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TERMS

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Japan and Russia have begun their scrap. At first Japan seems to have the best of it but it will not last long. When Russia gets started Japan will wither like mown weeds in the sun and will be glad to accept most any terms for peace before Russia gets through with her. It may be the bloodiest war of the century if other nations take a part in it. What the United States should do and must do, if we know our places, is to remain neutral not only in war policy but in sentiment which is already divided almost equally among our people. Many of our students of history will not forget that Russia was, and always has been, a friendly nation to the U. S. and without her kindly assistance and encouragement, together with that of France, our country would still be in the hands of Great Britain. We will not forget these kindnesses of Russia and though not hostile to the Japanese, in fact most friendly relations have heretofore existed, we cannot and must not break our former friendly relations with the power to whom we owe the second greatest debt of gratitude.

It's up to the republicans to get down to honest work and show us that they meant what they said when they told us that nobody but Moses could save the fort at this place. We haven't heard of anything that he has done for it yet and we've been waiting patiently all these months to learn that something had been done. It now comes to our ears that he hasn't done a thing and that the post is on the list for discontinuance, to take place before another year shall have rolled around. What will be the next spiel that the republicans will make to re-elect Kincaid to congress? Will it be the same old howl that they made before that he would look after the cattle men's interest and the sheepmen's flocks, the homesteader's rights and the farmer's corn? Will they tell us what he is going to do with Ft. Niobrara and that no one but he can do it? There'll be a lot of broken or unfilled promises like eggshells after the chickens have gone from them, to encounter in the next campaign and the g. o. p. organs have already begun smoothing the way and giving Kincaid credit for a lot of things that some one put him next to for a campaign cry this coming fall. THE DEMOCRAT does not believe that Ft. Niobrara is going to be abandoned, and if it was, Mr. Kincaid couldn't do anything to hold it as a post or he'd have done so long ago. This post is costing the government nothing to keep it up and it is as healthy a place to live as anywhere and there's a hundred other reasons why the government should not be short-sighted enough to give up what they may be willing to pay a big price for some time and then have a lot of kicking from parties whose land must be condemned to establish just such a post as Ft. Niobrara makes. There isn't a reason why the government should give up any post now in existence that is equipped as well naturally as Ft. Niobrara. Any talk to the contrary is for political buncombe or from a lack of knowledge of the situation or our government officials will wantonly give up that which will in years to come reflect discredit upon their judgement and they will be condemned in future

years for their short-sightedness. Let him who never did a noble act, strike the blow to the army posts and reservations of our United States Army, that he may go down in the history of our land as its enemy and that all men may unite to condemn him.

House Votes to do Away With Civil Service.

Washington, Jan. 13.—After a lively debate, lasting three hours the House today, in committee of the whole, by a vote of 78 to 65, struck out of the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill the paragraph providing for the salaries and expenses of the Civil Service Commission and clerks employed under the commission. * * * Mr. Grosvenor of Ohio spoke against the civil service as it now exists, asking why an appointment should not be as properly made upon the recommendation of a representative of the people as to have the President appoint A. Foulke to be purveyor of all the appointments.

Petty Politics in the Guard

There is no other one thing in the National Guard that is productive of such harm to the efficiency of the service as the species of petty politics that so often is found in all organizations. An unqualified man desires a commission. He does not consider his lack of qualification for the office, and thinks only of his ambition. He becomes a hindrance to his company by criticising his superior officers who possibly stand in the way of his realizing his ambitions. In time he mars the discipline of the command and lowers its standing and efficiency as a trained military force. Without qualifications he must purchase support, and he does it by catering to the most undesirable element in the company. * * * Merit is the one thing, and the only thing, that should count in the selection of officers for the National Guard. If possible, it is more important that the National Guard officer be chosen for merit than the army officer. The latter cannot effect an entire command so easily as can the former. The National Guard command that promotes a man for the reason that he "is a good fellow," is not likely to remain long in the service, if it is in a state with efficient officers in the adjutant general's and inspector general's department. The "good fellow," as the term is generally used, is not likely to be a good soldier. He is of the "free-and-easy" sort, who cares but little for discipline; who would rather retain the good will of the laggard in his company by lax methods than secure the good will of the workers by a strict enforcement of orders. Such a man was never intended for command, and the sooner the company find it out and prevent his selection the better it will be for the company.—National Guardsman.

Speculations on War.

The strong probability of war in the far east results from the closing events of the Chinese war. When Japan had by conquest gained possession of Port Arthur and the western powers compelled her to relinquish it and then immediately allowed Russia to seize it under the forms of a lease all hope of peace in the orient for a generation to come had vanished. Smarting with chagrin, enraged at European treachery and staggered by an inestimable loss, Japan has never seen a day since she evacuated Port Arthur when she did not mean to retake it. It is this which makes peace well nigh impossible. Japan has purposely made demands on Russia which Russia cannot meet without humbling herself in the dust before what she regards as an upstart and half-civilized power. When hostilities begin it will be on water, and there is every reason to believe that in the naval contest Russia will be worsted. While the entire Russian navy is double

relegated and a man chosen who will fill the bill as a politician, a "ward heeler," a "bunco steerer" for the party in power, regardless of his qualifications, if he can get the consent of his local machine and his congressman which may be done as it has been done in the past, to reward him for some party service or because he is a good fellow. This is good republican doctrine that our people are howling for. Why don't they lay aside their prejudices and vote as they would talk if you cornered them on this proposition? But they won't. If it is said to be good by the republican leaders, every man of them will try to excuse himself for voting against his principles and judgement in one way or another. Some will endorse the whole thing. Others will try to make their friends believe they're studying into this thing a little and finally say they guess it's the best thing to do and outline a defense of their decision to follow their leader. Read what petty politicians do for the National Guard.

