

# THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT

VOL. XV. NO. 40

LIBERAL, SEWARD COUNTY, KANSAS, MARCH 23, 1922

By J. B. MILLER

## GAS FRANCHISE PROPOSITION IS TOPIC OF DAY

The gas franchise controversy is the big topic of conversation in Liberal this week, and, for the benefit of the public, we will give here a review of the late developments, which bid fair to end in a merry war between those favoring and those opposing gas.

After the city council had rejected the franchise submitted by McQuigg and associates, a delegation of prominent citizens organized with the idea of reviving the issue.

The first thought was a city ticket to be composed of franchise boosters, but this gave way to the suggestion that it would be advisable to deal with the present city council and endeavor to secure an agreement whereby the matter would be checked up to the voters at the coming municipal election. After some negotiations a sufficient number of councilmen indicated their willingness to submit the matter PROVIDED a satisfactory franchise could be worked out between the council and the McQuigg's, and with the understanding that the matter of the rate and the time of granting left to the voters. This seemed acceptable all around and last Saturday morning the council met with H. M. and Frank McQuigg to work out a satisfactory agreement. Saturday evening the meeting re-convened and lasted most of the night, with the result that practically all points contested had been adjusted.

On Monday following, Mayor Griffith, together with Councilmen Newby, Malone and Wright went to Topeka to submit the proposed franchise to the attorneys for the Utilities Commission and other franchise attorneys.

The council did require that before submitting the proposition to the voters, they would require a large petition, and during the past few days, backers of the franchise have been securing the necessary signers.

It is hoped that a satisfactory working agreement between the McQuiggs and the council can be reached in the near future and if this is done the franchise will be published and every legal voter in the city will have an opportunity to express themselves at the polls as to whether they want gas for Liberal or not.

One of the interesting sidelights to the gas controversy, but which is really collateral to the main issue is the method of procedure and the arguments put up by the opposition. After most all arguments against the franchise had been successfully answered, a municipal ownership boom was instituted and a petition asking the council to submit that proposition to the voters as well as the franchise was circulated with apparently good results. But how many will vote for a municipal ownership, when they understand that it will virtually mean a new bond issue, or voting for bonds to finance putting in the system that will perhaps cost upwards of one hundred thousand dollars when the city is already top-heavy with bond issues and new ones for the new high school, remain to be seen.

We venture the assertion that if the boosters for municipal ownership were asked to sign or circulate petitions calling for a bond issue, which will have to be done, before the city could put in a gas plant, if the proposition did happen to carry, there would be few who are now professing their interest that would support it.

The city council is showing a disposition to be extremely fair about the matter, and certainly the citizen's committee has met the council half way; Messrs. McQuigg have conceded a lot. They first asked a year to begin work, and now they have agreed to have the system completed within twelve months, which seems reasonable. McQuigg first asked that the franchise be extended at the expiration or that the city take over the plant at its value at that time; it was opposed to and McQuigg agreed to the removal of the clause. These were the principal talking points of the franchise opponents, and now about the only thing they have left to harpoon the franchise with is "the city ownership dream", which is impracticable and which a large number of citizens, we think the overwhelming majority, could ill afford. IF LIBERAL IS TO HAVE GAS SOON WE MUST

## LIBERAL MUSICAL ASSOCIATION

An audience of more than one hundred people gathered to hear the initial program of the new musical association which has been organized in Liberal. All of the musical numbers received hearty applause.

After the program, Mrs. Molthrop presented the advantages of such a musical organization, and election of officers took place. At the request of Mrs. Molthrop, Mrs. Colvin acted as secretary, and the following were elected officers:

President, Mrs. Molthrop.  
First Vice Pres., Mrs. Fortna.  
Second Vice Pres., Mrs. Connely.  
Rec Secy., Mrs. Barrier.  
Cor Secy., Mrs. L. Wilkins.  
Treasurer, Mrs. Lowry.

Fifty members were received that evening and it was voted to allow thirty days from date for other members to join the club. The initial fee was fixed at One Dollar for all members, excepting high school and other pupils, which fee will be fifty cents.

