

THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT

SUCCESSOR TO
CHERRY COUNTY INDEPENDENT.

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Official Paper of Cherry County, Nebraska.

\$1.00 Per Year in Advance

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY.

Entered at the Post-office at Valentine, Cherry County, Nebraska, as Second-class matter.

This paper will be mailed regularly to its subscribers until a definite order to discontinue is received and all arrears are paid in full.

Advertising rates, 50 cents per inch per month. Rates per column or for long time ads, made known on application to this office.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1896

Wait for the beet sugar factory, and while you are waiting, work. That's what counts, work.

The Delphos, Ohio, Herald says that for the first time in the history of the country, a bushel of corn will not buy a dozen of eggs.

Cherry county needs a new court house as badly as Omaha needs a new depot, and that means the extreme point of necessity.

The republicans are putting in practice the old query: What are we here for if not the offices? Many of the aspirants however have changed this to "What are the offices here for if not for us?"

It is said that the amount of money in circulation bears no relation to prices, yet it is said by the same parties that the recent sudden rise in the price of wheat was stopped, and went back, because of the scarcity of money.—Farm, Stock and Home.

Day by day the need of a court house in a Cherry county becomes more and more apparent. Everyone who has occasion to transact business in the present building will admit that fact, and every stranger emphasizes it by his looks of disgust and sarcastic remarks.

Prof. Henry R. Corbett, Nebraska's present state superintendent of public instruction is one of the forty applicants for the position of principal of the St. Paul, Minn., city schools, and is backed by such influential men as Senator John M. Thurston and Chancellor McLellan of the state university. Corbett stands a good show to win this position. It's hard to keep men of his caliber down, more's the pity.

Numerous papers over the state are taking up the woman suffrage question, and strong pressure will be brought to bear upon the members of the next legislature to secure the submission of an amendment allowing women the right to vote. This is one of the questions which are biennially agitated, and like Banquo's ghost, will not down. There is strong probability that the question will be submitted to the people at the next general election in this state.

The vacant seat on the bench of the court of claims which gossip had assigned to one of the members of President Cleveland's cabinet went to Assistant Attorney General Howey whose official duties have made him thoroughly familiar with the business of this court. Judge Howey's legal attainments are high and there is no personal objection to him, but if the idea advocated by a considerable number of silver men, of hanging up all of Mr. Cleveland's nominations in the senate, be carried out his nomination will fail with all the rest.

The republicans of Washington are in a bad state of mind because a gold democrat has been elected for chairman of the McKinley inauguration committee, and they have made a vigorous protest against his being given the place, both to Mark Hanna and to McKinley, and the local republicans are right, too; but inasmuch as the gold democrat who has been promised the place was a big contributor to Mark Hanna's campaign fund their protest will probably count for nothing. It is customary to have all parties represented on the inauguration committee, but if this gold democrat gets what he paid for it will be the first time that a chairman of the committee has not been a member of the party which elected the President.

LET'S REFORM.

Many reforms are being agitated for the beginning of the twentieth century, many of them sensible ones, too. The one occupying the largest space in the public mind just now is that seeking a revision of our calendar which all admit is a very awkward thing as at present arranged. It seems strange that the wise men who established our system of measuring time did not hit upon thirteen months corresponding to the number of moons in the year, instead of twelve. It would have been much more convenient, to say the least, as well as much more sensible. The first twelve months could be composed of 25 days each and the thirteenth would have 29, and on leap year 30 days. If the new year, January 1st, came on Monday, the first day of each succeeding month would be on Monday, of course, and that would save a lot of bother. Of course, we would have to change our birthdays around to fit the new order of things, and rearrange the dates of maturing notes, but that could easily be done. Have we not adopted a standard of time which disregards all meridians and causes twelve o'clock noon to fall on the same minute over all the space of country between Long-pine, Nebraska, and Pittsburg, Pennsylvania? And this changing of the months is a matter which the United States can indulge in without the aid or consent of any other nation on earth. Think also what a blessing it would be to do away with that old verse: "Thirty days hath September," etc.

