

THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT

I. M. RICE EDITOR

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TERMS

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Fusion State Ticket.

For Judge of the Supreme Court
 JUDGE J. J. SULLIVAN.
 For Regents of the University
 WM. O. JONES,
 Of Adams County.
 DR. E. O. WEBBER,
 Of Saunders County.
 For District Judges 15th Judicial District
 W. H. WESTOVER,
 Of Sheridan County.
 J. J. HARRINGTON,
 Of Holt County.
County Ticket.
 For Clerk
 DR. A. J. PLUMER.
 For Treasurer
 J. F. YOUNG.
 For Sheriff
 D. W. HILSINGER.
 For Superintendent
 PROF. R. H. WATSON.
 For Judge
 W. R. TOWNE.
 For Surveyor
 HUGH BOYER.
 For Assessor
 JOSEPH KREYCIK.
 For Coroner
 DR. A. N. COMPTON.
 For Commissioner 1st Com. dist.
 SOL. L. ELLIS.

HON. W. H. WESTOVER

Hon. W. H. Westover should receive a good majority of votes cast at the next election. People who know him best are his strongest supporters. He has been on the bench for eight years during which time his prompt and fearless work has brought terror to the law breakers, scattered bands of horse and cattle rustlers and the dawn of civilization appears in the west. No more is it necessary to have organized vigilance committees to protect the settler and his flock. Scores of cattle rustlers have been sentenced to serve time for molesting the industrious farmer and ranchman who were trying to make a home for their families in the great west. Nine vigilance committees were in operation when Westover was first put upon the bench. Not one of them are in operation now. The reason is plain that they are no longer necessary. Our courts have been courts of justice since Westover was made one of the judges of this 15th Judicial district. There is no more of the long and tedious delays, dragging a case from one term of court to the next until justice tires and those who would see justice done takes the law into their own hands by organized forces.

In the case of the state vs John Kelly in Holt county for cattle stealing, the case had been continued four times, running 2 years when Judge Westover went down to O'Neill in Sept. 1896 and tried the case, the jury hung and instead of delaying until next term of court Judge Westover ordered a new jury for Monday morning and tried Kelly over again. He was found guilty by the second jury and the Judge sentenced him to 5 years. This was not all. The court docket contained a number of cases carried on from time to time in which justice was defeated by delays.

In the case of John Fanton in the same county tried for cattle stealing the regular panel of jurors was discharged and a new panel brought in which found him guilty and the Judge sentenced him to 8 years. Nor is this all. There were seven convictions made in that term of court and Holt county hasn't had a cattle stealing case since. It is not to be wondered at that vigilance committees were organized to protect the settlers' property when the courts had been so dilatory. It is true that the country was newer then than now

but the Judge who was true when the country had a lawless band of thieves roaming at will which seemed to overpower the country, is a safe man now to protect the interests of every law abiding citizen.

Westover and Harrington Are The Men.

The Judicial campaign in this district is of more than passing importance to stockmen, and they are showing their interest by taking a more active part in the campaign than is usually the case with them. It is safe to say that four-fifths of the cattlemen of the district are supporting the fusion nominees.

A prominent stockman, a member of one of the largest cattle companies in northwest Nebraska, in speaking of the judicial situation expressed himself unqualifiedly as being in favor of Judges Westover and Harrington. He said, "this is an instance in which Mark Hanna's advice, 'let well enough alone' coincides with the views of the cattle men. We are for the re-election of Westover and Harrington. And why shouldn't we be? Prior to the election of Judge Westover our employees spent a large portion of their time in chasing down cattle rustlers and endeavoring to recover stolen cattle, and our company expended thousands of dollars in seeking to get conviction of those arrested; but under the lax system of enforcing the law our time and money was largely thrown away. After Westover was elected there was a decided change for the better. (I personally know) that during the first year he was on the bench he sent twenty-three cattle thieves to the penitentiary on long time sentences. That practically put a stop to cattle stealing in this district. Since that time we haven't expended a dollar in running down cattle thieves. The cattle men haven't forgotten what they owe to Judge Westover, and they are now in a position where they can partly repay him. Every man who has a herd of cattle can well afford to put a few days work among his neighbors to insure his re-election. In regard to Judge Harrington, while the cattle rustling was almost entirely destroyed before he was elected to the bench, yet in the cases tried before him he has followed closely in the footsteps of Judge Westover. It is safe to say that every cattle thief that has been in his court got all that was coming to him."

There can be no question but the statement above quoted voices the sentiment of the cattle men generally in the district. They do not care to exchange men who have been tried and not found wanting for men they know nothing about. Partisanship cuts but little figure in judicial elections with the stockmen. They want men on the bench whom they know and can trust. Men who will see that the laws are enforced without fear or favor. In our present judges the people have the utmost confidence. Their records on the bench are entirely satisfactory to the people of the district, and we confidently predict their re-election by a large majority.

The republican convention Tuesday resulted in the nomination of the same set of officers now in office, viz: Reece, Shattuck, Layport, Lewis, Leach and Miss Brown. E. C. Cole, of Cody, was nominated for county assessor and A. E. Morris, of Woodlake, for county commissioner of the 1st commissioner district. J. M. Clarkson was nominated for county judge. A. G. Fisher, of Chadron, and W. T. Wills, of Butte, were present to tell the people about Bryan and silver and 16 to 1 and a lot of other stuff which they thought to be cute and winding up with that peculiar whang of Wills that makes most people tired, he stated that a nomination on the republican ticket meant sure election and that he and Fisher were confident of being elected this fall.

The Democratic State Platform.

Following is the platform adopted at the state convention at Columbus: We, the democrats of Nebraska, in convention assembled, reaffirm our faith in the principles of the party as enunciated in the last national platform, adopted at Kansas City.

