

THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT

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

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Subscription—\$1.00 per year in advance; \$1.50 when not paid in advance.
Display Advertising—1 inch single column 15c per issue or \$6.00 a year.
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 1906.

The attitude of a few people who seem to be opposed to the enforcement of the gambling laws, appears to be an effort to induce their friends and acquaintances to withdraw their patronage from those who have taken part in the enforcement of the laws. This will have a tendency to align the one side against the other. Few persons will be found to favor gambling and those advocating it will find more opposition to the saloons if continued efforts are made to carry on gambling.

John R. Walsh owns the Chicago Chronicle and that paper is part of the assets of the Walsh wreck. The Chronicle was too honest to support Bryan in 1896 although it was a democratic paper. Got so honest that it went over to the republican party and yet its owner used millions of the money deposited in the Walsh bank. Mr. Walsh bought rock quarries, railroads and put the depositors' moneys in all sorts of schemes. The bank went to the wall. Failed for twenty-six millions. The other banks took the properties and paid the depositors but what a nice bunch of goats to talk about honesty. Look at Depew, McCurdy, Platt, Burton, Mitchell, Walsh and all the land officials who have been indicted by the federal grand jury. Too honest for Bryan. Gracious Pater what a gang to yell "stop thief!" —York Teller.

Personal Liberty.

People become enthused over this government of the people and by the people but sometimes forget that it is for the people when they have in mind a subject that is popular only with a particular clan or craft to which they belong and they only are benefitted to the discomfiture and detriment of the masses of people. The defense which they some-times interpose is that their personal liberty is interfered with and that people have no right to restrict, or that it is better not to restrict or restrain some individuals from living as they would, because in the course of events some of the other class may desire some such favorable liberties. A wilful child unrestrained may bring disgrace to its parents and shame to itself in a community where good behavior is common.

Personal liberty is aptly illustrated by the story of the Irishman who began shooting the windows out of houses when he arrived in America because he thought Americans were a free people and as he construed it, were unrestrained by laws from doing as they chose.

The laws of our country are not wholly for the protection of the weak and to restrain the strong but rather for the protection of the homes, the families and the people, who have chosen, (rather than be constantly on their guard, with watchman and sentry to protect and defend against the invasion of the intruder, the enemy, the destructive assailants, who though may be a weaker force, seek to strike or attack in an unguarded moment or at an undefended place,) that they frame a code of rules, upon which they make a compro-

mise one with another and with each other, agreeing to be guided by and abide by these rules which are the laws of our nation.

The concise object of this plan is briefly stated in the preamble to the constitution of our United States. Following this plan numerous rules have been adopted which become laws of our country with power vested in officers of our government to enforce, securing protection and equal privileges to each individual and restraining those who seek advantages through evasions of our laws.

Joshua Make the Sun Stand Still.

The practice of deceit upon the unwary is most condemned in the largest proportion of iniquity propagated, which may be found in the promise of much and penalty of nothing and the unwary conjured into believing that they enjoy equal privileges or nearly so, when in reality they are being deceived in their belief through the adroitness of the manipulators and the unwary are thus robbed of their earnings and share of the comforts of life to bestow extravagances upon the unscrupulous schemer, rascal or cheat. Numerous other evasions of law which inure to the benefit of the vicious through their practices often times is permitted for want of sufficient law-abiding citizens to enforce laws, meanwhile justice waits: Officers of the law are to an extent a mockery to legalize crime and themselves, like the sun, when commanded by Joshua of old to stand still, while crime runs rampant, while another robbery is committed, while lawlessness abounds. Those who oppose the enforcement of laws command officers of the law to subject themselves to the criticisms of the people and the penalty of dereliction of duty and removal from office, a disgrace to themselves and families.

Why didn't the government officials stop the fencing before it became so common? They knew it was going on ten years ago and permitted it, upheld it, assessed taxes against it and collected the taxes. Prominent attorneys received fees from cattle men to avert necessity of taking down fences. Government officials were importuned to allow the fences to remain. President Roosevelt and Secretary Hitchcock were consulted and immunity from prosecution was promised for a time. It is now given out that the fencers of public domain broke faith with the president and the secretary, hence the prosecution now of the so-called cattle kings which sounds big back East no doubt. An acre of ground to them is an immense tract. The whole of Cherry county and in fact all the wealth of the cattle kings in Western Nebraska will not compare with one railroad company that was lightly prosecuted for giving rebates under the generous Paul Morton version that the cessation of evil was the prime object sought rather than the punishment of the offenders. We believe too much gall has been poured out as the dose of the cattlemen and not enough for the crimes of Eastern corporations. Every in-

document has been held out as an incentive to the settlement of the Western lands, and now if the cattlemen are to be prosecuted for fencing and improving the public domain it means a backward step, a retrogression, a dog in the manger idea. The cattlemen have not carried the lands away. They have improved them where they are. Whatever crime was perpetrated was the filing of old soldiers and widows and cowboys for the benefit of the cattlemen to protect their fences mostly. And are they criminals for using the public domain upon which no one made any claim and would have benefitted no one in case it was not utilized each year as the grasses grew?

The state debt has been increased this year \$121,806.93. The question naturally arises; what has the people of the state gained by the return to power of the republican party? The answer is, the increase of the public debt by more than \$600,000; the new tax law which increases the people's tax from 50 to 100 per cent and only a slight advance of corporation tax. The pardon of Bartley and the release of his bondsmen thus destroying all hope of ever getting a dollar of the \$700,000 stolen; the election of Dietrich and Millard, to represent the people in the senate; the thousand and one other bad selections and waste of public money, as is constantly reported, by speculating officials and strange to say, the majority of the people seem to like just this kind of doings, for they select that kind of material right along. Does it pay?—Crete Democrat.

