

THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT

SUCCESSOR TO
CHERRY COUNTY INDEPENDENT.

ROBERT GOOD, Editor and Publisher

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1896

Truth says that we are all tramps by nature but pride makes us hustle.

Jingoism may be all right in the heat of a campaign, but it is different when congress is in session. Yes, indeed.

We don't hear much of Oom Paul Kruger, of the Transvaal, now-a-days, but if never again heard from his memory will live with justice loving people all over the world.

FOR SALE—A finely equipped printing office in good live town. Paying business established. Description and particulars furnished on application to this office or Sarah E. Good, Longpine, Nebraska.

Maceo was killed again by the Spaniards last week. If this brutality on the part of Spain is not speedily stopped, the United States as a Christian nation will certainly have to take a hand and put an end to the war.

A Chicago woman was recently arrested and fined for smoking a cigarette on the street. This may be good law, but its mighty poor sense. A woman has as much right to smoke cigarettes as a man, but since we come to think of it men do not smoke cigarettes. —World Herald.

The "inderpest" is killing off the cattle of South Africa by the million. Look out for a rise in the price of beef, and then keep your ears to the ground listening for the first murmur from headquarters claiming the rise is due to McKinley's election. The murmur will soon swell to a roar.

A correspondent for the Springfield Herald tells how a horse fell down a well and as she went kicking the curb-ing out so the owner lost both horse and well. How thankful that man should be over the fact that the horse had sense enough to bury itself, thus saving him a great deal of trouble.

Every taxpayer who had occasion to visit the building-called-the-court-house last week will be sure to vote for bonds if a special election is called by the commissioners. Many were the words of disgust spoken against the disreputable old pile while court was in session, and all of them were deserved, too.

When you see a man standing on the street corners and loudly proclaiming that the president's message will ruin our credit, it's ten to one he hasn't a cent or else he hasn't read it. 'Twas ever thus from childhood's hour—the poor will curse the rich, but let the poor get into power, and they'll crowd their friends in the ditch.

Before Cherry county can expect outsiders to come here and establish factories and things, Cherry county must demonstrate to the world that her citizens are progressive and are not content with old fashioned methods and buildings. Any capitalist who once sees the building-called-a-court-house and is told that it suits the wants of Cherry county citizens, will turn his back on the county forever.

If Andrew Carnegie will buy up a few oil wells and go into the business with his usual energy and system, he can make it about even with Rockefeller who is said to have concluded to use his surplus from the Standard Oil trust for invading Andrew's kingdom of iron and steel. The public awaits with pleasurable excitement the outcome of the declaration of war between trusts. The more war of this sort the merrier. —State Journal.

ASSESS AT FULL VALUE.

Under the heading of "An Unjust Tax That Should be 'Downed'" the Ainsworth Star-Journal publishes the following interesting statement:

"The assessor of the Golden Irrigation District placed the valuation of the district at \$1,258,662 while the total valuation of the three counties, Brown, Rock and Holt for 1896 was \$2,764,498. Thus the valuation in favor of the Golden District is \$1,524,164, an excess that is simply enormous when it will be understood that the district occupies less than one-third of the total area of these three counties. The Star-Journal is advocating the idea that this is an unjust tax and would advise all property holders in this district to look up the amount of their tax by writing to the county clerk of Holt county at O'Neill."

Perhaps the assessor of the irrigation district based his figures on the full valuation of the district, according to law, and not upon a one-third valuation as so many of our assessors are in the habit of doing, in direct opposition to the letter and spirit of the law. How much better it would be for every one if this law was obeyed! Why should property be assessed at a one-third valuation instead of one-fourth or one-twentieth or one anything else? True it is the custom at present, but custom should not be allowed to supersede law. This habit of assessing at a fraction of the right valuation is one that should be discouraged.

A case in which the injustice of the present method of assessment is fully exemplified was tried here last week. A certain man owned property which he considered non-taxable, and refused to list it. The assessor sized up the stock and assessed it at what he considered was a fair market value. The courts finally decided that the property was liable to tax, and then the owner commenced suit to recover two-thirds of the tax paid under protest, all other property in the precinct being assessed at a one-third valuation, but he could obtain no redress, on account of the law which provides that property shall be assessed at its full valuation. This was manifestly unfair, but what else could be done? The law should be enforced or repealed, as it is now what may be called a "dead letter."

THEY LACK PRINCIPLE.

