

THE ALMA RECORD

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

SAFEGUARDING PUBLIC INTERESTS

The price of living has become so high, strikes have become so common, and promises of relief have been so often broken, that the American people have become tired and impatient.

The railroad question has been in an unsettled state since 1916, and conditions have grown so bad that we have been threatened with a complete tie up, and all industry has suffered.

At last a bill has been introduced into the Senate which safeguards the rights of the people and it should have the support of every thinking man.

Throughout all the sections of the Senate railroad bill runs the definite idea that the legislation has been conceived and written for the benefit of the people as a whole.

In making changes in rates and classifications, "the Commission shall take into consideration the interests of the public."

The Transportation Board shall carefully and continuously make inquiry respecting the transportation needs and facilities of the whole country.

The Board shall make to the Commission "representations in the public interest."

The Board shall report to Congress measures that "will promote and protect the interest of the public."

The Board may require the joint use of terminals, "if it finds it to be of public interest."

The Commission may permit railway consolidations if "it shall find that the public interest will be promoted by the consolidation."

No railroad shall issue any more stocks or bonds unless it is "compatible with the public interest."

A railway corporation may be dissolved if it "is no longer necessary or convenient in the public interest."

Board may suspend existing car service rules in emergencies, and substitute others, "in the interest of the public and the commerce of the people."

No road shall enter upon new construction unless "public interest requires or will require the construction."

No existing road shall be abandoned unless "the present or future public interest permits such abandonment."

A railroad must provide itself with more adequate facilities if it "is reasonably necessary in the public interest."

Commission may order division of traffic in such a way as "will be in the interest of better service to the public."

Commission may simplify rate schedules if "the public will be better informed by so doing."

Rail connections between docks and railroads shall be made only when it can be done "with safety to the public."

In dividing joint rates between participating carriers the Commission must consider "the importance of the carrier to the public as a transportation utility."

In times of emergency such temporary through routes may be established, as "are necessary or desirable in the public interest."

Perhaps never before has the interest of the public been held so continuously in mind as in the conception and perfection of the railroad bill as passed by the Senate.

If it shall become a law substantially as written the people will at last have come into their own.

The term "public utility" has long been a misnomer. Many roads have been used more as private utilities for the creation of immense individual fortunes.

Others have become the butt of experiment by State legislatures, with disastrous results to themselves and the public.

The roads as a whole have come to be looked upon by some employes as their own private property, the bills to be paid by the public and the profits, if any, divided between public and employes.

Now under the terms of the Senate bill, the roads are to become in reality public utilities and will be operated as such.

ALMA ROLLER MILLS

This editorial is not an advertisement for any concern or any particular brand or make of flour, but the purpose of it is to call attention to a few pertinent facts concerning the Alma Roller Mills which recently began operations and are turning out flour from Gratiot county wheat.

The manufacture of flour is an important industry, and such an institution is of great value to any community. Especially is that true in a section that produces the quality and quantity of wheat produced by Gratiot county farmers.

It ought to be perfectly plain to all of us that the operation of this mill means a market for wheat grown in this section, and the farmers who grow that wheat will be patrons of Alma merchants, and spend their money here, all of which will help to make Alma grow and thrive.

If the Alma mill product is a good product, we people should eat it, our merchants should sell it and advertise it to other folks, because it means industry in our city, and furnishes a market for the product of adjacent farms.

Anything that will legitimately build up Alma should be encouraged. Our manufacturing industries are amongst the best in the state, and no section excels Gratiot county in the production of wheat and other agricultural products.

That being the case let us unite in encouraging every industry that will tend to make Alma a larger city and a more desirable place to live, Alma Roller Mills included.

A Berlin despatch informs us that "Opinions here agree that German interests are better served by America inside than outside the league." Of course. That is what the real Americans of the Senate have contended from the beginning.

Mr. Wilson refuses to acknowledge the fact, or acknowledging it, refuses to let it stand in the way of the realization of his ambition, the league.

Suppose it snows and the wind blows today, and you feel as ugly as a bear with a sore head, what good will it do to pass that on to everyone you meet. Forget it, the sun will shine some other day and you will live longer by pretending you're happy anyway, and your friends will enjoy your society a heap more.