This organization is especially to develop the musical appreciation of the young people in the town who are talented or interested in music, so the fee has been placed at a figure that will allow all to join.

All dues should be paid in as soon as convenient that the lack of funds may not hinder the rapid development of the new undertaking.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday evening, March 29th, at 8 o'clock, in the Methodist church, when various study clubs will be formed.

The program of last night was as follows:

Piano duet, Mildred Cure and Laura Barrier.  
Flute Solo, Mill Reed.  
Boys' Quartet, Lester Elsaesser, Marlin Kelly, Clifford Sawyer and Corneal Knaak.  
Violin Solo, Forest Wyman.  
Piano Solo, Mildred Cure.  
Trio, (Violin, Saxophone and Piano) Charlotte Gasaway, Helen Boles and Fern Elsaesser.  
Piano Solo, Esther Walker.  
Vocal Solo, Mrs. Darst.

## ROTARY CLUB

Tuesday's luncheon was particularly enjoyable. There were four guests and a one hundred per cent attendance. Rev. Eli Walker, John L. Boles, A. F. Gorman and Jack Mulholland of Dodge City were guests.

Charlie Brown had charge of the program which included short talks. Joe Fuest, on service, in business and as citizens. Tom Smith and Frank Boles on "The Ethics of Business". Roy Ravenscroft and Tom Pate on "Advertising". Mr. Walker told of the Boy Scouts and how they liked to think that some organization was interested in them and willing to give them a helping hand. There are four troops in Liberal, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Troops 3 and 5 have sponsors and 2 and 4 are without. Chairman Evans referred the question of adopting one of the troops to the Boy's Work Committee, for investigation and report to the directors, explaining that, under the by-laws, the Club could take action only thru the directors.

The new hats and breast plate buttons were distributed to the members. Look out for the hats next Tuesday afternoon. They will be going toward the Cimarron Hotel and can be seen.

## ROUTES OPEN FOR BIDS

The three star routes out of Liberal are open for bids until April 4. The routes are:  
Liberal to Beaver and Return;  
Liberal to Hugoton and Return;  
Liberal to Perryton and Return.  
These routes are let for a period of four years. The proposal bids are at the post office now. The bids close at 4:00 p. m., April 4th.

## INSTALLS SHOE REPAIR SHOP AT HUGOTON

C. E. Stutzman of this city moved this week to Hugoton where he will establish a shoe repair shop. Mr. Stutzman who has been in the shoe repairing business here recently lost his shop by fire although his machinery was not badly damaged. He has a modern electric outfit and will open soon.

GRANT A FRANCHISE TO SOME BODY—and McQuigg and Associates are the only persons in this country who have gas to sell.

## A LITTLE MORE REAL INTERESTING GAS DOPE

Shooting to Pieces Some of the Arguments Against the Gas Franchise

\*There are authorities on the subject of gas which cannot be questioned by reasonable people, any more than would the dictionary, and these authorities certainly give the best argument as to the comparative cost of the different fuels. We cite a few of these comparisons quoted from this authority.

In tests made by the Department of Home Economics in Ohio State University to determine the relative costs of various fuels for cooking, the following startling relationships were found.

Natural gas at \$1.12 per M. is equivalent to coal at \$6.50 per ton.

Natural gas at \$2.00 per M. is equivalent to gasoline at 27c per gallon.

Natural gas at \$2.20 per M. is equivalent to electricity at 3c per kilowatt.

Natural gas at \$2.40 per M. is equivalent to coal oil at 15 cents per gallon.

House heating furnace tests: Investigations conducted by the Samuel S. Wyer for the Ohio Fuel Supply Company in 1912, developed the following information:

Natural gas at 30c per thousand in a special gas furnace yielded 2,023,000 heat units for \$1.00.

Natural gas at 30c in an ordinary furnace yielded 1,109,000 heat units for \$1.00.

Coke at \$5.50 per ton in an ordinary furnace yielded 987,000 heat units for \$1.00.

