

THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT

SUCCESSOR TO
CHERRY COUNTY INDEPENDENT.

ROBERT GOOD, Editor and Publisher

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THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1896.

Our Platform.

Following is the platform adopted by the Democrats of Cherry county, in mass convention assembled, Saturday, April 18, 1896:

We, the Democrats of Cherry county, in mass convention assembled, do reaffirm our allegiance to the principles of the Democratic party as formulated by Jefferson and exemplified by the illustrious line of his successors in Democratic leadership, from Madison to Cleveland.

We still denounce the Republican doctrine of protection as a fraud—a robbery of the great majority of the American people for the benefit of the few. We still adhere to and maintain the Democratic doctrine of "a tariff for revenue only." We believe the interests of the masses of our population will be best conserved by the collection of such taxes as shall be limited to the necessities of the government, honestly and economically administered.

We express our faith in the time honored doctrine of the Democratic party as to international trade relations—an interexchange by which the countries participating shall enjoy reciprocal advantages. We denounce the sham reciprocity scheme of the Republicans, which juggles with the people's desire for freer exchanges by pretending to establish closer relations, while enacting prohibitive tariff taxes against those countries of the world that stand ready to take our entire surplus of products in exchange for commodities which are necessities and comforts of life among our own people.

Appreciating the condition of the public mind with reference to the financial policy of this country, and recognizing the importance of a proper solution of this question, we unhesitatingly express our unalterable opposition to the free and unlimited coinage of silver, except by international agreement; and, until such agreement can be procured, we favor the present standard of value. We denounce the action of the Republican county convention in intentionally omitting to state its views on this important question as a repudiation of the cowardly and dishonest practices of that party.

Finally, we endorse the administration for its excellent conduct of public affairs, its vigorous foreign policy and its unparalleled management in maintaining the public credit against foes from without and foes from within.

The agony will soon be over.

McKinley's triumph is democratic opportunity.—*New York World.*

The present tariff is higher than the Morrill tariff which was passed to raise money during the war and which was for years denounced as "the iniquitous war tariff," yet in a time of peace republicans wish to raise the duties still higher.

Now is the time to commence cultivating vegetables. THE DEMOCRAT will give a year's subscription to the one who presents it with the largest watermelon, largest muskmelon, largest cabbage, etc. Remember this and hustle for the prize, the best paper in the northwest.

Something must be wrong with the religious people of Chicago when as happened last Sunday only fifteen persons turned out to hear Rev. Frank Bristol, whom the press dispatches say is "the most popular minister in the city." Rev. Bristol is a Methodist, and sent the congregation home without a sermon.

We see no better way for the silver democrats to lessen the chances for carrying the election for silver than to get control of the democrat national convention for silver. It is useless for them to expect populists and silver republicans to vote the democratic ticket under any pretext they may give.—*Falls City Populist.*

London, England, is getting to be quite a city. The census which was taken on March 29 shows that the city has a population of 6,167,692, or almost double the population of Greater New York, and more than three times the population of Chicago. The census was taken in a single day, enough enumerators being appointed so each could cover his territory in a few hours.

Kentucky's republican governor, Bradley, has broken all records for using the governor's pardoning power. From Dec. 10 to May 1 he pardoned 123 criminals who were convicted of crimes ranging all the way from disturbing the peace and giving liquor to minors to manslaughter and murder. The pardons for May have not yet been recorded. The governor is probably fishing for votes, but this wholesale pardoning is having a bad effect upon the criminal classes of Kentucky.

THE REPUBLICAN PLATFORM.

As was to be expected from a party which has no excuse for existence but that it may assist in the enrichment of the few at the expense of the many, the platform adopted by the republican county convention last Thursday was what the Omaha Bee correspondent called "an all-around straddle."

Not a single fair and square statement was made, except those which cannot but be construed to be an endorsement of the democratic party or its principles. The resolutions start out bravely by declaring that the republicans of Cherry county "do affirm that we still adhere to the cardinal principles of the republican party;" there is a halt, as though to remember what those principles are, after which they boldly plunge into the quagmire of doubt with which they are confronted and declare for "protection and reciprocity," or to speak more plainly, for protection and free trade. Anybody can stand on that plank. If you don't like one end, stand on the other. THE DEMOCRAT must be ahead of the times; the reciprocity humbug has so often been shown up in its true light that it thought no one would have the temerity to own it as a "cardinal principle of the republican party."