A number of infamous slurs are being circulated regarding THE DEMOCRAT and its editor by men who are supposed to be gentlemen as well as politicians and "journalists." Lord save the mark, and who plead for peace and unity and swear eternal friendship when in the presence of the editor himself, and even deign to ask favors, which are never refused. Some day these poor shriveled up souls will meet their just deserts—if not in this world, then in the next. Jealousy and suspicion so predominate all other things in the souls of these men, who are prone to intrigue themselves and are seldom if ever out of them, that they never lose an opportunity to tear down the reputation or business being built up by others by their honest endeavors and hard work. 'Tis a great pity that some of these miserable creatures manage to so worm themselves into the good graces of honest, right doing and justice loving men that their words do irreparable wrong ere they can be refuted. This thing was started when Thomas R. T. Geddis struck town and has spread until some are engaged in the attacks upon the editor who would blush with shame should their words and actions be made public. Others don't care—have not the moral sensitiveness to make them care—but for these we feel only contempt, not anger. THE DEMOCRAT has never before alluded to these reports, and does so now only because some people accept silence as an evidence of guilt, when the exact opposite is true. A guilty man always defends himself and makes a great display of injured feelings. THE DEMOCRAT will in the future pursue its past course—ignoring the would-be leaders and holy reformers.

The daily press is all cut up over the fact that O. M. Kem, the red headed Congressman of this district, drew \$30,000 from the United States treasury during the six years he misrepresented this district, and saved it all. The red headed gentleman has been schooled in lessons of economy in a sod shanty on the claim in Custer county, and we are pleased to know that the bright eyed Mrs. Kem and the red headed little Kem's have had their feet taken from off the sand knobs in Custer county and placed upon the solid highways of peace, plenty and prosperity. Many a man less favored may with propriety profit by the frugal example set by populist Kem. In the day of your prosperity, prepare for adversity, would sooth the pillow of many an aching head. —Longpine Republican Journal.

Congress has been in session a whole week and it has not yet done anything looking toward the annexation of Cuba, Hawaii or Canada. Where are all the annexationists?

There are 105 democrats, 244 republicans, 6 populists and one silver party congressman in the present house of representatives. The next house will be composed of 124 democrats, 204 republicans, 12 populists and 15 fusion-

There ought to be some law to reach the man, who, because he controls a few fonts of worn-out type, a press and a can of var, can use the columns of his hand bill to try to tear down the business of another. We have in this county a narrow contracted, envious, self-confessed rascal that fills the above bill. —Butte Gazette.

THE DEMOCRAT sympathizes with Bro. Armstrong and will willingly lend its aid toward securing a law that will answer the purpose. This paper will take chances on living under the provisions of the law.

The Wymore Arbor State, the pioneer populist newspaper of Nebraska, bemoans the fact that "all our contention has merely been to furnish places where a few men can draw salaries. The platforms declared, the principles enunciated, were high sounding phrases, but meaningless. Our resolutions have been as sounding brass and tinkling cymbals. * The corporations are to be permitted to run things as they please. * The three months men who came into the present movement last summer are to be rewarded and the veterans that have fallen outside the breastworks for twenty-five years are to go unrewarded."

In a legal sense there are only two parties in Ohio, while at the last election seven different parties had candidates in the field for president. The prohibitionists, nationalists, populist, socialist labor, and sound money democrats each having polled less than one per cent of the total vote pass out of existence in a legal sense, and in order to get on the ballot next year they will have to petition the secretary of state, under the law that new parties shall file petitions containing the signatures of a number equal to at least one per cent of the total vote of the state, their petitions will have to contain the names of 10,000 voters.

Voting by machinery has not yet been perfected so far as practical demonstration shows. The apparatus which was used at Troy, N. Y., last month broke down after it had worked a while and caused the electors and judges no end of trouble. Forty-two men had voted up to the time of the accident, and when the recording dials were examined to discover the cause of the accident it was found that by some error of the mechanism all these votes were recorded for the prohibition candidate. It may be that these contraptions can be made absolutely flawless, but until that time the old way of voting would better be adhered to. There is such a thing as carrying labor saving devices too far. —Chicago Chronicle.

40 PER CENT PROTECTION.

The working of the Wilson bill, as shown in the summary for the past year submitted to Congress, is that of a highly protective measure. The official figures show that its duties on taxable articles have averaged 39.96 per cent. The average rate in 1874, nine years after the close of the war, was only 33 per cent. In 1884, under the Arthur commission tariff, it was only 40 per cent.

No other country has a revenue law so highly protective as this. Nor is it mere incidental protection. It is direct, as is shown by the fact that the free list is largely made up of raw materials needed by manufacturers.