Nut coal at \$3.25 per ton in an ordinary furnace yielded 987,000 heat units for \$1.00.

Figuring gas at 60c and coal at \$6.50 as a comparison, the heat units for one dollar's worth of fuel is 112,000 in favor of natural gas in an ordinary furnace, while on the same basis of cost the balance in favor of natural gas in a gas furnace is 1,036,000 heat units for one dollar's worth of fuel.

Now, these figures are the result of an actual experiment and are not hearsay. Figures are what count in a case of this kind and a mere statement does not go.

Now comes a gentleman and shows us a statement he paid for gas in Denver. Artificial gas was used at 75c per thousand. He burned a grate most of the time and a gas range for cooking, several hours each day, and his bill for the month was \$3.42. How many persons in Liberal can heat their homes and do their cooking for \$3.42 with coal?

There are some people who had rather compare rates, so here are the rates, so here are the rates as charged in some other cities:

Lawrence, Kansas, 80c;  
Newton, 60c with a 75c service charge;  
Fort Worth, Texas, 62 1-2c;  
Amarillo, 50c;  
Dallas, 62 1-2c;  
Tulsa, Oklahoma, 75c;  
Bartlesville, Oklahoma, 75c;  
Hutchinson, 80c, with \$1.00 service charge;  
Topeka, the same as Hutchinson;  
Cherryville, 65c with 50c service charge;  
Richmond, Kansas, 80c;  
Coffeyville, Kansas, 60c;  
Muskogee, Oklahoma, 68c;  
Nowata, Oklahoma, 50c.

## AT THE METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday school at 9:45. Epworth League at 6:30. At 11:00 a. m. the pastor will preach on this subject: "The Fall of Man". A great many people seem to think that man has ever fallen upward. That he started an animal and slowly became a man. The Bible seems to have a different account. Study this with us Sunday. At 7:30 the subject of the sermon by the pastor will be "The Larger Life". Some persons today talk about the restrictions of Christian life. And they assert the church must give wider liberty. We wonder where the restrictions of life really are?

There is a seat, a song book and a welcome for you. If you do not regularly worship elsewhere, we invite you to come.

J. B. Miller of the Democrat, was taken suddenly ill shortly after noon today, Thursday, and was taken to his home, where he is confined to his bed.

## DUCKWELL'S VARIETY STORE OPENS SATURDAY

New Store Opens Friday With a "Get Acquainted" Feature—In Greenberg Building

On Friday afternoon and evening the new Variety store of Duckwell's will feature a "get acquainted" opening, the purpose to meet the people of this trading territory and for the people to come in and give this new addition to Liberal the "once over". No goods will be sold this day, but you, one and all, are invited to visit the store and get acquainted.

On Saturday morning at 9 o'clock the new store will open to the public for the selling of goods, and they have many "specials" billed for the day. This store is one of a chain of stores being operated by Duckwell's, there being several in Kansas, the oldest one being at Abilene, in Dickinson county.

Duckwell's have established a reputation over the state for maintaining stores of the first water. They carry at all times complete lines of the best quality merchandise, specializing in popular priced articles from 10c up.

We welcome Duckwell's to the business circles of Liberal. We know from their past records in other Kansas towns what we can expect of them, and we predict they will have no cause for regret in placing the new business house in this town.

## LARGE CROWD ATTENDED COMMUNITY MEETING SAT.

County Superintendent Miss Emma Thompson reports the Community meeting at the Court house Saturday was well attended. The large court room was crowded.

Lunch was served from one o'clock until two. Some very good work was exhibited of school work.

The little folks under the direction of Mrs. Lucile Lake did exceptionally well in the Dramatization lesson.

Miss Reed, Musical director in the High School had charge of the Community singing.

District No. 4 taught by Miss Ross won the prize which was \$10, for the largest attendance. Districts No. 2, taught by Misses Edna Bloom and Lois Gilbert, No. 26, taught by Effie White, and No. 31 taught by Miss Irene Behnke and No. 32 taught by Miss Opal Creeden all won prizes for having all members of the board of their district present. The prizes were large framed landscapes for the school rooms.

