

# THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT

I. M. RICE, Editor and Propr.

Entered at the postoffice at Valentine, Cherry county, Nebr., as Second Class Matter.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1905.

## The Primary Pledge. Organize Now.

From The Commoner, Lincoln, Nebr., March 17, 1905.

### The Pledge Outlined.

"Mr. Bryan has been in receipt of a multitude of letters since the election urging organization for the campaign of 1908. The rank and file of the party are ready to begin the fight; they only await a plan of co-operation. This plan has been under consideration for some weeks and is herewith submitted.

"Let each democrat pledge himself to attend all of the primaries of his party to be held between now and the next democratic national convention, unless unavoidably prevented and to use his influence to secure a clear, honest and straightforward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak.

"This plan does not involve the writing of a platform in advance of the primaries; it does not rest upon the paramount importance of any one issue. It recognizes the right of the democratic voters to control the policy of the democratic party, and to determine its position upon public questions. It also recognizes the importance of honesty and sincerity in politics.

"This proposition will appeal to all who are willing that the majority shall govern in party management and in the nation. It does not mean that those who exert themselves to secure a good platform will be bound to support a bad platform—that is a question which each must determine for himself—but it does mean that the democratic platform shall give voice to the prevailing sentiment of the democratic party, and that the party shall take the country into its confidence. The pledge proposed is a primary pledge—because the people speak at the primaries. The national convention is attended by delegates and

each delegate represents tens of thousands of democrats. The state convention is also attended by delegates and these represent thousands of democrats. The county conventions are, as a rule, attended by delegates, and these in turn represent hundreds of democrats. At the primary the voters speak for themselves; there democracy has a citadel.

"When the work of organization is sufficiently advanced, a time can be set for the meeting of the members of this organization, while pledged to but one thing—namely, attendance upon the primaries—are urged to co-operate among themselves for the support of every effort put forth to eliminate corruption in politics. No cause can prosper permanent that does not appeal to the moral sense of the country, and the moral sense of the country is now being awakened to the importance of purifying politics.

"The Commoner will also furnish all the information that it can upon the questions which are before the public to the end that its readers may be prepared to render the maximum of assistance to every worthy cause.

"Who will be the first to make this pledge? A record will be kept in The Commoner office of the name and address of each person who enters into this movement. Those who desire to be enrolled can either write approving the object of the organization, and asking to have their names entered on the roll or they can fill out and mail the blank which is printed below.

"The Commoner will be pleased to publish a limited number of brief letters on this subject. Mr. Bryan is encouraged by his correspondence to believe that there will be prompt and hearty response to the above proposition."

## THE PRIMARY PLEDGE.

I promise to attend all the primaries of my party held between now and the next democratic national convention, unless unavoidably prevented, and to use my influence to secure a clear, honest and straightforward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak.

Signed.....

Postoffice..... State.....

County..... Voting Precinct.....

Fill out blanks and mail to Commoner Office, Lincoln, Nebr.

### Another Reign of Nepotism.

The events are certainly of too recent occurrence for the people of Nebraska to have forgotten that while Judges Norvel and Harrison were on the supreme bench of the state and Messrs. Irvine, Ryan and Ragan were supreme court commissioners nepotism stalked rampant through the corridors of the state house and kept the company of the men on the bench. The wives or some of the other

relatives of each were carried on the payroll of the state as clerks stenographers and drew thousands of dollars for services which in many cases was never performed. The matter was brought to the attention of the legislature several sessions ago and the revelations at that time stirred the public to a high degree of indignation.

With a recklessness born of majorities at the polls, the republicans seem to have forgotten the

scandal of old and the practice of nepotism has undergone a renaissance. E. R. Duffie, who, by the way was a former commissioner appointed as a democrat, and, who too, the editor hereof once voted for in a democratic convention as a candidate for supreme judge and is heartily ashamed of it now, has been appointed commissioner again, this time as a republican, while his wife gets a job as stenographer. Judge Barnes' son is slated for another of the stenographers, and female relatives of several of the others will draw state salaries. Gov. Mickey has a son in the governor's office and all through the state house this disgusting and indefensible practice goes on.

The whole affair indicates a sad lack of morals. It may be that in the future the voters shall have to understand that when a vote is cast for a public official it gives the whole family free license to graft on the state treasury.—Fremont Herald.

The Boston Herald in commenting on speeches by Judge Parker in New York and by W. J. Bryan in Chicago, the occasion being Jefferson's birthday, has the following to say in part:

"Judge Parker has no new policies to offer, no patent process of restoring the democratic party to control of the country. He thinks the party has lost its control by forsaking the fundamental principles on which it was founded. He has little faith in schemes of reorganization. When the people are won to faith in genuine democratic ideas they will attend to the matter of organization by a spontaneous impulse. In organization that begins at the top and works downward he has no confidence. The effective organization begins at the bottom and rises from the local to the national. Hence success can be hoped for only from the inculcation of true democratic ideas among the voters. When they are regenerated in heart and sentiment they will know how to accomplish the ends they desire. He did not say, but he might have said, this is precisely the way in which Mr. Bryan operated, and that he came much nearer accomplishing a party success than the men who nominated and supported Judge Parker did. Mr. Bryan's campaigns had a popular impulse that the last democratic campaign certainly lacked.

"Mr. Bryan's Chicago speech was a more eloquent and suggestive address than Judge Parker's. His analysis of Jefferson's character and ideas was excellent and forceful. The art with which he applied Jeffersonian principles to present facts and current issues was masterly, especially his confutation of the arguments of those who attempt to cite Jefferson as an upholder of the right of monopolies to oppress the people. There is a directness, a vigor, a specific pertinence and a sympathetic quality in Mr. Bryan's speech that are not so conspicuous in Judge Parker's, although we rate Judge Parker's address, as a whole, among the best that he has made to the public.

"Reading these two utterances of two leaders of the same party, uttered in the calm of a post-election season and calling to mind the conditions developed in the party in power since last November, one can hardly escape the conviction that in the near future a new alignment of political forces is possible. Both the republican and the democratic parties are charged with internal repellant forces, which show little disposition to harmonize, and are liable on any sufficient pretext to explode and compel new combinations. Both parties contain a large contingent, whose convictions are more in accord with those of one of the factions in the other party than with the other faction in their own party. In other words, there are powerful elements in each that tend to their disruption. At present the power of the machine, rather than any community of opinions, holds the republican party together. The members of the democratic party enjoy more freedom. At any moment a crisis may come that will burst all constraining bands, and in liberty of conscience men who think alike will find a way to act together."

"A Yankton editor wrote a strong article on patronizing home industries and one of the storekeepers in thanking him for his sentiment wrote on a letter head printed in Sioux City." The merchant is like some we have known

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## The Ludwig Lumber Co.

personally. They think it is the duty of the editor to labor for their interests while they do not feel under obligations to reciprocate the favor. Such selfishness is unworthy even the smallest favor.—Ainsworth Star-Journal.

Within forty-eight hours after the election of Wm. Warner to the United States senate from Missouri he received annual passes over six lines of railroad. He was the same Wm. Warner who was a private citizen only a short time before and the question arises as to what he had done that gave him right to assume that he was then entitled to the courtesies in question. Does anybody suppose for a moment it was not because he was in a position where he could be of a greater service to the railroads.—Fremont Tribune.

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