Thus the very reductions of duties effected by the bill often serve to increase the amount of direct protection given to the manufacturers of articles affected by it. Where a manufacturer is paying a duty of 30 per cent, or over on his raw materials he can well afford to abate 10 per cent of his excessive protection on finished product when he gets rid of the raw-material duties.

Many democrats have believed from the beginning that they were cheated into fathering a highly protective measure, and when they see that its duties for the year average 40 per cent, they will no longer doubt it. It is very certain at any rate that if the republicans renew the agitation and the democrats get back into power there will be no 40 per cent average in the next bill passed under democratic auspices. —New York World.

LI HUNG AND CHINA.

The Great Man's Relations with the Common People.

He Has a Very Difficult Position to Maintain and is Too Progressive for the Slow-Going Celestials.

That was a strange collocation of a single day's dispatches which told how Li Hung Chang, upon his arrival at Peking, had been made minister of foreign affairs and had been reprimanded for omitting one or more of the proper forms in paying respects to the dowager empress. It was known before that the lady was a great stickler for etiquette, though in this she does not differ from some Christian sovereigns of her sex. She is a great stickler also for more substantial things and is believed to have done her full share toward getting the middle kingdom into its recent scrapes. The conjunction of reprimand and promotion would be very incredible anywhere else, but it is no more incredible in China than things that have indubitably happened, as, for example, the quick succession of the privation of the yellow jacket and its restoration, followed by the bestowal of a confidential mission which anywhere else would denote a man whom the king delighted to honor.

It is quite hopeless for an occidental to attempt to penetrate the mysteries of Chinese politics. The more the kingdom is laid open by conquering invaders the less do we understand what is disclosed. The want of apprehension seems to be shared by men who have given their lives to understanding. For a generation or so Great Britain has been conciliating China and treating Japan with contempt, upon the theory that China was a valuable ally against Russian aggression. When Great Britain had succeeded in alienating Japan in the supposed interest of China, and Japan had conquered China, it suddenly appears that it is Russia which gets the ultimate benefit of all the proceedings. For there does not seem to be any doubt that the concession of a Chinese outlet for the Siberian railway has in fact been made.

There is reason to doubt, however, that Li Hung Chang has been made minister of foreign affairs. In the first place there is no such minister and, indeed, no such ministry; and in China that is rather more than a detail. Of the administrative boards which among them mismanage the empire, not one of them is specifically a department of foreign affairs, and if they were it would be a board and not an individual. "Abroad" is as much ignored in all Chinese official arrangements as Mr. McKinley would like to see it in the industrial exchange, or Mr. Bryan in finance. In the next place the report does not take account of the dead weight of inertia that the mandarin class can and does oppose to any attempt to assimilate their country to the rest of the world, or to put it in line with modern progress. The contempt of mere ignorance, such as the untutored Chinaman exhibits for foreigners, is nothing to the contempt of Chinamen tutored after the Chinese mode of education. Li Hung Chang is an energetic person, but he is quite helpless against this inert resistance. We may be quite sure that a Chinaman who believes that the isolation of China ought to be modified is looked upon either as a harmless visionary or dangerous radical. Li Hung Chang cannot be out in the former class, and so he must belong to the latter. In the course of his voyage around the world he has expressed himself in favor of fuller and freer trade with his own country, and this is to the mandarins a sentiment alarming and revolutionary. Though the innovator is an old man in the scale of human life he is a mere boy in that of Chinese civilization and its representatives, who count themselves some 2,000 years older and consequently wiser than he. —Harper's Weekly.

A Precious Cannon.

A cannon made of solid gold, mounted upon a carriage of rosewood, inlaid with costly gems, is the unique bauble of warfare that has come into the possession of the imperial army of Berlin. As a valuable acquisition to the armament of the kaiser's own soldiery this unique field-piece is more interesting than terrible. No other armory in the world can boast of a field cannon so beautiful or costly. This singular gun was presented to the Berlin army by the managers of the Hamburg museum, in whose keeping it has been for two centuries. Guns of this sort are not produced to-day, and a war is made with cannon that are more effective in their destructive powers than pleasing to the aesthetic taste. The outward appearance of this monster jewel is most delicate in workmanship. It is valued at £5,000, though, as a matter of fact, it could not be purchased for twice that amount of money. The liveliest interest in this marvelous military engine has been evinced by Emperor William, and he has ordered a special guard to be placed over the precious cannon, which, two days in the week, is on view to curious Berliners and the strangers within the German capital's gates. —Toledo Blade.

A Day with the Sultan.