The opening of the twentieth century would be a fitting time for the inauguration of this reform, and while we are in the reforming business we might as well discard our old-fashioned, clumsy method of measuring distance by "12 inches make one foot, 3 feet make one yard, 5 1/2 yards make one rod, 320 rods make one mile," and adopt the metric system of the French not only in regard to distances but weights and other measures? We laugh at the English for computing their money in pounds, shillings and pence, but on our part the measure of value is the only sensible one we employ. And at the same time, why not have our clocks and watches made over so that the hours could be computed from 1 to 24 each day instead of running up to 12 twice each day? There's no doubt about it, the United States is old fashioned, regardless of its youth, but as youth is always the first to adopt improved systems, the United States should be the first to take up the reforms above quoted.

BRAIN IS INNOCENT.

With his customary brutality and lack of decency C. P. Witse last week launched at the editor of this paper about a half column of abuse and rot which he flatters himself is sarcasm, but never once in the article does he mention the name of E. B. Brain, or attempt to prove the charges made against that gentleman. Instead, he seeks to sink the matter into a personal or newspaper fight, instead of keeping it on legitimate lines. This shows the weakness of his case.

As a matter of fact, Witse dare not attempt to prove that E. B. Brain is ever guilty of malfeasance in office, and his refusal to make the attempt shows that he realizes how futile the effort would be, and is a practical admission that the charges made by him before election were false. That is all this paper desired—either proof of the charges, or an admission that they were false. By his silence Witse makes the admission. He may fill columns with abuse of THE DEMOCRAT or its editor, and neither will pay attention to it—they are not built that way, but if he renews his attack upon Brain both will be found on deck, and if the charges are proven, both will do as they agreed, viz: aid the prosecution. This paper has no personal interest in the matter, except to see justice done. It is the friend of all who are oppressed.

The subscription list of the Ainsworth Star-Journal is increasing so rapidly that Prof. Berkeley left this paper off his exchange list last week, but THE DEMOCRAT is informed that it received some good advertising, free gratis. Thanks. There's one thing commendable about the Star-Journal at least; its editor is a gentleman, and confines himself to matters in hand, which is more than can be said of his contemporary 30 miles down the road.

Mark Hanna, it is officially reported, does not want the portfolio of secretary of the treasury, but is casting longing glances at the senate, where Senator Sherman has so long sat.

The Chicago Chronicle is a great metropolitan newspaper, and its editors are supposedly well informed on the topics which they discuss from time to time but the following from an editorial regarding the recent irrigation convention held in this state will not fail to bring smiles to the face of every Nebraskan who reads it:

The delegates to the Nebraska drainage convention are from various parts of the state where wet and marsh lands are a large part of the territory. They are devising schemes to redeem the lands by drainage canals and other works.

Wonder what the people of Brown and Rock and Holt and Dawes and Box Butte and the other counties interested think when they learn that their counties are composed largely of "wet-and marsh lands." The foregoing is good enough to have been published in the London Times, or some other ponderous English periodical.

Hard times! Who said hard times? With prosperity all around us, how can there be hard times here? The man who continually rings the changes on "hard times" is an enemy to the community at large. He breeds discontent; discontent magnifies molehills into mountains and small deprivations are looked upon as unbearable hardships; when in this condition a man speedily becomes an anarchist, in thought if not in fact. Those richer than he are thought of as personal enemies and he curses them because of their riches. When a man is everlastingly talking "hard times" times are very apt to be hard from sheer perverseness. Fortune never smiles upon the grumbler, and none can blame her. Cheer up, brothers, get out of the slough of despond. Cease being a pessimist, become an optimist, and you will be surprised at the change in this old planet and can exclaim with the Spaniard: "It is a pretty world, señor!" Try it once, and see, always remembering that be your lot ever so hard to bear, there is some one whose lot is harder.