Where did you get your license to make mean remarks about your neighbors, and assume that you have a lead-pipe cinch on all virtue and truthfulness? This world would be a mighty nice old place if we would all cut out our unjust criticisms and make every effort to do as we would be done by.

If I don't do my part, you don't do your part, "Jim" don't do his part, "Susan" don't do her part, toward building up Alma this year and bettering conditions, (and there are a lot of others like us), who will be to blame if the city stands still or slides back?

What company you keep; how you spend your money; and what language you use are factors that determine your standing among men.

CIVIC LEAGUE REPORT

(Continued from page one)

education, Washington, spoke briefly on the subject, "The Kindergarten in Relation to Child Welfare."

At the same meeting Prosecuting Attorney Ora L. Smith presented three subjects vital to Alma:

"The Condition and Poverty in Some Families in Gratiot County"; and "The Crusade in Michigan Against Venereal Disease."

In constructive and educational matters the league this year has shown continued interest.

A letter was sent to our representative at Lansing, endorsing a bill "to promote the protection of public health; to provide for a county health officer in the various counties of the state, and to prescribe the compensation, the powers and the duties thereof."

Letters were sent endorsing the Good Roads amendment, also Senate bill 131 favoring compulsory physical training and education in the public schools.

A telegram was sent to our representative at Washington asking that the appropriation for school gardens be passed; and a letter sent petitioning the legislature that the Mothers' Pension Law be made mandatory and not left to the discretion of the Probate Judge.

Resolutions were sent to the mayor and commission of Alma endorsing the work of Miss Ida Peck, public health nurse and social service worker, and a resolution petitioning that an ordinance be enacted requiring all public dance halls to be licensed.

A resolution was sent to the board of education petitioning them to see that no trees were cut down in the grove east of Republic school.

At the May meeting the committee reported that the league had borrowed the money and turned over the same to the Board of Education to make the first payments on the four lots for playground for Republic School and a civic league candidate for a member of the board of education was presented at the annual election in July.

November third the league entertained the Art Club and the Woman's Club at the home of the president, Mrs. King.

Comprehensive reports of the Federation meetings at Kalamazoo were given by the delegates.

Excellent work has been done by the different committees. A full report of the work done for the library will be given by the committee chairman, Mrs. Glass, and the secretary's report will only note the gift of \$1,000.00 for library expenses.

The gift of \$163.68 in books from the Art Club, also of \$42.75 from a tea given by Mrs. Ruggles for the book fund; and the motion that was carried at the Nov. meeting, that we use our ten one hundred dollar Liberty bonds to buy furniture for the library.

Shrubs were sold by the committee in charge netting the league \$13.98. Six new cars were bought, the old ones repaired and painted.

The Station Park has been kept in order and taken care of for the winter.

The Good Government, the Educational and the Publicity committees, have been active in their different departments. But the step in advance towards a city library stands out clearly as one of the strong features of the year's work.

Besides moving into the city hall's much larger and better quarters, correspondence has been again opened with Mr. Bertram in charge of Carnegie libraries, and the league closes the year with bright hopes for a library worthy the city of Alma.

Respectfully submitted, (Mrs. R. H.) Ella B. Wilcox, Sec'y. Treasurer's Report—1919

RECEIPTS

Table with 2 columns: Description, Amount. Includes Cash in bank, Jan. 1, 100.77; Cert. of Deposit, 500.00; Rec'd from dues, 18.75; Rec'd from shrubs, 13.98; Rec'd from Int. on bonds, 40.00; Rec'd from Int. on Cert., 11.67; Rec'd from City Clerk, 1000.00; Rec'd from Mrs. Ruggle's tea, 42.75; Rec'd from Mrs. Wright and Miss Case, 10.00.

DISBURSEMENTS

Table with 2 columns: Description, Amount. Includes Rent, 180.00; Care, 467.00; Lights and Fuel, 24.81; Magazines and papers, 71.88; Fed. dues and delegates, 26.50; Books for library, 72.79; Waste cans, 42.35; Miscellaneous, 11.15.

