

THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT

M. CHRISTENSEN EDITOR

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TERMS

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- DR. E. O. WEBBER,
Of Saunders County.
- For District Judge 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
I. M. RICE.
- For Sheriff
D. W. HILSINGER.
- For Superintendent
MRS. LOTTIE CRAMER.
- 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.

About our Candidates for County Offices.

THE DEMOCRAT has been in the hands of new men since the editor accepted the fusion nomination for county treasurer. It was an honor that came unsought to Mr. Rice and the editorship of the paper came unsought to the writer. Very little has been said in these columns about the various candidates for county office because they are so thoroughly acquainted that a newspaper introduction was not deemed necessary.

Dr. A. J. Plumer.

Dr. A. J. Plumer, our candidate for county clerk, is a graduate of medicine and one of the best read men in the state of Nebraska. After graduating in medicine, however, he became interested in the stock business and finally abandoned the practice of medicine and devoted his entire time to the cattle business. He is one of the pioneer cattle men of the county. His ranch, situated about twelve miles north of Hyannis, is conceded to be the best improved of any of the big ranches in the sand hills. Everybody knows Dr. Plumer. No traveller goes across the country that he does not stop and find a welcome from the Doctor and his talented and hospitable wife. Money and success have never turned his head. Rich and poor alike find a welcome there. He did not seek the nomination, in fact, he did not know he had been nominated for several days after the convention adjourned. He is not seeking the election but his friends are urging him for the place. That part of the county is certainly entitled to representation in the court house and no more representative man could be found than Dr. Plumer. And no more competent official ever held office than he would be.

I. M. Rice.

I. M. Rice is making a vigorous but dignified campaign for county treasurer. Mr. Rice has never before been a candidate for office but accepted this nomination in obedience to his party's call and he is carrying the same aggressiveness into the campaign that has made all his business ventures a success. Coming to this county nearly six years ago, he accepted a position in the office of county treasurer where he proved his ability to manage the affairs of the

office. But Rice was a democrat. The treasurer was a republican and while his services were in every way satisfactory a few kickers objected to his holding the place because of his politics. The treasurer, appreciating his good services as a deputy, refused to let him out. The kick was continued, but he refused to sell his principles for the position so he resigned and engaged in business for himself. He began life as a poor boy, but by dint of his industry and economy he has made his life a success and accumulated considerable property. His business dealings have always been straight forward and honest. There is not a man with whom he ever dealt who will not bear testimony to his honesty. There is not a more loyal democrat in the state. He has never waited to see if his principles were popular before advocating them. He has always been a man of ideas and has always had the courage of his convictions. Every fusionist in Cherry county ought to feel it his duty to stand up for the man who in season and out of season has stood for the party and for the people. If every fusionist will do as much for Mr. Rice as he would expect Rice to do for him, were he a candidate, there is no question but he will be the next county treasurer.

D. W. Hilsinger.

D. W. Hilsinger, our genial "Web" Hilsinger, has been spending the week out among the sand hills. When Web was nominated for sheriff it was notice to the public that something would be doing before the campaign closed. He came to this county way back in the eighties and settled on a homestead on the table north of Valentine. He has seen the development of the county—he has been part and parcel of it. His children have grown to manhood and womanhood in the county. During all the years of his residence he has proved himself to be a first class citizen and a jolly good fellow. He is the life of every crowd. Always pleasant he makes those around him happy. For several years past he has been the village marshal of Valentine. Changes in town boards never effect him. He has filled the office with such ability that a thought of changing marshals has never entered anybody's head so long as Web wants the place. His experience as marshal has given him an insight into the work of the sheriff's office. It was from this position that the present sheriff was taken to become a sheriff four years ago. He is a man just in the prime of life, accustomed to handling men and gifted with a cool head, courage and excellent judgement. He is just the material for a successful officer of the law.

Mrs. Lottie Cramer.

There is no other office that appeals to so many people as the office of county superintendent. Old and young have vital interest in our public schools. This is the one truly American institution. No matter how widely we differ in politics, race or religion every American looks with grateful pride to the public school. It is and ever must remain the key stone of the republic. The growth and development of the school denotes the growth and development of citizenship. If the school is to become a power for good we must have officers in charge who are capable of leadership. Mrs. Lottie Cramer is the product of our public school and is in herself a badge of honor to the system. She graduated from the Valentine High School, then pursued her studies through higher institutions of learning until she was awarded a first-grade certificate, when she entered upon her work as teacher in the Valentine schools. She came to this county when a child with her parents and has helped to develop the county. She has always taken a leading part in every public enterprise and has shown her executive ability as a teacher, and she would make an ideal superintendent of schools.