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as large as the entire Japanese navy, the conditions in the far east are exactly reversed. In the coming conflict the naval strength of Japan, counting all craft, will be 110 vessels, and that of Russia, counting all craft, only 53 vessels. The disparity in personnel is even greater. The Japanese are natural seamen, mechanics and marksmen, and their courage is something entirely out of the ordinary. In these respects they are greatly superior to the Russians.

With all these advantages, however, Japan will not be able to annihilate the Russian navy. Japan's communications lies cross a sea 200 miles wide and the Russian navy will be able to interrupt it considerably without risking general engagements. If it meets with reverses it can take shelter under the guns of Port Arthur and Vladivostok, and if the Japanese armies land safely in Corea and China Russia has nothing to fear from them.

Japan in her effort to dislodge Russia from the fastnesses of these provinces will wear herself out within twelve months, and then what? Is she expecting that England will come to her help? If so she is leaning on a broken reed. England rarely fights on her own account, and never to help anybody else.

In spite of all that Russia has done for America the sympathies of this country, both from interest and from sentiment, will be with the "yankees of the far east," but fine words butter no parsnips and the future of Japan is anything but bright.—Chicago Chronicle.

From Wor d-Herald:

The Standard Oil Company has cut the wholesale price of kerosene 3 cents on the gallon in the eastern states and 2 cents on the gallon in the west. This cut does not mean that the company has experienced a "change of heart," however, but is done to force another company out of business. Not only that, but about the time the cut in prices was announced the percentage of well water in their oil seems to have been doubled. The article now dealt out to the consumer has to be greased on both sides before it will burn, and when poured on fire refuses to explode till the water boils out of it.

Problem: If the Standard Oil company loses 2 cents per gallon by the cut in price, and gains 3 cents per gallon by the increase of well water, how many gallons must they sell to enable John D. Rockefeller to endow another college?

If we could boil The Standard Oil And get the water out, 'Twould give a light Both clear and bright, Beyond a shade of doubt; When poured on fire 'Twould blow us higher Than Gilroy's famous kite; But as it is 'Twill only fizzle Which shows it isn't right.

We think it mean That kerosene Should all be watered thus, But folks must pay For all the hay That feeds the octopus. But don't get mad And say things bad Because you're made a fool; The great John D. Is good—you see, He teaches Sunday school. The summer day Will come this way, With hours of light extended, So we will be, As you can see, By nature much befriended. 'Tis just this thing That makes us sing, And lengthens out our smile, We'll have day light Till in the night And won't need Standard "ile."

—Deshler Chronicle.

There will be a literary entertainment held at Ward school, district No. 2, on Friday evening, Feb. 19. Everybody cordially invited.

Jas. E. Pepper W. H. McBrayer Canadian Club THE ELDORADO Geo. N. Hershey, Propr. All the standard brands of Whiskies, domestic and imported Wines, Gordon's Dry Gin, and Cigars of the choicest brands. Blue Ribbon Bottled Beer a specialty. Oakland Hunters Rye Blue Grass Dewars Scotch Whiskey

THE OWL SALOON JAMES B. HULL Proprietor. Sole Agents for HERALD PURE RYE WHISKEY Ale and Porter, And FRED KRUG'S BEER Choicest Wines and Cigars. VALENTINE NEBRASKA

W. T. Bishop, LIVERY FEED AND SALE STABLE The Wilber Barn Your Patronage Solicited.

The Palace Saloon HEADQUARTERS FOR WINES, LIQUORS AND CIGARS OF THE CHOICEST BRANDS Valentine Nebraska

HENRY TAYLOR GRANT BOYER. TAYLOR & BOYER, Contractors and Builders, Carpentering. All kinds of wood work done to order. Stock tanks made in all sizes. Work shop in Charbonneau's blacksmith shop. VALENTINE NEBRASKA.

THE VALENTINE HOUSE Valentine, Nebraska RATES \$1.00 to \$1.25. C. D. JORDAN, Propr. Opposite the Court House, 2 1/2 blocks north of Depot.

ADVERTISE IN THE DEMOCRAT

NEW STORE Chicago Minneapolis Edwards, Wood & Co. —Just opened up a stock of— Dry Goods, Notions, Clothing, Furnishing Goods, Shoes and Flour. Next door to City Hotel. A. JOHN & ABDALLAH.

TIME TABLE Great Northern Line at O'Neill, Nebr. Going East, Leaves 10:10 a. m. Passenger, daily except Sunday. Going West, Arrives 3:50 p. m. Through connections for Sioux Falls, Minneapolis, St. Paul and all points north and west. Local freights to O'Neill. FRED ROGERS, G. P. A. Sioux City, Iowa. Ship Your Grain to Us. Prompt Returns. Best Facilities Liberal Advances Usual Commissions. BRANCH OFFICE Valentine, Nebraska. (1st door north 1st National Bank.) Lincoln Des Moines