We denounce the national republican administration for its failure to carry out its promises heretofore made and its subservience to special interests at the expense of and to the detriment of the interests of the public at large.

We are unalterably opposed to any form of asset currency legislation and to any legislation of the character of the Aldrich bill.

We demand that the attorney general of our state shall make application to the supreme court of the United States for permission to put the Nebraska maximum freight law into immediate effect, in accord with the suggestion of the court. In the campaign one year ago the democracy of Nebraska charged that the election of a republican legislature would be a victory for the railroads and other corporate interests which presume to dictate in state affairs.

We call attention to the faithful manner in which republican officials have championed the corporations, enacting and applying statutes to the injury of the home owners, farming and business interests to the profit of the railroads and other public corporations. We charge that the late republican legislature deliberately substituted the Ramsey bill intending thereby to deny to the farmers of this state all relief from the grain trust, the most burdensome and exacting combine now operating within this state.

We arraign the republican party of Nebraska for the failure of the last legislature to keep its ante-election promises; to provide a just and equitable revenue law, and charge that it surrendered to corporate influence and dictation, discriminated in favor of the railroads in the taxation thereof.

We arraign the republican state administration for its extravagant expenditures and for burdening the state with an immense floating indebtedness as a direct result of such action and we demand a more economic handling of the public funds. The shameful interference by Governor Mickey in the efforts of his deputies to properly and honestly enforce the provisions of the oil inspection law should meet the severe condemnation of every lover of law. His notorious and successful attempt to permit the Standard Oil company to sell in this state a grade of oil condemned by his deputies as dangerous to the life and property of consumers must be construed as evidence of woeful ignorance or criminal collusion.

We believe the judiciary to be the corner stone of American government, both state and national. Upon its ability, independence and integrity rests the future of American institutions. We therefore demand that the judiciary of this state be kept free from partisan bias and the undue influence of special and corporate interests.

We commend to the voters of Nebraska the record of John J. Sullivan as embodying our ideas of the high character the judiciary ought to entertain.

We invite all citizens, without reference to their political affiliations, who agree with us in the foregoing principles and who believe in an independent judiciary to support the nominees of this convention.

Wait awhile brother until you hear from some of these men out in the country who have tried standing guard of their herds while people tried experiments with Tom, Dick or Harry as district judges, until they don't want any more of it. They don't like trying experiments in business and its a business proposition to the ranchmen and farmers who have stock to protect to see that the same judges now in office are re-elected, and not the half horse lawyer from a little country town over on the prairie who imagines he's a great man because he secured the nomination for district judge, and that the people are going to vote for him. Says so, and says he's going to get scores of fusion votes down home because they all know him him down there and says he has friends down there in his little country village. Well, he'd be a darned mean man if he didn't have a few friends in a hamlet where they don't see a stranger of ten enough to keep from staring at him, and wondering where he came from. Wait awhile brother. Don't be feeling too big about being nominated for district judge. The people don't want you for judge nor the trickster and political shyster who is your running mate either. In the case of Wills he is so little known that people never heard of him before he was nominated for judge and won't hear of him after election for twenty years. It's different with Fisher. He's known. They all know about him, but they'd rather employ him as an attorney when they need him.

More Local.

Wm. Bachelor was up from Woodlake this week.
 Arkansas Bob spent several days in town this week.
 Jas. Felch, of Chadron, is in town visiting his mother.
 Mrs. Carpenter, the minister's wife has been ill the past week.
 J. S. Post, of Chicago, is in town and will move his family here soon.
 There has been lots of Indians in town the past week hauling coal to the agency.
 Geo. Miller is in town this week and will go back to Iowa in a few days on a visit.
 A. H. Stees, of the Erickson Cattle Co., spent several days in town this week.
 Robt. Quisenberry drove in from Simeon with his brother-in-law, Jess Marion and wife and sister-in-law who took the train Tuesday night for Red Lodge, Mont., where they expect to make their home.

The Valentine Bottling Works puts up eleven different kinds of drinks.

The county commissioners met Tuesday and remained in session, concluding today.

W. I. Bullis and wife returned this week from a visit with relatives at Springfield, S. D.

S. L. Ellis' two-year old boy has been quite sick the past week. Dr. Compton was out Tuesday.

P. H. Young, of Simeon, brought in a big bunch of cattle last week and shipped the first of this week to Omaha.

Some serious depredations were committed at the Mount Hope cemetery east of town last week. The guilty ones should be taught a lesson.

National bank examiner Jas. A. Cline was in town Tuesday checking over the 1st National bank here and found the bank doing a thriving business.

A. E. Thacher returned last Friday night from his two months stay at Waukesha Springs Sanitarium, Wis., looking well and feeling well.

Fred Whittemore, president of the Valentine State Bank and state bank examiner, is at the bank this week in the absence of Charles Sparks, who is down to Omaha with W. S. Jackson taking in the carnival.

Deputy U. S. Marshal Moore is in town today. He informed us that Private Linnier of Co. I, 25th infantry, who shot Serj. Yours, was convicted in the U. S. circuit court and sentenced to five years. Private Morris, Co. D, was found guilty of killing McKee and sentenced to 8 years.

A stranger fell under the train at Cody Monday night and was cut in two. No one knows how he happened to be there but it is supposed that he had started to board the train and in the dark stumbled over a pile of coal just beside the track and fell between the cars as he made the attempt to get on while the train was moving.

Malcomb Jeffers and Miss Edith Crabb were married Monday evening at the home of D. M. Jeffers a mile west of town. This worthy young couple is well known to Valentine people and all join in wishing them a happy and prosperous life. Miss Edith Crabb came Sunday from her father's home in Washington and is the daughter of G. P. Crabb, who was formerly county treasurer of this county.

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CHARLES SPARKS, Cashier
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