Balance January 1, 1920 \$ 896.48

Respectfully submitted, Estella Moore, Treasurer.

To the Alma Civic Improvement League:

Your committee is very happy to report, that perhaps the most important event in the history of the Civic League, has happened this day, when the little old Reading Room on Woodworth Ave., started in fear and nourished with trembling, has blossomed into the Alma City Library.

The library is being moved into the city hall this afternoon.

However, the library is in a very feeble condition owing to the inadequate number of books, and the library committee would recommend that a committee be appointed to carry on an extensive campaign to obtain money with which to buy books for the library.

They have now a number of 1,218 books, only a part of which is a credit to the library, many being soiled and torn.

416 books mostly new and others practically so, have been donated during the year.

Books have also been purchased from Mrs. H. M. Dunham and Dr. Bagley.

During the year 1919 there has been an attendance of 16,000 people at the Reading Room which means more than a two-thirds increase over the preceding year.

In Nov. the committee appointed for the work of buying furniture with the assistance of the executive officers of the League, placed the order for new furniture with the Library Bureau Co., who make only furniture designed especially for libraries.

After investigating the reliability of the Library Bureau Co. and acting with the advice secured from more

than one prominent librarian, the committee felt secure in obtaining the furniture from this firm.

Six (6) tables with six (6) chairs each, one of which is a table designed for children, a library charging desk and chair, racks for magazines, newspaper racks and files and a catalog case and base comprise the essential furniture.

The city in making ready the library room has had built in bookcases one whole side of the room finished to match the furniture.

This furniture is made very substantially of solid oak. The tables are constructed to meet the requirements of reading and reference work. They are made with the proper overhang of the top and with the top edges slightly rounded to prevent unnecessary wear on book bindings.

The chairs are built for durability and designed to command a correct reading position. Whereas this furniture is unlike other in construction it is very much alike in price and totaled to \$1,123.

At a regular meeting of the league it was voted to pay for this furniture with the money belonging to the league.

The book fine money for the year amounting to \$64.47 has taken care of all local expenses and also paid for a set of children's books.

Miss Ward, Alma College librarian, whose appointment on the library committee is considered most fortunate for the welfare of the library, approved of our present list of periodicals. We have now on the table the following magazines:

Popular Mechanics, American Boy, Youth's Companion, Scientific American, Recreation, Baseball, Literary Digest, Outlook, World's Work, Collier's, Leslie's, Saturday Evening Post, Harper's, American, Ladies' Home Journal, Electrical Experimenter, Review of Reviews, Photography, Flying, Red Cross, The Atlantic Monthly, Mexican Review.

One of the greatest needs of the library at the present time seems to be a set of New Encyclopedia and World War reference books.

Respectfully submitted, Mabel B. Glass, chairman.

BEAUTY PARLOR

A. W. Davis Has Opened New Beauty Parlor Over Barber Shop.

A. W. Davis, proprietor of Davis barber shop, and one of the best known barbers in this city, opened a beauty parlor over the shop, located at the corner of East Superior and Woodworth on Saturday.

Considerable money and time has been used in remodeling the second floor of the building, and in fitting it up for the beauty parlor, as Mr. Davis felt that Alma had need of such a place.

Mrs. James Allen, who is a graduate of the E. Runham School of Beauty Culture of Chicago, is in charge of the new place, and gives the assurance that every possible courtesy will be extended, and that every effort will be made to give service of a high order.

Oh, Boy! "Fatty" Arbuckle in "The Hayseed"—Idlehour, Wednesday and Thursday.—adv.

Very smart new models in silk and satin hats at Robinson's.—adv.

PIONEER DEAD

Mrs. Ann E. Trapp, Old Resident of Alma Died Sunday.

Mrs. Ann E. Trapp, one of Alma's oldest and one of her highest respected residents, passed away at her home on West Superior street Sunday morning, her daughter, Miss Winifred Trapp, a prominent teacher in the local schools, being at her bedside when she died.