County Supt. Thompson offered a prize for the best penmanship on exhibition, and Margaret Harnden received the prize which was an Ever-sharp Pencil. Edda White ranked second and Fern Crebert third. The meeting was a great success and proved helpful for all who attended.

## SUBLETTE AGRI. CLASS VISIT STEPHENS DAIRY

The Agricultural class of the Sublette high school, under leadership of Prof. Lee, was in Liberal today, visiting the Sunnyside Dairy.

The Sunnyside Dairy, owned by J. D. Stephens & Sons, is one that is worth coming fifty miles to see. Mr. Stephens uses an electric milker, and is building up a fine herd of Holsteins. He has a thriving business in this city, and says that he sells about fifty gallons of milk per day.

## ELEVATOR AT HUGOTON INSTALLS RADIO OUTFIT

The Hugoton Equity Exchange elevator has purchased a radio outfit and thereby plans to get the market reports at least three times daily. This will be very convenient for the concern and will keep them in touch with the markets at times.

## PRATT TO STAY WITH SMALL WELL PROPOSITION

A Pratt citizen in Liberal a few days ago, said that the city council at Pratt intended drilling about a dozen small wells to get a larger water supply. Pratt had better investigate the Liberal plants and decide on two large wells and be sure of plenty of water. Liberal had many small wells and never had enough water, but either of the two big wells will easily supply the needs of the city at this time. Liberal has a water system that is unbeatable.

Pete McFarlane, gardner for the Rock Island, has begun the making of flower beds and the planning of gardens about the railroad yards.

## PARENTS OF BOY SCOUTS SHOULD BE MORE INTERESTED

Have you parents taken the time to investigate and realize the high moral and physical principles taught Boy Scouts? Do you know just what the ideals of this organization are? Do you know just what kind of a boy your boy must be in order to get to the top in Boy Scouting? What are you doing in order to aid the progress of this organization, and of your own boy?

Every parent of a boy eligible to become a member of the Boy Scouts should give these questions thoughtful consideration.

Liberal, with a population of 4000 people has an enrollment of less than 100 Boy Scouts—less than one-third of what it should have. In perhaps a majority of cases this condition is caused by a lack of interest on the part of the parents. The Boy Scout movement in Liberal, however, is commencing to show more interest during the past few weeks. If you, as a parent, are not now interested, we know you will be if you make an investigation. Ask your own boy first; chances are he is interested, but if not, it's your duty to interest him.

Recently the Lions Club adopted one of the troops and we are looking for this organization to throw enough pep and enthusiasm into the boys to make their troop one of the best in the state. The Rotary is now considering taking over one troop, and it is hoped they reach a favorable decision as this will mean much to the boys. The other two troops are getting along fine with good strong leaders.

You couldn't find a better cause to give some of your time and attention to. Call up any of the fellows who are interested in this movement and they will be glad to give you any information you wish.

## THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Next Sunday will be your last chance to help in the big attendance contest with Garden City. Report for last Sunday, Liberal 344, Garden City 330. Liberal is 239 in the lead, but this can easily be overcome if we fall down in our attendance next Sunday. We must pass the 400 mark. Come on, let's go.

The Christian Endeavor also closes their contest. They about evened the score last Sunday by having an attendance of 207. They want to pass that mark next Sunday evening. Help them do it.

The special Sunday evening sermons are attracting a packed house every Sunday evening. If you would get a good seat for these special sermons and pictures, come early.

Sermon subjects: at 11:00 a. m. "Why Join the Church?" At 8:00 p. m., "Divine Healing."

A special invitation is extended physicians, Christian Scientists, Faith Healers, in fact, healers of every type.

Music specials: "My Mother's Song" by Mrs. F. Fortna; "The Prodigal Son" by Miss Brink; illustrated.

Baptismal service at close of evening sermon.

We want to take a picture of the Bible school next Sunday.

A very cordial invitation to all.