A writer in the Patrie says that the working day of the sultan of Turkey, with his secretaries, is from six o'clock in the morning until noon, when he partakes of a slight breakfast, and afterward goes for a walk in his park, which has been designed after the English fashion. When he returns to the palace he gives audiences up till eight o'clock in the evening. He dines mostly alone, occasionally in the company of an ambassador. In the evening he plays with one of his children, takes a turn at the piano, which he loves, his favorite composition being "La Fille de Mme. Angot." —Chicago Times Herald.

WASTE OF COMBUSTION.

Much Energy of Coal Lost in the Burning.

A lump of coal is burning on the grate. What takes place? The air is drawn in beneath the grate and rises through the bars. Its oxygen combines with the coal to produce carbonic acid gas, which, together with the inert nitrogen of the air and the smoke or unconsumed carbon, rises in the chimney and escapes. This is the role played by the materials. How about the forces? The chemical union of the oxygen with the coal sets free the coal's stored-up energy, and this energy, being indestructible, must manifest itself in some way, and so shows itself as heat. This is the whole story of combustion.

Sitting before an open fire I have often dreamed of converting the stored-up energy of the coal into some form of energy even more useful to man than heat. We know that, theoretically at least, all nature's forces are interconvertible; why should not the potential energy of coal be converted directly into electricity instead of into heat? Could all of the energy be extracted from a single pound of coal and made to do mechanical work, this work would more than equal a day's labor of a very strong man. In the great coal fields that are distributed over the face of the earth nature has stored up a supply of energy safely estimated to be equal to the hand labor of the entire population of the world continued for a thousand years.

The most convenient and useful, because the most tractable, form of energy is electricity. In the facility with which we may at will and without waste convert it into such other form of energy as happens to be desired lies the superiority of electricity over all the rest of nature's forces. Having electricity, we may easily produce heat or light, or mechanical motion, or chemical force; but electricity itself has hitherto been produced in quantity only by the use of complicated mechanism and with great waste.

Electricity is to-day generated by a dynamo that is turned by an engine which is operated by steam, and the steam is made from water by means of heat derived from the combustion of coal. But this is a long and circuitous process, with a large leakage at every step. Much of the energy of combustion goes up the chimney as heat or smoke; much of the heat is lost in boiling the water to make steam; much of the expansive force of the steam is wasted as it escapes from the engine; much of the power of the engine is wasted as friction; and there is some loss in the dynamo itself. Recent tests, made by a committee of the National Electric Light association, of 80 modern electric light and power plants, show that the average plant wastes 97.4 per cent, and utilizes as electricity only 2.6 per cent, of the energy theoretically obtainable from the coal. —Dr. William M. Jacques, in Harper's Magazine.

HOW ALASKANS KILL BEARS.

Novel Tale from the Far-Away Possession of the United States.

H. J. Barling, who is identified with the salmon industry of Alaska, as the owner of an extensive cannery plant at Karluk, Kodiak island, lately arrived from the north. He brought down with him some of the largest bear skins ever seen in San Francisco. One of them, a perfect and unblemished skin of an enormous grizzly, measured 12 feet from tip to tip.

Mr. Barling has a marvelous tale to relate of the native way of killing a bear. "There are many grizzlies on Kodiak island," he said, "as well as a large number of cinnamon bears. I was cruising in a launch in an unfrequented cove one day when I spied two immense grizzlies. They were so large I did not care to go after them, but when I got back to Karluk I communicated the fact to an Indian, who bore the reputation of being one of the best bear hunters in that section. Although 62 years old, he had to ask his mother's permission, which, being granted, he started across the country after the bears. He simply armed himself with a long spear. He gressed his head and got to the windward of the animals. Pretty soon he heard a tramping in the brush and knew the prey was approaching. He dug a hole in the ground, planted one end of the spear firmly with the point in the direction of the bear and then crouched down. The bear came along and dashed for the head of the Indian. With a swift and dexterous movement the entire cut a gash in the bear's neck with the sharp spear point. The angered animal drew back a few yards and made a rush. He impaled himself on the spear and all was over." —Chicago Chronicle.

Frills and Furbelows.

It is a new idea to have hall curtains of lace instead of silk. The latest sofa cushions are painted on satin in great, natural-looking roses. Some new evening gowns have full-sized turtle-doves perched on the shoulders. The up-to-date bridesmaid wears a large black hat with her light gown. The single violet is usurping the double one's place as first favorite in the fashionable world. Many of the debutante's gowns are in light-tinted gauzes rather than all white, as formerly. Little coats of Gobelin blue cloth, with trimmings of fur, are worn by the wee daughters of fashionable mothers. —Chicago Record.

Killing Off the Elephants.