The funeral services took place from the residence on West Superior street Monday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock, Rev. W. L. Gelston of the First Presbyterian church officiating, and burial was made in Riverside.

Australian Aborigines

As a hunter the native Australian is marvelously adjusted to his environment. His success lies in his intimate knowledge of the habits of animals.

Any animal which leaves a track however dim, in sand, on rock, or in grass falls an easy prey to the black fellow. Children are taught to track lizards and snakes over bare rocks.

Modest Request

An English lady was visiting a convict in prison and as she was about to leave she asked him if there was anything she could do for him outside.

"There is, lady," said the convict, "I'd appreciate it very much if you'd call on the mayor and ask him to extend me the freedom of the city."—Boston Transcript.

The Gouty Elephant

Ancient chronicles tell us that the Romans sometimes tested their military braves by sending an elephant out on them and then watching to see whether the cautious beast would cross.

Even to this day the natives in India set great store by the elephant's caution.

Pleasures Coming Fast

Merle was fond of bananas. When his father took him into his mother's room to see the new brother that had arrived the night before the child was given a banana as he left the door.

"Gee," he cried delightedly, "a new brother and a banana, both the same day!"

First Private English Phone

The first telephone ever placed in a private English residence is still to be seen at Macleborough house. It was made in 1878 on board the warship Thunderer and was subsequently set up between the schoolroom and the boudoir of the princess of Wales.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Western Carburetor Co. will be held at the First State Bank on January 23, 1929, at 1:30 p. m., for the purpose of electing directors and such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

January 2, 1929. 30-2-c Harley Williams, Sec'y.

Oh, Boy! "Fatty" Arbuckle in "The Hayseed"—Idlehour, Wednesday and Thursday.—adv.

Bartley's Market

Is in excellent position to supply you with good quality Meats, cleanly handled.

We carry a complete stock of beef, pork, veal, lamb, poultry, fish and oysters. Pure home rendered lard a specialty. Our sausage and hamburger are made from good, clean meats, freshly ground every day.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Price. Includes Pork loins, trimmed, lb., 30c; Pork sausage, lb., 30c; Salt pork, fat, lb., 22c; Pure lard in five-lb. lots, 28c; Beef kettle roast, lb., 18c-24c; Short ribs of beef, lb., 16c; Veal for stewing, lb., 24c; Lamb stew, lb., 25c; Whitefish, lb., 24c; Lake trout, lb., 28c; Oysters, Majestic, qt., 70c; Milk, Danish Prize, tall can 16c; Cheese, full cream, lb., 40c; Pickles in bulk, sweet, sour and dill.

Highest market prices paid for live stock, poultry, eggs and butter

BE WARNED

YOU have experienced the shortage in Ford cars previous years. The same condition will exist in delivery of Fordson Tractors. If you want one for Spring now is the time to place your order.

C. M. JOHNSON Fordson Distributor



Delicious Sandwiches

The bread has just as much to do with the taste of a sandwich as the center.

And you find that the crispest, daintiest, most appetizing sandwiches are made with

Pan-Dandy Bread

For Pan-Dandy, made with the best of flour, with pure tested milk and baked in modern ovens, is the finest achievement of the baker's art.

Housewives who have heretofore baked their own bread now buy Pan-Dandy and save the labor of baking.



At all grocers, Look for the label.

THE MODEL BAKERY

WE HAVE MOVED

to the Wright House Garage, but if anything is wrong with your Car

WE CAN FIX IT

We guarantee to do our work skillfully, and have a thorough knowledge of car construction.

WE SOLICIT YOUR WORK.

Richard Lodewyk

We have moved to the Garage in Rear of Wright House

The Regent Theatre

Thursday and Friday, Jan. 22 and 23

Your First Opportunity to See the American Beauty

KATHERINE MacDONALD

—IN—

"The Thunderbolt"

In the supporting cast is Thomas Meighan and Spotiswoode Aitken, who are also very prominent.

This picture broke the house record for attendance in The Madison Theatre, Detroit, when it played there about three weeks ago.

Matinee Both Days at 2:15---10c-20c Evening at 7:00 and 8:30 — 15c - 25c