## BASKET BALL TOURNAMENT AT TYRONE, OKLA.

There will be a basket ball tournament at Tyrone, Oklahoma, on Friday and Saturday, March 24th and 25th. Eleven high schools have entered and the games will be played on the high school court. The games will start at 4:00 p. m. March 24th.

## PIE SOCIAL

There will be a pie social at the Arkland school house, Friday night, March 24th, and several of the young people of Liberal are counting on attending. Miss Roma Brown is teaching that school.

## CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES

Mass Sunday at 8:00 a. m., and Friday at 7:30 p. m.

There will be no devotional services Sunday evening as Father Cryme goes to Fowler to conduct services.

D. Davidson left Sunday for the East on a buying trip for his new store at this place. He has expressed himself as well pleased with business since the opening of the store, and that he will continue to bring in new goods for the trade.

## ED DONNELLY LOSES LIFE IN BLIZZARD

Former Resident of This Section Caught in Blizzard of Two Weeks Ago and Perished

One of the tragedies of the recent snow storm that swept over the southwestern portion of the state, was the untimely death, apparently by freezing and exposure of a man by the name of Ed Donnelly, who, several years ago, filed on and proved up a homestead in the breaks of the Cimarron river, in the north-west part of the county.

Donnelly's body was found on the M. McGehee ranch which is near the old Donnelly homestead. A resident of that section, a Mr. Davis, and his son-in-law, while driving down to the Cimarron river in search of some cottonwood trees, which they might use for fuel, found a deserted wagon with some men's clothing and a loaf of bread in it, and, upon looking further, discovered the body of a man about a mile and a quarter south, further toward the river. In the meantime, some of the McGehee family reported the finding of a team of strange horses in their pasture, one of them with a halter on, but no harness. A telephone call was at once put in from the Edwards ranch to the county authorities, and County Attorney Davis, Coroner Miller, Sheriff Nelson and Under Sheriff Freeman hurried to the scene. No one was able to identify the dead man, who apparently had succumbed to exhaustion and exposure.

Driving up near Satanta, the officers found a man by the name of Smith, who had seen a man answering the description of the dead man, and who identified the wagon and team; he reported that the man was Ed Donnelly, who lived in that locality several years ago with his wife, who had died there; this was later verified at Satanta, where names of his relatives were obtained, and they came to Liberal and claimed the body.

Donnelly was last seen by Smith driving toward the river the evening before the snowstorm, in his wagon; he was headed in the direction of his old place, where his wife died. The wagon was found in a deep washout, and it is presumed that while going through the storm, the wagon going in the ditch, he got stuck, unhitched his team and attempted to make his way on without the wagon. Some days after the body was found, the harness from the horses, two suit cases and a red sweater he had been wearing were found piled up in the hills. Mr. McGehee reported he saw a man wandering some distance from his house on Friday after the storm, but took him to be a trapper or hunter. The body of Donnelly was found just west of where he had been seen by McGehee. His fingers, hands and feet were badly frozen.

It is an odd coincidence that he met his death near the spot where he lived years ago; had he been able to get a few miles further, he would have reached his former home, where he undoubtedly suffered the hardships of other pioneers in that section of the country.

A sister of Donnelly, a Mrs. Trindle, lives near Gray, Oklahoma, and another sister and the father live at Enid, Oklahoma, where the body was shipped for burial.

During the past five years Mr. Donnelly has resided at or near Denver, Colorado, and it is surmised that he made the trip out to the old place, possibly to look over the old home stand again, and possibly to do some trapping. It is fortunate that he was remembered by some of the older residents near where he was found, as there was nothing found on his person by which he could be identified. In the suit cases found nearly two miles distance from the body, were important and valuable papers, indicating that he carried insurance.

## FILE ON CLAIMS

James Clark and Roy Meyer of Anthony, passed thru here Tuesday on their way to Roswell New Mexico. It is their intention to file on claims near there. James Clark was formerly employed in the First National Bank here before going to war, and Roy Meyer is a brother of John Meyer of the Peoples Oil & Supply Co.

S. Z. Hubbard who has been living northwest of the city is moving to a far mear Dalhart.