After the tariff question was thus satisfactorily disposed of the resolutions proceed to denounce the democratic party for accepting the legacy left it by the republican party, "the most disastrous business depression in its (the nation's) history." This needs no explanation. Then the resolution wagon bowls along smoothly with the statement that "we believe in paying the national debt instead of issuing bonds and making more debt," all of which is a hard blow to the last republican administration which was preparing to issue bonds when Cleveland was inaugurated. The resolutions gave McKinley a slap by asking for "a system of tariffs that will produce revenue enough to pay all necessary expenses."

But the best thing of all is the plank which deals with finance. Chameleon like it glitters and glows, is somber and sad, is white, gold and green, according to the surroundings in which it is found. It follows, in full:

We believe in a sound currency consisting of gold, silver and paper. We believe that silver should be restored to its proper place as one of the money metals of this country, and that gold and silver of this country should be coined at such a ratio that the two will be kept at a parity, and that our money, whether of gold, silver, or paper, shall be interchangeable and that each and every dollar shall be such as will pass for a dollar in any part of the world.

The balance of the platform is a tacit approval of President Cleveland's foreign policy, though it is not supposed to be, a resolution in favor of our merchant marine, "international improvements, especially the building of irrigation ditches," and McKinley.

APPROVES THE VETO.

We are more than half inclined to think that the President was right in vetoing the river and harbor bill, which appropriated eighty millions of dollars, while the country is depressed by business stagnation and we are obliged to borrow to pay our debts.—*Ainsworth Star-Journal.*

THE DEMOCRAT is pleased to see this outspoken endorsement of President Cleveland in so strong a republican paper as the Star-Journal, and congratulates the editor upon his fairness. This veto, as well as others by President Cleveland, was just and honest, and will be admitted so by all thinking men. The bill would never have been passed over the President's veto had this not been a great campaign year. There are so many hungry hangers-on to be fed from the public crib, so many political sycophants to be satisfied with jobs that the measure went through congress almost without opposition. And during the campaign our friends, the enemy, will undoubtedly have the gall to use this appropriation of \$80,000,000 as a sample of the extravagance of a democratic administration by including it in their statements of the expenditures of the government during the past year.

Some time ago THE DEMOCRAT told about a wonderful gun which would fire several thousand shots a minute, but now there comes another "benefactor of mankind" who has invented a machine which will hurl no less than 260,000 shots a minute, without smoke or noise, the shots being effective at a distance of 6,000 yards, or over three miles! The engine of destruction can be worked anywhere by four men, can be moved as easily as any field piece, and the only difficulty lies in providing transportation for the large number of missiles required.

The Crawford Tribune will switch its politics—presumably for the constitutional amendments to be given out soon. The Tribune has been a democratic paper. Some of these papers that are moving around and changing front are going to fall by the wayside. Republican factions will arise and there will be chaos in the camp of the g. o. p. of this state and there will be war where papers are moved from one town to another in the same county. Such papers will not be classed as "legal" newspapers.—*Rushville Democrat.*

The brewers of the nation have over a quarter of a billion dollars invested in this country. The output of beer last year was 1,042,292,000 gallons, or 14.95 gallons per head of population, as against 308,336,000 gallons or 6.83 gallons per head in 1876. In three decades the annual output of beer has tripled, while the consumption has doubled in the same time. Since 1876 the consumption of distilled liquors has fallen 1.33 gallons per head to 1.12, while from that of wines has fallen from 45 to 25 percent.

President Cleveland is a man with opinions on every subject of national importance. In a conversation with a republican congressman recently he said:—"I suppose your candidate is already selected, but I am surprised at the choice the Republicans have made. In my opinion Speaker Reed is the strongest and brainiest man in your party. It appears to me unfortunate that McKinley should have obtained the nomination, under the circumstances which seemed to have controlled his selection. He will find this office no place for a mortgaged man."