Your Candidates for County Judge

There has been little said about the office of county judge, and there are a great many people who consider the office of but little importance. You ought not however to judge the importance of an office by the salary paid. It is quite true the fees of the office are very small, nevertheless the duties of the county judge are among the most important of all your officials. As probate judge, sooner or later, every estate comes under his jurisdiction. Every claim filed against it is presented to him for allowance or rejection; every executor and administrator receives his authority from and works under the direction of the court. Every bond presented by an administrator or executor is passed upon by the probate judge. There is not a property owner in the county who would want to feel that if he were called "across the river" the probate judge might appoint an administrator over his estate who was either incompetent or dishonest. He would not want to feel that the judge might accept a straw bond from the man thus appointed to take charge of the property he had spent his life in accumulating that his family might enjoy it. He would not want to feel that through the ignorance or want of capacity or inexperience on the part of the county judge his accumulations had been wasted and his family left destitute. Our present incumbent Judge Towne has held the office for years and years. He has mastered every detail of the work. Lawyers who have practiced in his court are without exception ready to bear testimony to the fairness of his decisions and to his honest administration of the office. They recognize his ability and exactness in the preparation of records and transcripts. No attorney thinks of preparing any paper which it is the duty of the court to prepare and they recognize in him a man who though not by profession a lawyer, well versed in legal principles, and one of the leading members of the bar pronounced him one of the best authorities on probate law in the state. What a contrast exists between him and his opponent. We have no intention of criticizing Mr. Clarkson. He is a nice old gentleman, and we doubt very much if he had any serious intentions of running for judge until one John Fee, who changes politics every time his party refuses to let him have his own way, came in and talked him into running. It is well known that the leaders of the republican convention were in favor of leaving the place blank, or nominating Judge Towne, but Fee insisted on putting Mr. Clarkson on the ticket and they let him have his way. Last week the republican commented on Mr. Clarkson and called attention to his qualifications for the office; said he had been justice of the peace and assessor. Right here is the test of his ability. Never since he has been assessor of this precinct has he completed his assessors books himself. He has always had to secure the services of some friend to do the work for him. Never since he has been justice of the peace has there been a contested law suit tried before him. All the lawyers take their cases before Judge Towne. He has never prepared and issued a summons alone. He has never written up his own docket. Once in a long while some case has arisen when Judge Towne could not try it and some lawyer has had to bring it before a justice. When this happened, the attorney has had to prepare the summons and write up the judgement when it was rendered. In some cases Judge Towne has written them up for him. As we said before, these things are not said for the purpose of casting reflections on Mr. Clarkson, but he has neither the education nor the experience to fill the office for which he has been nominated. In peace and war Judge Towne has discharged with credit ever duty imposed upon him. Let his friends remember him, next Tuesday.

Compton, Kreycik, Boyer.

Dr. Compton, our candidate for coroner; Joseph Kreycik, our candidate for assessor; and Hugh Boyer, our candidate for surveyor, are all representative of our best citizenship. Each is qualified for the place to which he is a candidate and if he is elected will fill the office with credit to himself and to the advantage of the public.

The Judicial Campaign.

Never in the history of the fifteenth judicial district has so shameful a campaign been waged against any men as that carried on by the corrupt gang of grafters and dead beats in charge of the O'Neill Frontier against Judges Harrington and Westover. Cronin, the editor of the Frontier and postmaster of the town, assisted by R. R. Dickson, an attorney of that town, published a series of charges against Judge Harrington. The O'Neill Independent promptly replied to the charges and proved them to be absolutely false. It gave the lie to the Frontier articles and proved its case from the records of the Clerk of the District Court as well as by the affidavits of the very parties whom Dickson and Cronin alleged had been defrauded. The Independent containing the denial of these charges was placed in the post office for distribution but Cronin refused to mail it out. Thus they have attempted to misrepresent Judge Harrington before the public and deny him the opportunity to refute the charges. Of course an appeal will be made to the postal authorities but before a decision can be made the campaign will have closed and the ruling will be of no practical benefit. There is no danger, however, of these things hurting Judge Harrington where Dickson and Cronin are known. The records of Holt county show that when Judge Kinkaid was on the bench he entered a solemn decree of his court to the effect that Dickson has stolen \$4000.00 worth of tax certificates. Dickson was indicted for a felony at Hot Springs, South Dakota, and escaped the penitentiary by keeping out of the jurisdiction of the court. The people of this district do not want men upon the bench who will be under the influence of such men as Dickson. The very fact that Dickson and Cronin are against Harrington and Westover will bring honest men to their support. This is a case where many a man will "love them for the enemies they have made." If they could use them to carry on their unlawful schemes they would support them with as much vigor as they now oppose them. Dickson, though a pretended republican, always fought Judge Kinkaid, because, like our present judges, he could not use him. In the last issue of the Frontier they made an attack upon Judge Westover. This is done for the same reason they vilified Judge Harrington. When Dickson and his guilty clients have appeared before Judge Westover they have been meted out strict and even handed justice and this is more than Mr. Dickson can stand. He wants a man upon the bench in league with himself in the protection of the criminal classes.

The people of the fifteenth judicial district have had eight years of Westover and four of Harrington and if there was anything wrong with these judges they would have learned it before the political campaign was on. People will be slow to believe stories started so late there is no time for investigation. Will you say that the men whom you have respected as the able and fearless exponents of the law and against whom not one word was ever uttered until the campaign was half over are to be repudiated by men of the Dickson type, or will you say, with Mark Hanna, "let well enough alone"?

There will be a social at the Fairview school house in district No. 25, Saturday evening Nov. 7, 1903. Girls bring supper for two. Proceeds for library books.

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