

# THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT

I. M. RICE EDITOR

Thursday, September 22, 1904

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## TERMS

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## National Democratic Ticket.

For President—  
ALTON B. PARKER,  
of New York.

For Vice President—  
HENRY G. DAVIS,  
of West Virginia.

For Rep. 6th Cong. Dist.—  
W. B. McNeel, of North Platte.

## State Ticket.

For Governor—  
Geo. W. Berge, (pop.) Lincoln.

For Lieut. Gov.—  
Dr. A. Townsend, (dem) Franklin.

For Auditor—  
J. S. Canaday, (pop) Kearney.

For Secretary of State—  
R. E. Watzke, (dem) Richardson.

For Treasurer—  
John Osborn, (pop) Pawnee.

For Attorney General—  
Edward Whalen, (dem) O'Neill.

For Land Commissioner—  
A. A. Worsley, (pop) Boyd.

For Supt. Public Instruction—  
A. Softley, (pop) Perkins.

## C. F. Coffee, of Sioux County, Nominated for Senator.

The democratic senatorial convention of the 14th senatorial district met in Rushville last Tuesday and nominated C. F. Coffee, of Sioux county, for state senator. The populists in convention assembled at the same time and place unanimously endorsed the nomination of Mr. Coffee.

J. R. Hunter, of Sioux county, was elected chairman and J. D. Scott secretary of the democratic convention. Judge Ricker, of Chadron, was elected chairman and C. L. Mayes, of Rushville, secretary of the populist convention.

Mr. Coffee is a prominent cattleman of Sioux county and is favorably spoken of by all acquainted with him. He is a strong candidate and we predict for him that when the 8th of November rolls around he will be elected by a large majority.

## George W. Berge.

Madison, Neb., Sept. 2.—To the Editor of the World-Herald:—George W. Berge, our candidate for governor, has every essential qualification for the position. He has the requisite age, maturity of judgment and character, which, supplemented by wide reading, experience and natural aptitude for public life, makes him an ideal candidate.

While Mr. Berge's views are pronounced they are in the right direction, and he is conservative and cautious withal. He would not hesitate to do right and could not be cajoled or forced into doing wrong. I have no doubt that his election would result in great benefit to the people, and that the corporations would be brought under proper subjection, while their rightful interests would be preserved, and a just equilibrium between corporate rights and the rights of the public would be maintained.

I certainly highly esteem Mr. Berge and his eminent qualifications for the office and shall do all that may be within my power to bring about his election.

—W. V. ALLEN in World-Herald.

## Read This and Hand it to Your Neighbor.

LINCOLN LETTER.

Lincoln, Neb., Sept. 13, 1904.

What are the issues in this state campaign? Is it a contest between the republican voters and the fusion voters? No. There is no issue between the republican and fusion voters. The contest is between the people and the railroads. The railroads are in control of the state government and the people want to get this control back into their hands. The railroads now dictate everything that is done at the state house and in the legislature. The railroads have in this state one of the most powerful and effective organizations ever known in the history of the government. They have been carefully building up and perfecting this organization for twenty-five years. It is now as potent to control this state as Tammany is to control New York City. The railroads have built up their organization around the free pass system. Their plan is to keep a few influential men in each county under their control by means of the free pass system and through these procure control over public affairs. They have been working on this system so long that they have developed it into a very effective political machine.

The railroads maintain this free pass machine and the political control which they procure through it, for the purpose of holding securely high freight rates and low taxation for the railroads. The high freight rates that prevail in Nebraska have become a sore grievance to the shippers and producers who pay the freight charges. The high taxes paid by the people and the low tax paid by the railroad corporations are also a standing grievance to the tax payers. This high freight rate system and this unequal tax system are forced on the people of Nebraska by the railroads through the free pass system. The free pass holders, organized into a political organization, with local bosses controlling each county and town, and these local bosses working in harmony with each other under the direction of the railroad headquarters at Omaha, makes Omaha the seat of government and gives Nebraska government by railroads. To destroy this government by railroads is the real and vital issue in this campaign.

Unequal taxation is an injustice. Extortionate freight charges are an injustice.

But these are a mere matter of dollars. There is a sentiment that outweighs tax money or freight money. If a man is a citizen under the constitution he wants to feel that his citizenship is counted. If its government by the people in theory, he wants it to be governed by the people in fact. It is an offense to self respect when the citizen finds the sharp practice of railroad cappers operating between him and his ballot. When the railroads are able to bribe with annual free passes a few leading men in each town and procure through these men control of public affairs and when this bribery system and this procured control continues year after year, there comes a time when the citizen must join his force with that of other citizens to destroy the bribery system or else subside into the attitude of a mere serf and forever hold his peace.

The privilege of merely voting at the polls after the candidates have been named by railroads through the free pass machine is an honor so empty, so devoid of honor, as to be unworthy of a self respecting man. A slave is willing to be counted along with his master, but a man wants to be counted for himself.