NO WAR, NO FILLIBUSTERS.

The result in the LaRocca case ought to carry a hint or two to the administration.

First, the court's charge really left an intelligent jury no ground on which to convict. We have no law and no treaty forbidding merchants to send goods or persons to go to any part of the possessions of a power with which we are at peace as we are with Spain. No possible question of neutrality can arise where there is no war, and neither Spain nor our own government has recognized the existence of any war in Cuba. It is not unlawful for any persons who please to sail for Cuba or to send arms thither, or both. What their purposes may be it is impossible for the Government to know and impertinent for it to inquire.

Secondly, in refusing to convict, the jury very plainly intimated an unwillingness which is shared by nine-tenths of the American people to lend further aid to Spain in conquering the patriots, butchering non-combatants, shooting wounded men and burning hospitals with their helpless inmates. These are hints that should be heeded.—New York World.

INTERESTING FACTS.

Several editors have discovered that: Cleveland carried California in 1892 by 147 and Bryan received 22,000 more votes than Cleveland received, and yet McKinley carried California.

Cleveland carried Illinois in 1892 by 26,993 and Bryan received 33,479 more votes than Cleveland received—yet McKinley carried Illinois.

Cleveland carried Indiana in 1892 by 7,125, and Bryan received 42,000 more votes than Cleveland received—yet McKinley carried Indiana.

Harrison carried Iowa in 1892 by 23,729, and Bryan received 4,541 more votes than Harrison received—yet McKinley carried Iowa.

Cleveland carried Kentucky in 1892 by 40,020, and Bryan received 42,336 more votes than Cleveland received—yet McKinley carried Kentucky.

Harrison carried Michigan in 1892 by 20,412, and Bryan received 4,000 more votes than Harrison received—yet McKinley carried Michigan.

Harrison carried Minnesota in 1892 by 21,903, and Bryan received 16,714 more votes than Harrison received—yet McKinley carried Minnesota.

Harrison carried Ohio in 1892 by 1,072, and Bryan received 69,000 more votes than Harrison received—yet McKinley carried Ohio.

Harrison carried Oregon in 1892 by 21,000, and Bryan received 9,000 more votes than Harrison received—yet McKinley carried Oregon.

STRIPS OF HUMAN SKIN.

Converted Into Razor Strops by Medical Students.

A Grosssome Trade Carried On by In-petuous Operators in the Dissecting Room—How the Strops Are Made.

The razor strop of human skin exemplifies the fin de siècle indifference of the age to means and ends. It need scarcely be said that it was in the brain of a heartless medical student, steeled to insensibility of the sacredness of the corporeal body by constant contact with it in the dissecting-room, that this razor strop had its origin.

You never can tell to what heights of audacity the average medical student will reach in his professional profanation of the corpses upon which he is called to operate. This is proverbial the world over, and it has come to pass that he looks upon a human cadaver—it was he who first called it a "stiff"—as merely a fleshy commodity, which, the vital spark once gone from it, becomes so much clay to be worked over and manipulated in any way he sees fit.

Now, you do not believe, possibly enough, that the razor strop of human skin is an actuality. You are far wrong. It is in existence in New York, but the traffic in them is carried on surreptitiously and as an occasional means of helping some poverty-stricken "med." to eke out a living.

It is well known that in dissecting the most delicate and finest of steel instruments are used. It is necessary to keep these instruments extremely sharp. The ordinary coarse stone or strop would utterly destroy the delicate blades.

It is also well known that a razor can be nicely "finished" on the palm of the hand. This fact led to the use of small crude strops made of bits of flesh, secured in the dissecting-room. The possibilities of this human flesh strop appeared so forcibly to the practical mind of one of the students that he began experiments which have resulted in the introduction very quietly on the market of a razor strop made of human flesh.

One side of these strops is made of black flesh and the other side of white flesh. The skin for these strops is secured in this way: When students are given parts of the human body to dissect, the skin is usually removed and thrown away. This waste skin is now in great demand.