Mark Hanna admits the authenticity of the McKinley silver letter of 1890 unearthed by The World. He says it "is only another expression of McKinley's well-known attitude on the money question, in which he declares for gold, silver or paper money good the world over." McKinley's "well-known attitude on the money question" is that of being all things to all men. He voted for the Bland-Allison silver dollars. Are they "good the world over?" He voted for the bullion-purchasing Treasury notes of 1890, redeemable in silver at the option of the Secretary of the Treasury. Are they "good the world over?"—*New York World.*

WHEAT.

There are indications that the price of wheat cannot be forced down much further. There has been a "bear" movement for some time past which has been in a measure successful. The chief thing contributing to the success has been a widely circulated and credited statement that the crops at home and abroad must be in excess of demand this coming season. It has been pointed out with especial emphasis that as the foreign crop will be large the demand for American wheat for export will be greatly lessened, therefore the price must fall to a still lower figure.

However, reports from abroad now at hand do not sustain the prophesy of the speculators. They have not looked far enough. Of all the foreign countries only England and France are likely to raise enough of the cereal for their own use this year. These two countries will not export any wheat of course, and France will not import any England may do so to some extent, but so far as these two countries are concerned, the speculative forecast is justified. On the other hand, the Australian crop is going to be short and this country will be forced to import largely for home consumption. Argentina will have 15,000,000 bushels less than last year, to a certainty, and perhaps more. This South American country has been our greatest competitor in the world's markets, and if she alone, of all other competitors, should be compelled by a short crop to withdraw for one season the present calculations of the "bears" would be upset completely. Spain and Portugal have had a most disastrous season and will have to import an extra 50,000,000 bushels. Africa is disturbed by wars and must surely draw on us largely during the next few months. Indeed she has been buying our wheat for six months past, and her need will be still more urgent in the near future.

It does seem that the speculators on the bear side of the market are working against fate this year. There is every chance that wheat will bring at good price to our farmers the coming fall and winter, increasing toward February of next year, when the prospects of the next crop will begin to influence the price more or less.—*Sioux City Tribune.*

THE OLD EDUCATION AND THE NEW.

[Read at the meeting of the Cherry County General Teachers' Association held at Valentine May 2, 1896, by C. H. Doty.]

The value of a saying depends not so much upon the language in which it is clothed, as upon its relation to truth. It is, therefore, with great hesitancy I approach this subject, because of its significance to our interests. Well informed men are sometimes deceived by an idea; and some common minds are often too much swayed by prejudice.

I have inquired of myself, What is the old education? When did the new supersede the old? What are the characteristics distinguishing one from the other? What advantages has one over the other?

Satisfactory answers to these inquiries may not be made very apparent, but do we not think of education as a whole, and vaguely contrast it with what was? Like many other things I suspect it is a matter of growth. Man has developed. Ideas have evolved. The mind has taken in broader views. We have reached higher and dug deeper. We have seen the fallacy of many things. Experience has sharpened the intellect and we have discovered improved methods. Better instruments and apparatus have kept pace with every demand. We first educated only males. Then each family educated its own. Then only religious teachers were thought worthy to give instruction. Only bright minds were selected to receive instruction. At last school buildings were thought worthy of attention. If information was imparted and acquired, it was deemed sufficient. Next, discipline of the powers was thought to be of as much value as the knowledge. Once it was deemed sufficient to store the mind. Now it is more to draw out. A large amount of telling once was thought to be no discredit. Now it is designed to cause orderly thought and investigation. Formerly governmental control was largely coercive and often cruel. Now the humane, ethical and reasonable strongly predominate.