It is estimated that 42,300 African elephants were slaughtered last year to supply the market with ivory. As there are not more than 200,000 elephants alive in Africa to-day, a continuation of this massacre of pachyderms will soon exterminate the whole species. —St. Louis Republic.

BOON TO THE BLIND.

Byesight May Be Restored by Edison's Scientific Skill.

Remarkable Results Follow the First Experiments in This Direction—The X Ray the Agency Employed.

Thomas A. Edison, who has given to the world so many marvels of electric science, has passed to do another good deed for humanity. Through his fluorescence the man who breaks his leg can watch the surgeon fit together the ragged fracture with a certainty that the work is being done rightly. Mr. Edison now demands that the blind shall be allowed to see. He was left into this train of thought in quite an accidental way. Some little time ago, while at work in the Roentgen ray room, he happened to lean his head upon his hands, with his palms pressed against his closed eyes.

At the time his head was in the neighborhood of a Roentgen tube and to his astonishment he found that he could see through his closed eyelids and hands. This astonishing result caused Mr. Edison to reason that if the X ray would penetrate through his closed eyelids, why should it not penetrate through a cataract in the eye or any similar obstruction and inform the optic nerve, provided the latter were still intact? In the case of a deaf man, where the tympanum has been destroyed but the aural nerve remains, sounds can be transmitted through the teeth. So much for theory and the next step was to make a practical test.

Interested friends offered to bring before him some persons afflicted with blindness. The offer was quickly accepted by the wizard, and it was not long afterward when Jacob Mahrbacher and Otto Kallensee, of Newark, walked into the laboratory. Mr. Edison patiently heard the story of their afflictions and then went to work. Mahrbacher was the first to be tried by Mr. Edison. The light was flashed before his eyes and gradually the operator turned on the X ray current stronger and stronger. Finally, as the strongest light was reached Mahrbacher tremblingly announced that he could see a glittering substance. Mr. Edison's face brightened and again the tube was faced.

Kallensee then stood before the X ray and gazed unblinkingly at it for some time. Another light was thrown, and with almost a sob the man cried: "I can see a light. It's burning now, isn't it? I can see." The best result was reached by the incandescence light in a red globe, and this gave Edison a clue that may be important. Many experiments were tried, by the use of direct rays and also the fluorescence, but with no better results.

After working for two hours Mr. Edison concluded to postpone the experiments for a time. As the men left him he said to them:

"Don't be discouraged, men. I know it is awfully hard to be blind, but we will find a cure for you yet."

The result of this test was not as satisfactory as it might have been had the persons experimented with been of a high order of intelligence. Commenting upon this Mr. Edison said:

"Jacob Mahrbacher and Otto Kallensee were not the right kind of subjects. I want a thoroughly intelligent man, one who can explain his sensations to me as I go along, for without knowing these I am as much in the dark as he is. These men could not tell me what they saw. They were hysterical with delight at being able to see anything, and were sure they would soon be able to read fine print by candle light. All I knew is what they could tell me, and that wasn't much. They said they saw points of fire dance before their eyes when the current was on, and were in Egyptian darkness when it was off. I did not have the apparatus to make the test that will be made later on. I have simply pointed the way and there is no telling who will make the final discovery. It may be made in Germany, San Francisco, or France, or here in West Orange."

"Why should not these persons use your fluorescence?" was asked of the wizard.

"That is out of the question," Mr. Edison replied. "The fluorescence is ordinary daylight. It simply converts the unexplainable Roentgen ray into ordinary light by reflecting it on particles of calcium tungstate. This mineral has the property of converting the invisible ray into light. Put the Roentgen ray into a dark box and you have absolute night. Put into that box crystals of the simple calcium tungstate and you have light. If we had always known the Roentgen ray we should have regarded the tungstate calcium as a phosphorescent mineral, they have such an affinity for each other. These two make the fluorescence; so, you see, they would do the blind man no good."

Tremendous interest was aroused among scientific and philanthropic persons by the announcement of Mr. Edison's discoveries. Medical men are conservative, however, and to what extent Edison's latest application of the Roentgen rays may improve the sight of persons partially blind or restore sight of persons in utter darkness none of the most eminent oculists or the best known opticians would hazard a prediction. Most oculists and a number of specialists in the electro-pathological branch of medical science are already at work experimenting along the lines suggested by the Wizard's revelations regarding his latest discovery. —Chicago Times Herald.

South American Jewelry.

One of the principal occupations of jewelers in the cities and towns of Chili and Peru is making gold crowns set with precious stones for the heads of images in churches and cathedrals. They usually are adorned by wealthy women, who thus pay homage to the saints. —Chicago Tribune.