The leg skin is the part most prized, as it is from this that the most desirable strips of flesh for razor strops are secured. The epidermis and the dermis are carefully removed together in a strip 18 inches by five inches. All fat is cut away and the strip is then put in a strong solution of arsenic and water, where it is allowed to remain for about five hours. It is now changed to a weaker solution of arsenic and left for 1 1/2 days.

Next it is placed in a secret solution, which imparts additional firmness to it, and is then stretched and tacked on a board to dry. Two days in the sun is required for the drying, and it is then trimmed and cut to the required size. A piece of flesh of the size described will shrink in the process of curing to fourteen by three and a half inches.

Next it is thoroughly saturated with lard to soften it, and after being rubbed hard with a smooth, round stick, it is rendered remarkably flexible and ready for mounting. A piece of white linen duck is used for backing, and the strip of flesh is pasted to it with a thin solution of furniture glue. The two sides of the strop are made one of black flesh and the other of white flesh. The black flesh is prepared in the same manner as that of a white man's skin, but it is more difficult to treat.

The two strips of human flesh are pasted together back to back, and make a razor strop which is said by those who have used them to be far superior to the ordinary razor strop of leather.

The dark side is used to "start" and the white side to "finish" the razor. The advantages claimed are that it is softer and more flexible, and that the pores being closer together than in leather, it offers greater resistance to the razor and gives the blade a better and more lasting edge.—N. Y. Journal.

A Granite Hotel for the Yosemite. All the so-called hotels, cottages, tents and other makeshifts provided for the accommodation of visitors to the Yosemite valley are to give way in the near future to a handsome, imposing and fireproof structure, to be built at a cost of about \$50,000, of granite to be quarried in the valley. This project was developed at a recent meeting of the Yosemite commissioners during the discussion of plans to provide for the accommodation of visitors to the valley. "I am in favor of a granite building that can be constructed from the stone right on the ground," said Gov. Budd. "I don't believe it would cost more than to build an equally large hotel of lumber up there in the mountains, where the hauling of the lumber costs more than the lumber itself." Commissioner Sperry said that a granite structure with 100 rooms could be put up at a cost of \$40,000 to \$50,000. He suggested that plans ought to be secured to enable a proper presentation of the scheme to the legislature when an appropriation was asked for. Gov. Budd said he would, in his message to the legislature, call attention to the proposition.—San Francisco Call.

Moon Mountains.

The mountains of the moon are immensely large in proportion than those of the earth. The moon is but one forty-ninth the size of the earth, but its mountain peaks are nearly as high. Twenty-two are higher than Mount Blanc, which is within a few feet of three miles high. The highest is a little more than four miles and a half.—St. Louis Republic.

GATHERING THE RETURNS.

Scenes About New York Police Headquarters on Election Night.

The election bureau of the police department is the official recipient of the returns from the voting precincts. This bureau furnishes each poll with blanks for the official record and also with four sets of small blanks for each office. As soon as the count for an office is finished the four inspectors sign all four blanks and a policeman takes them to a police headquarters, and quickly returns for others. Thus the count goes on until it is completed—sometimes not before midnight.

Meantime there have gathered in a large room at police headquarters all the commissioners, the superintendent, a great number of newspaper reporters with pencils sharpened at both ends, while the walls are lined with messenger and telephone boys. As soon as a report is brought it is read out by the superintendent, taken down by the newspaper men, and forwarded to their editors as rapidly as possible. By eight o'clock the returns come thick and fast, and nothing is heard but the scratching of pencils and the footsteps of racing messengers. The commissioners soon go to their private offices, for they know that anxious candidates are spreading by the hour, and their fate, although a very fair idea has spread abroad by nine or ten o'clock as to how the state and city have "gone" on the principal issues. In the case of the election of November, 1894, everybody knew that Tammany was beaten long before that hour.