But not to dwell on these well known things, brought about as much by the growth of social conditions as by teaching itself, there is one especial matter of interest to which I wish to call attention. It is the formation of the National Association of Teachers. The call was made in 1856. In 1857 a United States Commissioner was appointed, a portion of whose duties was to collect and report educational statistics. A national law passed Congress in 1864, making many provisions for educational advancement. The Association referred to has held yearly meetings during the past 33 years, increasing in number from 300 to 3000, as they assembled last year at Denver; papers to the amount of 600 in number, prepared on different subjects of teachers' work have been read before this body. Dr. Harris, the U. S. Commissioner, gives it as his opinion that one-fourth of the benefits derived by teachers is from these papers, one-fourth from discussions, and one-half from contact of mind with mind, in personal conversations, observations, etc. Superintendent Gale, of Peoria, said he had read of three cornered men, but he did not see why a teacher should not be a one cornered man. We get in the habit of certain idiosyncrasies until we come in contact with heavier material, and the corners get rounded off.

The most notable work of this association was the report of the committee of 90 in 1892. I will refer to this shortly, closing my reference to the old by presenting a tabulated view of the designs of the organization as presented in the first call, and adding a few of the results. But the most important event in the history of the National movement from 1856 to 1895 was the report of the 9 committees of 10, and their conference report in 1892. I have called it the committee of 90. An essay had been read giving two points for general agreement in 1891. These were uniformity in school programs and requirements for admission to college. This called out the appointment of the committee. The nine divisions were as follows: (1) Latin; (2) Greek; (3) English; (4) other modern languages; (5) mathematics; (6) physics, astronomy, and chemistry; (7) natural history (biology, including botany, zoology, and physiology); (8) history, civil government, and political economy; (9) Geography, (physical geography, geology, and meteorology.)

These discussions were to be a recommendation for all the pupils of the U. S. The age of pupils considered was from 6 to 18 years. It recites what they are to study during each year. How many hours per day and

OBJECTS OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY.			
Accumulation of Wisdom From a greater number of minds until it becomes general	Promoting Union System Elevation	Concentration	Dignity Efficiency Usefulness Better teachers "buildings" "apparatus" attendance methods text books influence general aid saving of time scholarship

week for each. The first was prepared upon what the committee deemed a just requirement for each. But this would require the pupil to recite continuously, and prepare all the lessons out of school. This they found utterly impracticable, so they kept on to the fourth table reducing the work, to make it practical. Thus far I have taken pains to be in harmony with Dr. Harris' report.

Now a few reflections of my own, which may be considered negative. They found life too short. At least they found too many subjects to study to do justice to in the time allowed. The pressure comes from the colleges, as they have fixed the time of admission at 18. Too much time is devoted to the dead past. Too many modern languages are coming too the front. English will be the world's language—there is discipline in its thorough presentation, and it should be prominent commercial work takes the lead—is shorter—and produces better results. To do this they consent to partially eliminate Greek; to modify mathematics; and some other concessions. But the primary and secondary studies suffer more. The spelling book, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and grammar get heavy abridgements. These are all the masses expect to get. Besides it contemplates their constant attendance for the whole 12 years. This has never been done, and under the present social conditions never can be done except by the rich. Being poor myself, I am jealous of the rights of my fellows. Suppose it all occur, as per programs, it will cost more money. Who is to furnish it? In this country one-third of the tax money handled is for schools. In many places it is one-half. We should display economy in its use. Why not extend the time of study to 21 years? The Socialists, you know, tell us, they, by their system of superior economy, can take all the children, rich and poor, with all these studies, and many more advantages, up to the age of 21, with half the trouble and expense. What can we do to match this shining offer?

There should be much taken away from the arithmetic, I confess. What is of no practical use to a person in life's experiences takes up time and patience, and is a waste. Many other subjects may be mentioned also which we can abbreviate without injury. This can be and will be, for the discussion and experimentation is on, and will go to a finish. I am not finding fault with the organization or the report. It is a national demand. We have evolved up to this point of necessity. The puzzle is, there is so much to be done, or wanting to be done, with so little time and opportunity to do it. The question is, to settle on a plan both practicable and just. Besides by earnest endeavor we can accomplish much more than we now do without injury to pupils. But to throw out the elemental subjects of learning, is to destroy the tools with which we work. As well might we go to the forest for timber without axes or saws.