There is no pretense on the part of the republican press of the state that the republican state ticket now before the Nebraska voters was created by any other influence than that of the railroads. Before the convention the republican newspapers openly discussed and pointed out how this candidate was be-

ing supported by such and such railroad influence, and how that candidate was being brought out by such and such other railroad influence and there was no claim made by the republican press, no information published to show that there was any potent influence exerted by the people, or any other influence counted or considered except the influence of the corporations. After the state ticket had been named, the republican newspapers continued for several days to discuss the victories and defeats of the various railroad influences and the republican voters, especially those who read the republican dailies, cannot deny that they were and are fully advised, that the action of their state convention was simply a composite result of railroad influences contending against each other. It is unnecessary to produce any elaborate proof of this more than to refer to what is still fresh in the public mind. It is universally understood that the republican conventions are and have been for years merely trials of strength between the various railroad influences of the state. It is likewise universally understood and admitted that the railroads procure the control which they exert, through the free pass organization. Now if the republican voters are sensitive enough to their rights as citizens to resent the intrusion of this usurped control and desire to throw it off, they must first destroy the free pass organization, the medium through which the railroads have obtained such unbridled sway. It will require two departments of the state government, the legislative and the executive, to make an anti pass law. The voters can elect an anti pass legislature and an anti pass governor. They can do this. The fusion candidate for governor has never been a part of the free pass machine. He has kept aloof from its influence. He believes that the destruction of the free pass system is the paramount issue now before the Nebraska people. No other reform can be considered until this is accomplished. No just revenue law, no freight rate law, no anti-lobby law, no law curtailing the power of the elevator trust, no law nor system of economy or betterment of public affairs can be put into the statutes of this state until the power which opposes such laws is dethroned. Nebraska people are not so fanatical or so unjust as to desire an anti-railroad government. They do not want a state government that is actually hostile toward railroads but they want a state government that is hostile toward railroad control. In order to set up such a government at the state capital, they must elect a governor and legislature that is opposed to the free pass system, opposed to it enough to pass a law that will destroy it. Nebraska people have talked against the free pass system for a quarter of a century, but with all this talk against it the free pass organization has become more powerful and more insolent each year. Whatever orators or newspapers may say, the real and vital issue in this Nebraska campaign is to overthrow railroad control and remove the seat of government from Omaha to the state capital at Lincoln.

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For the best 35 cent meal in the city go the Valentine House.

## Valentine People Awaiting Chaffee Report With Interest.

Norfolk, Neb., Sept. 18.—There is consternation in the air around the military post situated at Ft. Niobrara, Neb., just now. It has arisen because the war department, it is said, has been considering a change which would abolish the Niobrara post and establish another in some other state. People from states which have few or no military posts are alleged to have petitioned the government to make the change and as a result of that plea, Gen. Chaffee himself very recently visited the point.

Upon the report of Gen. Chaffee in the Washington office, depends the ultimate outcome of the situation. Upon that report depends the permanency of Ft. Niobrara or its abandonment. Therefore, the report is awaited with intense eagerness upon the part of the people around the post and the business men of Valentine, the little city just at the edge of the government reservation. From the officers and soldiers Valentine gets about \$20,000 of spending money every month in the year.

There are two other posts in Nebraska, Forts Crook and Robinson, one located near Omaha and the other near Crawford, in the western edge of the state. Both of these are permanent, with brick dwellings. Fort Niobrara is old and not in very good shape. A few states have no forts at all. Wisconsin is one. There is jealousy because Nebraska has three. But it is pointed out that Nebraska needs three because of the Indians and the thinly populated districts adjacent.

The reservation upon which is located Fort Niobrara is the largest military tract in the United States today. It is so big that two big armies can line up, twelve miles apart, and still be on federal ground. It affords the finest opportunity in this country for military maneuvers.

Referring to the above dispatch Chief Clerk Harm of the adjutant general's office of the department of the Missouri said this morning that a year and a half ago a general board of officers recommended that Fort Niobrara be abandoned, together with Fort Reno in Indian territory.

"We have been several times advised that the fort is to be abandoned in pursuance to the recommendation," he said, "and think it will be done within the year. The reservation will then be turned over to the interior department. It has been impossible up to this time to do this because no new forts have been established to which the forces at Fort Niobrara could be transferred, but a fort is now in process of erection close to Indianapolis."—World-Herald.

## Down the River.

Mrs. Burner went to town Friday. Born to Mr. and Mrs. House, a big baby girl.

Mr. and Mrs. Bowden went to town Thursday and stayed over Friday.

Haying is about over in these parts and most everybody is getting ready for threshing.

Mr. Nollette, of the southern part of the state, has been visiting with relatives here.

Mr. Lee and the foreman of the O'Connor Cattle Co. are rounding up in this vicinity.

Grandma Clarkson of Valentine has been visiting with her daughter Mrs. House the past week.

The little son of Jacob Sauerwein and wife was drowned in a wash boiler recently. His mother had just stepped out of the house and was gone only a few minutes, when returning she found the little one dead. The whole community joins in sympathy for Mr. and Mrs. Sauerwein in their sad bereavement. "Budded on earth to bloom in Heaven."

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
L. W. Wakeley,

General Passenger Agent, Omaha, Nebr.

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