But the fun of the street is not for that band of reporters at headquarters, nor for those other hands of writers in the newspaper offices down town, who, with almost superhuman diligence and endurance, are tabulating and putting into type and commenting upon these returns for delectation of the public next morning.

The tenement-house districts have been alive with people since sundown, dancing about the fire. They have learned long ago the outlines of the result, and those on the successful side are rejoicing in their tumultuous way, sure of the support of all the boys. As the evening advances the excitement spreads to Broadway and uptown. The newspapers will issue extras every hour or so from nine p. m. to two in the morning, but they do not hesitate to give all this news away upon their bulletins as fast as they get it.—Ernest Ingersoll, in Century.

Decimal Clocks.

The latest in clocks and watches is distinctly original. It comes from France. The suggestion is that the decimal system should be adopted for clocks and watches, bidding goodbye to our old friends 11 and 12 o'clock entirely, and to divide the face of the clock into ten instead of twelve sections. This system is now used by the geographical bureau of the French army, and it is urged that it diminishes the labor of calculation by two-thirds, and lessens the chances of mathematical error from four to one. The following is an outline of the rules of the decimal system as applied to timepieces:—

"The day, from midnight to the midnight following, is to be divided into 100 equal parts, known as 'ees.'"

"The subdivisions, according to the decimal plan, are 'decies,' or tenths, 'centies,' or hundredths, 'millies,' or thousandths.

"One of the main divisions, the 'ees,' is equal to 14 minutes and 24 seconds, or almost a quarter of an hour."

"This, say the scientists, is the easiest possible system, but the poor lay mind, we are afraid, will not quite agree with such a conclusion, and six a. m. sounds far more acceptable than 25 ees, its decimal equivalent.—Westminster Gazette.

A Tie of Sympathy.

"Isn't it strange how people thrown together abroad will become intimate," said a lady who had just returned from a European jaunt. "We fell in with some Cleveland people on shipboard going, with whom we were acquainted only by name, but in a few hours we shared confidences like lifelong friends. It was the same way wherever we chanced to find our countrymen. At Rome we ran across a Cleveland clergyman, and you would have thought we were long lost relatives from the cordial way he greeted the discovery that we were also Clevelanders. In fact, it is quite impossible to feel lonely if you know that any of your home people are about. All the rigid barriers of social distinctions are melted down, and everyone is on one plane of friendly equality. Yes, and they are not seaside acquaintances either; when they meet again the old freemasonry of common interest draws them straightway together, and they live those delightful experiences over again in sympathetic reminiscences."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Vanderbilt's Business Nose.

Said a business man of wide experience and observation: "Have you ever observed the money-making nose? It is a strong, well-formed nose, invariably curved somewhat like a beak. That crook in the nose is the unfailing sign of money-making ability. I have observed it for years. If you doubt it, look about you and you will find that every wealthy man who has made his own money out of nothing has more or less such a nose. A very fine example of the money-making nose is that which adorns the face of Cornelius Vanderbilt, who, though born with a gold spoon in his mouth, has shown very marked ability in the increase of his fortune. Most of our bankers and railway presidents have similar noses."—London To-Day.

Egyptian Bells.

The invention of bells is attributed by some of the best foreign camponologists to the Egyptians, who are credited with having made use of such percussion instruments to announce the sacred notes of Osiris.—Chicago Chronicle.

A REMARKABLE FEAT.

Performed by the Champion Swimmer of Australia.

He Swims Across the Golden Gate at San Francisco in One Hour and Fifteen Minutes Against the Tide.

The most important feat in swimming in the history of the coast was accomplished recently by Charles Cavill, the champion swimmer of Australia. Cavill managed to breast tides and currents between Fort Point and the Marin county shore and swam across the Golden Gate. It was 3:30 o'clock when Cavill left Devil's Point, and just 1 hour and 15 minutes later he touched the rocks about 200 yards seaward from Fort Winfield Scott, having covered a distance, as the crow flies, of over 1 1/2 miles.

