

The Alliance Herald

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LOOK BEFORE WE LEAP

It was Shakespeare who wisely said that it is better to bear with evils that we have rather than fly to those we know not of. The Herald is deeply interested in good government for the city of Alliance. We realize that there have been some faults in the present system. If this newspaper were convinced that the city manager plan of municipal government offered a genuine remedy for the evils that are so apparent, it would whole-heartedly support the plan.

As matters stand, it behooves this city to look well before it takes the leap that may be out of the frying pan into the fire. It is regrettable that there are no instances near at home of the city manager plan in actual operation. It is interesting, of course, to realize that Phoenix, Ariz.; Manistee, Mich.; LaGrande, Ore., and other places have tried the plan and are delighted with it. But other cities have tried this form of government and have returned to the old form as quickly as possible. Alliance itself is among this number; Chadron, a nearby town, had a similar unfortunate experience.

It is a matter primarily for the voters of this city to decide. If they are satisfied that greater efficiency can be secured with less or a proportionately greater expense; if they are satisfied that a city manager will be as responsive to public opinion as the present council and mayor; if they believe that a city manager can be secured who will be the man for the place, then the system should be supported.

The city manager himself is the crux of the whole matter. Upon him hinges the success or failure of the plan. If the supporters of the plan have anyone in view, it is their duty to allow the public to know of it. Too often has buying a pig in a poke proved unsatisfactory.

There are arguments enough for the plan, of course, without manufacturing them. An attempt has been made to make the cost of paving inspection an argument. It has been suggested that a city manager could do this work. Few people realize just what the work of inspection includes. Those who do, realize that a city manager could not do it even if he devoted his entire time. There are inspections at the brickyards, tests of the strength

of brick and of concrete, inspections of individual brick. The inspector furnished Alliance also did the surveying. For a full year one inspector was employed; during the actual laying of the pavement two were on duty. Alliance did not pay an excessive fee for this work—and it would have been manifestly impossible for a city manager to do it and attend to other duties at the same time.

It should be understood that a city manager will have his hands full with the work of supervision. The superintendent of the light and water department acts as working foreman. It would be necessary to have such a foreman, whether we get a city manager or not. The same is true of other offices it is proposed to have the city manager take. A city manager who could handle all the work that has been suggested for him would have to be a civil, mechanical and electrical engineer; a financial expert; a good city administrator; a competent paving and sewer inspector, a bookkeeper and heaven knows what else. An enormous salary would be required to secure such a man, and really, he isn't needed. People don't expect him to do it all.

REGULAR JOB

"And what might your work have been during the late war?" asked an old lady visiting the Atlantic fleet as it lay at anchor in the Hudson.

"Ma'am," replied the gob wearily, "I worked on a submarine and every time they wanted to dive I'd run forward and tip her up."

Mrs. Ray Magnuson, of 229 Missouri Ave., died at St. Joseph hospital December 10th cause of death being general peritonitis. The body was shipped to Merna, Neb., for burial. Her husband, Ray S. Magnuson is left to mourn her loss.

Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Roberts are leaving soon to spend the winter in Denver.

NUT STUFF

"Yes," said the mess sergeant. "We'd have had a change from this everlasting slum diet if Washington had let that cargo of walnuts come through. But they stopped it."

"Walnuts? Stopped it? What for?" asked the fall guy.

"Well, you see, buddy, they said there was a danger of the shells exploding and striking the colonels."—American Legion Weekly.

We forgot to mention last week that Allie Hewes was in town recently with a broken knuckle, which he claimed happened when a cow kicked him. His father says Allie doesn't milk, and that anyway he sold the cow, and besides she doesn't kick.—Cimarron (Kans.) Jacksonian.

Frank E. Ackerman of the Casnovia Herald complains bitterly that some one on Hallowe'en stole his axe and a bushel of potatoes. He doesn't care so much about the potatoes, but his wife needs the axe for exercise.—Sparta (Mich.) Sentinel-Leader.

ALSON B. COLE TO GO TO CHAIR NEXT FRIDAY

JUDGE AT ST. PAUL ORDERS HIM BACK TO LINCOLN

Howard County Slayer Faces Execution for Share in Murder of Mrs. Anna Vogt

St. Paul, Dec. 11.—Alson B. Cole will be returned to the state penitentiary and dealt with according to law. This was the decision of Judge Paine at the Cole case hearing in district court at St. Paul Saturday.