Nebraska in 1906.

If Nebraska is to hold up her head once more as a member of good standing of the sisterhood of states she has a big job of house cleaning to do during 1906.

Republican "redemption" has cost Nebraska dear. It has given her a state and federal service honeycombed with faithlessness and inefficiency and fraud. It has given her a bad reputation abroad; a reputation so bad that we take it even the average partisan republican will admit it to be more damaging and humiliating than the reputation of being "populistic." The undeniable and humiliating truth is that under the rule of her republican redemptioners Nebraska is fast earning a reputation as a western seal of graft and corruption rule. Every legislative session held in recent years has been a farce and a disgrace and each has bowed lower than its predecessor in truckling subserviency to the railroad bosses.

The land fraud prosecutions in the western portion of the state strike right at the heart of the republican organization of that district—an organization so powerful that for years it has been able to defy the law and subvert public opinion. Within the past few days a half dozen well known republican politicians of that section have been arrested, charged with subornation of perjury, fraudulent fencing and illegally homesteading. Among them have been federal officials, county officials and members of the republican state committee.

The American system of government is by political parties. Intelligently used, it is the best system yet devised for the operation of a republican form of government. Its intelligent use is determined by the extent to which the political party in power is held strictly accountable for its official actions, and punished or rewarded on its record.

The record of the republican party in Nebraska is made up and presented to the court of public opinion. The duty of the court is plain. A verdict of approval and commendation will reflect upon the party comes in with a promise to reform and do better hereafter. It was just such a plea that the offending cattlemen made recently and that influenced the officers of

the federal court for the district of Nebraska.

Will the state, that has so unanimously denounced that miscarriage of justice, and that has so loudly applauded President Roosevelt's wielding of the snickersnee, follow in the footsteps of the federal court?

Nebraska must clean house if she wants to be considered respectable. And she must begin by firing the republican housekeeper. —World-Herald.

C. H. Cornell has come out with another "lease bill" which was published in the Omaha Bee last Friday. We have read the proposed bill and like some provisions in it better than the Lacy lease bill, but neither will be found satisfactory. Some modification of these bills, allowing free range of one mile or dividing the range equally between neighbors on either side of homestead holdings where the distance between neighbors is less than two miles, leasing only the vast extents of government lands where no settler or inhabitant resides should be contemplated. This will prevent the smaller cattlemen, who are not able to compete with big concerns, from being crowded out and will preserve the right to settlement and inducement enhanced to settle the country with home builders.

Roosevelt and Munger.

It is not easy to escape from the conclusions of Mr. Gurley's letter commenting on Senator Dietrich's interview.

Gurley vindicates Judge Munger from criticism for a lenient sentence by pointing to the evidence that President Roosevelt permitted cattlemen to maintain fences on public lands at least as recently as the summer of 1903. He shows that the law against fencing public lands has been on the books for years without enforcement. He might have shown also that President Roosevelt himself was a party to the non-enforcement.

Under such circumstances there is some force in the claim that Roosevelt, who consented to the violation of the law, is more to be criticised than a judge who imposed a mild sentence on those who pleaded guilty and promised to offend no more.

The Roosevelt idea seems to be that he can enforce such laws as he sees fit and when he pleases. He can shield his friends and punish his enemies in enforcing a law. This idea that one man's will constitutes the law is un-American.

It should be remembered that the same offense punished by Munger in 1905 was consented to by Roosevelt in 1903.

Swenson Bros. Wholesalers.

The Swenson boys, native of Riley county, have closed out a large number of their local stores and have arranged to go into the wholesale business in Omaha. The capital stock of the new company will be \$150,000. Two boys started in Cleburne several years ago and the other boys joined in at later intervals, all except Commissioner Swenson who has followed farming. Their father gave each of the boys \$1500 when they became of age and with this they made their start. At one time they owned six retail stores, a lumber yard, flour mill, elevator, hardware store, furniture store and even a bank.—Manhattan Republic.

The score of fallen heroes who have gone down at the first flourish of Roosevelt's "big stick" may cite the removal of ex-District Attorney Summers who was removed for prosecuting Senator Dietrich. Since no one can be found for that vacant office now, who don't they appoint Mr. Summers if they really want a man who will do his duty?

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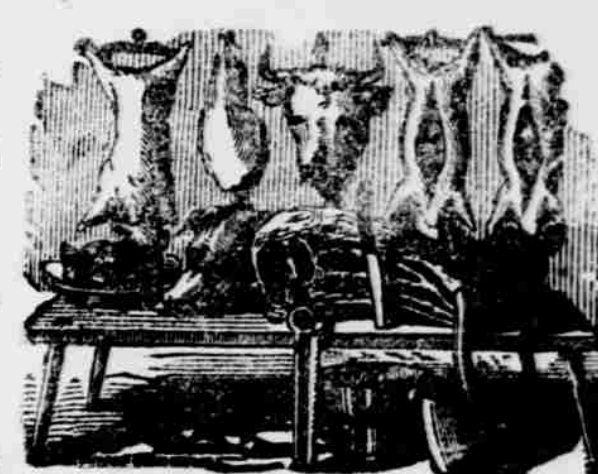
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