The Australian's performance drew a big crowd. The shore about Fort Point was lined with people and the waters in the gate were crowded with small craft of every description. The ferryboat Sausalito had a place in the stream with almost a thousand people aboard. From a swimmer's standpoint the day was an ideal one. The water was as smooth as could be desired, its surface only rippled by the curling edges of the long swells that came from the ocean. There was a slight wind blowing, but it was not strong enough to kick up any disturbance.

Cavill left the Sausalito when the boat arrived in midstream off Lime Point. He had as companions Adolph Kahn, the high diver of the California Swimming Club, and Prof. Killick, of the Sausalito life saving crew. The tide was at a standstill, and the three men chose as a starting point for the swimmer a bunch of rocks about 100 yards north of Devil's Point and a mile north of Lime Point. A selected crew from the Dolphin Boat Club acted as escort in a wharfed boat.

Cavill wore the regulation tights. He dipped into the water easily and naturally, and started for the San Francisco shore with energy. Killick and Kahn and the Dolphin crew accompanying him in boats. The swimmer left off with a long, easy, right-side stroke, and for the first few hundred yards of the course the way was easy and his pace was rapid. About a quarter of a mile from shore the Australian encountered what he says was the swiftest current he ever met.

The tide had turned since he left the ferry, and was now pouring through the channel with the speed of a mill race. The ripples roared like a miniature sea and threatened to engulf the boat. Cavill struck into it bravely, and attempted to stay its progress by turning his face toward Sausalito and swimming north. The rowers in the boat attempted similar tactics, but the rush of waters toward the ocean carried everything with it. Seeing that it was useless to attempt to withstand the force of the tide Cavill drifted with it. He was carried out almost to the Heads before he encountered the counter-currents on the Presidio shore. The eddy opposite Point Lobos caught him in its grip and whirled him back again toward the bay. From this time on Cavill's work was comparatively easy. He swam leisurely and easily toward the fort, followed by half a hundred boats and oars. A half a mile from the landing point he picked up an old felt hat that was floating in the water and put it on his head, much to the amusement of the spectators.

As he neared the shore Cavill increased his speed. The Dolphin crew and a boat from the life-saving service cleared the way. There was a long, slow swell smashing against the rocks, and on top of one of these breakers Cavill landed easily. There was a great crowd awaiting his arrival, and as the swimmer walked up the beach he was given an ovation by everything and everybody, from the small boy on the fort parapets to the big whistle of the steamer Sausalito. Cavill returned to the water almost immediately and swam to the Dolphin club's boat, from which he was transferred to the Sausalito.

Cavill's performance adds a new notch to the swimming record of the coast. The time spent in covering the distance is remarkably short, considering contrary tides and currents and the fact that he was carried almost a mile out of his course. Throughout he swam on his right side, using a side stroke.

At the finish he was almost as fresh as when he started. The water was cold, and when he touched shore after his long swim his right arm and leg were benumbed to the point of uselessness.

The swimmer's physical dimensions are: Height, 5 feet 10 inches; weight, 180 pounds; chest measurement, 43 inches, with the phenomenal expansion of 9 1/2 inches. He is the son of Prof. Fred Cavill, of England, who swam across the English channel in 11 hours, making a world's record.—San Francisco Chronicle.

America's Need of Cavalry.

Discussing the possibilities of a war with England, and the strength of the United States militia or national guard, some of our newspapers lately boasted that an army of 100,000 men could be thrown into Canada within a few weeks. How many of these men would be mounted on horseback? It is a very pertinent inquiry, for it requires from three to six months' training to make a cavalryman, and some of the states which furnish large contingents to the national guard have not a single troop of horses. If there is any lesson that the failure of the confederacy can teach us, it is this: that an invasion of Canada—and I do not mean that such a thing is in the least probable or desirable—made without sufficient cavalry would be as barren of permanent results as it would be if made with an army of crossbroom.—Duncan Rose, in Century.