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TERMS

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The Democratic County Convention.

The Democratic county convention for Cherry county was held in this village last Saturday. Owing to the absence of Chairman Christensen and Secretary Rice, of the County Central Committee, Judge Towne called the meeting to order. W. R. Towne was elected Chairman and Hon. Frank Rothleutner was elected Secretary. The following delegations were selected:

To the state convention.
 Frank Rothleutner, M. F. Clynes, Chas. W. Allen, A. N. Compton, W. R. Towne, B. J. Hoffacker, Jr. and A. M. Morrissey.
 To the congressional convention.
 Dan Barnes, Wm. Kennedy, I. M. Rice, Alex Burr, Ed Volentine, A. M. Morrissey and Burgess Hartigan.

To the senatorial convention.
 J. W. Stetter, A. H. Metzgar, Al Remenschneider, J. W. Groves, J. A. Sparks, L. M. Hancock and W. E. Haley.

To the representative convention.
 Frank Fischer, T. B. Irwin, J. H. Quigley, Jas. Hudson, S. L. Ellis, Wm. Steadman and Mark Zarr.

It was decided to postpone the nomination of candidates for county officers, and accordingly the following committees were appointed with power to make nominations and file certificates of nomination.

The following were named a committee to name a candidate for county attorney: D. W. Hilsinger, F. H. Baumgartl, O. W. Hahn, Alex Burr and Henry Stetter.

The following were named a committee to nominate a county commissioner: Ed Satterlee, F. Rothleutner, Herbert Greene, Wm. Butler and Ira Davis.

Martin Christensen was re-elected chairman, and I. M. Rice secretary of the County Central Committee.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

We, the Democrats of Cherry county, in convention assembled make the following declaration of principles:

We favor and endorse the principles of the Democratic party as taught by Jefferson, Jackson and Bryan.

We favor the nomination by the St. Louis convention of men for president and vice president who are in sympathy with these principles.

We charge the beef trust (which has been fostered by the present administration) with the responsibility for the present ruinously low prices for live beef, and, at the same time exacting exorbitant price for dressed beef from the consumer. And we charge the present administration with the responsibility for this condition, because of its refusal to enforce the anti-trust laws of the United States. Being unable to see the difference in morals between the thief who steals a calf from the range and the trust baron, who by forcing down the price of cattle by unlawful combinations, steals one-third the value of our herds, we demand the enforcement of criminal statutes against all criminals and law breakers, be they petty thieves or "captains of industry."

FOUND: A ladies new black kid glove. Call at L. C. Sparks' residence.

P. Sullivan called at this office today while in town from Merri-man. He returned last week from a winter's visit in Goshen, Oregon, and is looking well and hearty.

At Cost.

1 Feed grinder,
 1 Slightly Used Wagon,
 2 Two-way Pumps,
 A Lot of Native Posts.

Building Material & Hardware

We carry everything in the line of Building Material and Builder's Hardware; such as

**Lath, Siding, Shingles, Doors,
 Windows, Nails, Lime, Cement,**

which we buy in car load lots. Call and let us figure with you on Building Material.

Wagons and Buggies

Always carried in stock. We quote a few of the different makes handled by us:

New Moline, Mitchell, Fuller & Johnson. Banner. Milburn, Wide and Narrow Tired Spring Wagons and Buggies.

Eclipse Windmills.

When in need of a windmill call and examine the Eclipse. We have always on hand a stock of Pumps, Pipe and Stock Tanks.

Farm Implements.

Riding and Walking Cultivators. Riding Disk Cultivators, Disk & Knife listed corn Cultivators.

Sole agents for DEERE Implements and Hancock Disk Plows. Repairs for farm implements.

Barb Wire Barb Wire

LUDWIG LUMBER Co.
 L. C. SPARKS, Mgr.

AND NEBRASKA PEOPLE MUST FOOT THE BILL

Lincoln, Neb., May 4.—While the members of the state board of equalization and assessment are fiddling along, playing for time, it might be interesting to revert, for a moment, to the new law under which the board is supposed to determine railroad valuations this year. It is the same law under which the people of Nebraska are now being taxed, and under which the assessment of the average citizen is being doubled and trebled as compared with the assessments of former years.

This law was enacted by the legislature of 1903, under the whip and spur of perhaps the largest, most persistent and most expansive railroad lobby ever assembled together in Nebraska, officered by John N. Baldwin, Benjamin T. White, Lee Spratlan, J. H. Ager and other efficient promoters of corporation legislation. The lobby had one all-important purpose in view—to engineer through the legislature, with the assistance of "our man Mickey," a revenue measure that would raise greatly increased sums of money by taxation for the repair of the state's dilapidated finances, without requiring the railroads to contribute any considerable portion of the increase.

To that end "house roll 344" was drafted and pushed through the legislature. It is a measure cleverly designed to make good the deficit in the state treasury, due to railroad tax-shirking and the extravagance of the railroad state administration, by doubling the burden of taxation placed on the shoulders of the people. It is a fine-tooth comb as applied to the property of the individual citizen and an open gate when applied to railroad property. It taxes the farmer and merchant and laboring-man on everything he eats, wears, works with, produces, owns or ever hopes to own; and leaves subject to condign punishment the county assessors who fail to enforce its rigid requirements to the last fraction of the pound or flesh. But as to the railroads: It leaves the matter of their taxation altogether in the power of the state board. And the state board is responsible to no one, and can be punished by no one but the railroads—and the people.