But I have said little about the new education. Some call it the psychological instead of the logical arrangement and study of subjects. They say some subjects are intimately related to others, and that they should be arranged and treated together. Correlation of subjects is the term used. Geography strengthens history and the reverse. Co-ordination, correlation and concentration are terms used and debated. A pressure has come in from the kindergarten, and some wish it carried on to a ripper age. Nature studies increase, and great demands are made for them. Field work is to be quite a panacea. "Following nature" is a term much used. I say give us all these, in their places, with appropriate time, according to opportunity. Some are to have the student rediscover all discoveries; and even make all their instruments for experimentation. I say a foolish waste. Saving time at one end to throw it away at another. This subject came up largely from the later work of the organization. We are making a struggle to be unified and nationalized. There is much confusion. Eminent teachers contradict each other as flatly as politicians. Prof. Jackman, normal school Englewood, says: "The schools have done less for the pupils than they could have done for themselves had they been turned out upon the street."

Prof. Hinsdale, Mich., says this takes his breath away—and calls it gross exaggeration. Many speak learnedly and with enthusiasm for it. Prof. Payne, Nashville, calls it a craze, and says it will soon pass away. With so much disagreement, is it yet established?

I confess, after I had begun to examine the subject, for it was new to me, I found it so titanic, so comprehensive, where so many great minds were struggling, and I so inexperienced, but for my promise and the word duty I should have played truant. I presume no other good may result from this article, but if there are any students here let me say when anything devolves upon you, stand by your gun and do your duty as well as you can. I have but two thoughts more. What will the poor teacher do? I am mustered out. Prof. Jackman says we are going to have an epoch of very poor teaching. Only now and then a teacher is fit, or prepared to teach the new education. They must go to normal school and training schools and college. Four years of advance study is required before they should begin. Who can go? Is it a revolution? Shall we not hasten slowly? Is there a tendency to create caste among teachers?

But one thing I would urge in the most positive manner. Read, read, read. These reports and discussions have the ring of the keenest interest. Reflect, study, think. Form a digest of the points you favor and disfavor, and bring them to your next year's Association. The thought I use in closing is upon the oft repeated expression, "be natural" and "follow nature."

Here again I am positive, and think I see my way clearly. The gentleman from Nashville ridiculed it—said it was civilization instead, said to follow nature was to go back to crude matter and savagery. I regard this whole conception as a mistake. We should follow nature. Primitive earth was and is nature I admit; so the earth as it is is also nature. The thornapple was a product of nature. So are the finest fruits of our orchards. Savage man was nature. So is the most cultivated nation. One is undeveloped, the other developed. It is all from the same stock, or root, or fountain. Some nations and men develop slowly, or unevenly. Both the inheritance and environments are different, but it is their nature at that stage. What we mean by nature is our true relation to men and things. There is a proper line of unfoldment in harmony with all things and it is natural. Our pattern is the highest type. Nothing outside of the human, or that is artificial, or unnatural will remain in our final make up and this life is but the nursery. The outward expression is a crystallization of the inward quality. So in education, in social companionship, and in religion, we should be reaching after the true and ennobling features of God's image implanted within us.

Peoples' Independent Party County Convention.

The Peoples' Independent Party County Convention is hereby called to meet at Valentine, Neb., on Wednesday, July 8, 1896, 1 o'clock p. m. for the electing of delegates to the State Convention, and for the transacting of such other business as may come up.

It has been recommended that we base our representation on McFadden's vote for Sec'y of State in 1894, giving one delegate at large and one for each ten votes or major fraction thereof which entitles the several precincts to delegates as follows:

Valentine	9
Kennedy	3
Tower	3
Irwin	3
Keweenaw	3
Lavaca	3
Minnehaduzza	3
Wood Lake	3
Sharps Ranch	3
Shingle	3
El	3
Germantown	3
Gillaspie	3
Spring Springs	3
Neural	3
Tate	3
Pleasant Hill	3
Kennedy	3
Loop	3
Mother's Lake	3
Bowyer Lake	3
Sparks	3
Steen	3
Enlow	3
Georgetown	3
Cleveland	3
Buffalo Lake	3

It is recommended that each precinct hold its primary Saturday, July 1, 1896. Further, that no proxies be allowed but that the delegates present be empowered to cast entire vote of their delegation.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.