This ruling means that Cole is sentenced to die in the electric chair Friday, December 17, for his part in the murder of Mrs. Anna Vogt, of Howard county, in 1917. Sheriff W. H. Atwood of Howard county was ordered to take Cole back to the penitentiary.

Arguments were heard in the morning for and against correcting the former decision sentencing Cole to death.

Attorney John M. Priest of Lincoln, representing the defendant made application during the hearing for another judge than Judge Paine, who was presiding over the hearing, maintaining that Judge Paine was prejudiced and could not give a fair hearing. Judge Paine decided against this application. Assistant Attorney General Mason Wheeler represented the state.

The court audience was orderly at the opening of the hearing Saturday morning. No demonstration nor indications of mob violence were in evidence.

Chief interest in America in the fall of Sebastopol lies in the fact that it is the first city so far that the Bolsheviks have taken that our people could spell and pronounce the same day.—Lexington (Ky.) Herald.

One commentator on the proposal of a national tree suggests the hickory. Probably the prohibitionists won't consent until somebody takes the hic out of it.—Mesa (Ariz.) Daily Tribune.

We know personally a lot of Elmore women who do not appreciate a good husband. And we also know some who appreciate husbands who are not so good.—Elmore (Minn.) Eye.

There are still a few people in these United States of America that most of us would like to see shipped out before the ocean goes dry.—DeBeque (Colo.) New Era.

In a matrimonial race it is not easy to tell when a girl is on her last lap.—Bremen (Ind.) Enquirer.

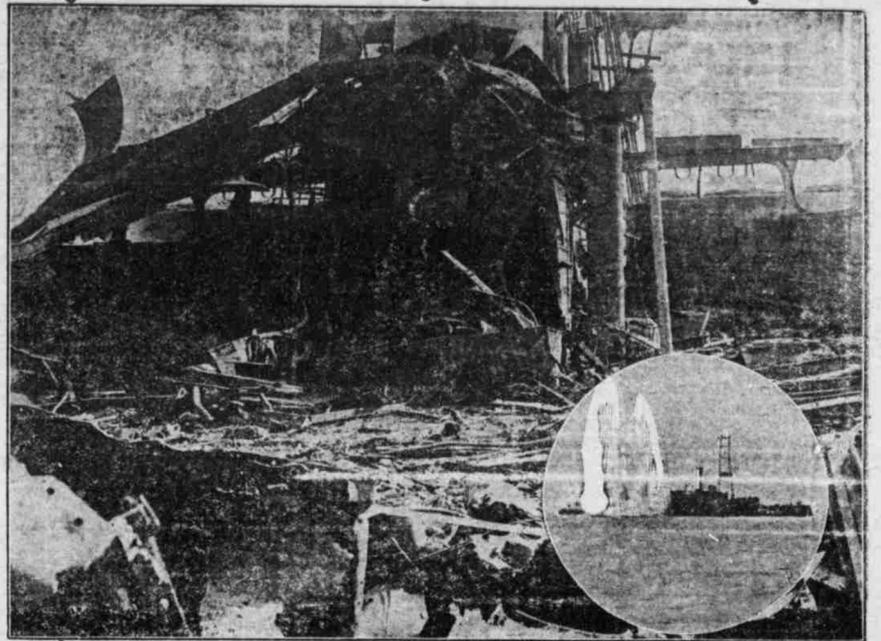
Flirts are not as bad as they are painted.—Polo (Mo.) News.

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RESULTS OF BOMBING INDIANA—In late years the navy has used obsolete vessels to determine the effect of gun-fire and explosives upon heavy armor. The first of these was the old Texas, renamed the San Mar-

cos before being used as a target. Her remains lie in the waters of Tangier Sound in Chesapeake Bay. Next the old Indiana was towed to Chesapeake Bay to a point not far distant from the SanMarcos. Bombs containing a

charge of explosives were placed on board her at points where the effect of the explosive was desired, and then discharged. The results we see above, and from the tangled steel girders and wreckage strewn about, it was probably an uncomfortable place to be.

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