brought it to Alliance and delivered it—all for \$2.20. The phone call was put through in ten minutes by the watch, and yet the two services cost within five cents of the same amount.

Thank heaven the telephone company isn't classed as an infant industry. There's no tariff on telephone poles.

Nome, Alaska, which had 15,000 population by the 1910 census, shows up in the last count with only 200. In the language of Jim Bludsoe: "Have a care, Scottabluff, have a care!"

Two little boys were very wakeful in bed on Christmas eve. "Do you see anything?" Jimmy whispered to Johnny. "Yes, old Santa Claus has arrived and is fooling around the fireplace," Johnny whispered back. A few minutes later Jimmy, who was scared and kept his head under the covers nudged Johnny and asked, "Is he gone?" "Naw—he crept into bed with mamma," whispered Johnny.

Ordinarily, we can get the point to Bill Maupin's jokes without a diagram, but hanged if this one isn't too much for us:

A Gering young lady recently visited at a home where there is a new

baby and a 3-year-old hopeful. "May I take the baby home with me?" she asked the young hopeful. "I should say not," replied the y. h. "Your dress buttons up the back."

Of course, our knowledge of such things is limited, but we fail to see how a three-year-old would be the least bit interested in the cut of anybody's jib.

According to the Sidney Telegraph, the Shrine club in that city is noted for its "simple, kindly courtesy," which has quite won the hearts of everybody there. Somehow, those words don't jibe with our ideas of Shrine initiations.

Breathless girl at the movies during the exhibition wrestling match: "Look at 'im stand that fellow on his dome. I'd think those wrestlers would be bald-headed."

A whole lot of people heard of Stratton, Neb., for the first time the other day, when B. L. T. included in the "Line" a section from one of the village ordinances, reading as follows: "Provided however, this ordinance shall not apply to dogs following their masters from the country, or temporarily in the village on business, or traveling through the village."

An Alliance man has admitted that all his life he has been laboring under a mistake. He has believed there is no hell. He has now come to a realization of the truth. "If there is no hell," he asks, "where has business gone?"

The Daily Nebraskan speaks of the present legislative session as "a biennial event, or, rather, a series of events."

Maybe so, but we haven't much faith in legislatures.

Two gentlemen riding on a train were both very much intoxicated.

First Gent: "What time is it?"  
 Second Gent: (after extracting a matchbox from his pocket with much exertion and gazing at it intently) "Thursday."

First Gent: "My God! I've got to get off here."

Far be it from us to desire to appear critical, but the following "humorous" paragraph from the Lincoln Star reads rather peculiarly, to say the least: "One almost forgotten mortal deserving of pity after Christmas is the recipient of a dozen handkerchiefs who happens to have a bad cold and a sore nose."

Why should any mortal be pitied simply because a dozen handkerchiefs

have a bad cold and a sore nose?

Miss Lucy Page Gaston, the anti-cigarette fiend and incidentally the homeliest old girl in the world, has written to President Harding to ask him to cease smoking the beastly things, and thereby set a noble example to the youth of the land.

It is now time for the vegetarians to request the president-elect to lay off of meat in any form.

There are compensations to not being a president, Miss Lucy being a persistent devil.

Their skirts are very, very short But don't condemn the dears— Whatever else they may expose They'll cover up their ears.

Recalling our statements from time to time concerning amateur poetry, it is probably unnecessary to remark that we're not guilty of this one.

After scoffing at grownup men chasing a little white ball over a cow-pasture, True Miller has, after only two afternoons at it, become a regular golfer.

Darn it all—what hurts is that an old wreck like True made a better score than an expert like the conductor of this column.

We hope we're out when he has his first "off" day.

Revenge comma is sweet period.

HIGH GRADE PIANO AT SACRIFICE PRICE

For quick sale will give big cut in price. This is one of our best pianos left on our hands in public storehouse in Alliance. Examine it. Easy payments to responsible party. Write today for full information to The Denver Music company, Denver, Colorado. F12-22

Only a few days left—get in before the sale closes. Highland-Holloway Company. 13

DEATHS AND FUNERALS

Anton Klusienski of Whitman, Neb., aged about seventy years, died at St. Joseph's hospital January 6. The cause of death was cancer of the stomach. The remains were taken to Whitman for interment. Mr. Klusienski was born in Poland.

Wednesday is Apron Day—another big lot at \$1.29. Come early. Highland-Holloway Company. 13

RECEIPTS OF FREIGHT CONTINUE TO DECLINE

Freight business on western lines continues to decline. It is said to be showing up most on less than carload business. Freight men say "there is nothing coming in." That means the receipts of freight in less than carload lots from the east has just about disappeared; that the merchants have quit buying and that the mail order houses are not doing their old time business; that the epidemic of no buying has extended to every class of people, says the State Journal.

There has been a slight increase in the grain movement during the past week but it is not enough to make business good. Railroad men say that if the price of grain would show a decided bulge that business would get better right away.

Burlington officials say that the prospect for a better business soon is not bright. They look for a rather protracted season of light tonnage.

Superintendents of roads in Nebraska are said to be going over their payrolls carefully to see if further reductions in expenses can be made without interfering with service. This is taken to mean that a number of

reductions are yet to follow. Passenger traffic during the holiday season was excellent but it is anticipated that this will fall off in the near future.

NOTICE

Members of the Modern Brotherhood of America will stand in suspension if dues are not paid before the last day of the month.

By order of the Supreme Lodge, F. E. SANDERS, Pre., E. L. LAWRENCE, Sec. 10-13

NOTICE

Regular teachers' examination will be given at the court house January 22, 1921.

OPAL RUSSELL, County Superintendent. Jan 7-18

Silk and Wool and All Wool Mending Wear, \$3.89. Highland-Holloway Company. 13

Stock hogs wanted by the Nebraska Land Co. 103-ff

McVicker's Beauty Parlor now open for business, with Mrs. Kays in charge. 13

Imperial Theater

By permission of the United States Government the Official War Pictures "FLASHES OF ACTION"

will be shown at tonight's show for the benefit of those who did not see them at yesterday's showing.

Tonight—Tuesday, January 11



WILLIAM FOX presents WILLIAM FARNUM in the drama of a brother's sacrifice for his little sister HEART STRINGS

By Henry Albert Phillips Directed by J. Gordon Edwards

See it at

Regular Admission

Wednesday, January 12

J. Parker Read, Jr., Presents



Hobart Bosworth -in- His Own Law

By Frank Brownlee

Personally supervised by J. PARKER READ, Jr.

Matinee & Night—Regular Admission

Coming Saturday MADAME X



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