WORKED FOR CASH VALUE.

When the measure was before the legislature the faction members, knowing they would be powerless to defeat it, concentrated their efforts on an amendment that would require the state board to assess railroad property just as all other property is assessed—at its cash value as determined by the price it will bring upon the open market, which is shown by the daily quotations of its stocks and bonds. To

this end was proposed an amendment, which bore the name of Mr. Caldwell, a republican representative from Clay county, he and Nelson of Douglas being the only two republican members of the house who refused to obey the demands of their party bosses and the railroad lobby and swallow the revenue bill, bloody raw.

The Caldwell amendment, in substance and effect required the state board to assess railroad property on the average market value of its stocks and bonds, on the theory that stocks and bonds being used as the basis for the determining of freight rates, as well as for the transfer of the property, was a good enough basis to use for the determining of taxes. The result of the adoption of the amendment would have been a trebling of railroad taxes in Nebraska, which would have placed railroad property on approximately the same basis as other property.

Of course, the Caldwell amendment was defeated. The bill was passed just as it came from the hands of the railroad bosses. The provisions it makes for railroad taxation are such that everything depends upon the honesty and impartiality of the state board. A board unswervingly determined to do justice as between the railroads and the people could, even under this law, accomplish that result. Whereas, a board that is under the thumb of the railroad bosses may wilfully and defiantly disregard all the demands of justice and assess railroad property on the same inequitable and partial basis as heretofore.

In brief, the law requires a statement to be made to the board by each railroad of all its property, including right-of-way, and main tracks, sidetracks and spur tracks, depots and other buildings, number of ties to the mile, weight of the rails, ballasting, rolling stock, tools and material and bridges. Then, in addition, each road shall report the amount of its capital, stock and bonds, together with the market value of the same, "which values shall be taken into account and be considered in arriving at the true value of such railroad property and its franchises." How "taken into account" and to what extent, in what measure to be "considered" depends altogether upon the conscience of the board. Then further, it is provided that a statement of gross and net earnings and dividends declared shall be made—"all of which shall be taken into consideration in ascertaining and fixing the value of such road and the franchise thereof." These may be taken into consideration, "5 cents worth or more or less, as the board and the influences to which it is responsive may determine."

WISH OF THE LOBBY.

So it will be seen at a glance, that a mighty power, whether for good or evil, is lodged by this law in the hands of the state board of equalization and assessment. It was the wish of the railroad lobby that it might be so. For the lobby knew that, where a shameless inquiry is to be wrought, it is easier and safer and raises less commotion to have the deed done by a board or commission, quietly and unostentatiously, than to have it done by the legislature itself. It was better to provide by law that the board might "consider" and "take into account" these items of value than to deny the board this right. For if the right were boldly denied the taxpayers would surely have to be reckoned with. Whereas, if it were granted, all the railroads need to do would be to look to it that right kind of a board was always elected, a board that would be "safe and conservative," and that could be trusted never to exercise this right, save in such degree as the railroads themselves might direct.

It is this that makes the Nebraska state board of equalization and assessment, now sitting to assess the value of railroad property and franchises within the state, an object of deep seated and wide spread interest. The board is composed of five members, all of them state officers. At its head is Governor Mickey, who will be his party's nominee for governor again this fall. The other members are State Treasurer Mortensen, who will also be renominated, and Auditor Weston, Secretary of State Marsh and Land Commissioner Follmer. Each of the latter three is now serving his second term, and will not be a candidate for renomination.

Railroad men who are now in Lincoln jealously guarding the state board that it may guide its course aright, profess to know already, just what the board will do. These men laugh derisively at the popular demand that the railroad assessment be placed at a full one-fifth of the market value of the property, just as farm land and practically all other property is assessed. The law itself does not discriminate. It provided 20 per cent for railroad property, just as for other property. At present other property is assessed at 20 per cent and railroad property at about 6 per cent.

The railroad men say the railroad assessment will be increased slightly, and that the increase will be listed as an assessment of franchise. Whether the increase will be 10 per cent of 40 per cent above the present figures will be figured out along the lines of the old, familiar railroad maxim of "all the traffic will bear." It will be just as little as the railroad politicians, with their fingers on the popular pulse, decide the people will submit to and still elect the republican ticket this fall.

If it goes the extreme limit of 40 (Continued on next page.)

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.

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
 W. A. TAYLOR.

Sole Agents for

HERALD PURE RYE WHISKEY

Ale and Porter,

And FRED KRUG'S BEER

Choicest Wines and Cigars.

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.

Livery, Feed and Sale Stable

New Rigs Good Horses Careful Drivers

Spacious barn, conveniently located, for splendid accommodations to the public who want to drive, or have horses to feed.

SHEPARD BROS.

(Successors to Tracewell & Bonser.)

Valentine

Nebraska.

The Palace Saloon

HEADQUARTERS FOR

WINES, LIQUORS AND CIGARS

OF THE CHOICEST BRANDS

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Bring Your Next Order Here.

We print Letter Heads, Note Heads, Bill Heads, Envelopes, Notes, Cards, Wedding Stationery, Sale Bills, etc., etc., at prices that are right. All work guaranteed to suit. Our stock stands inspection.

THE DEMOCRAT

Valentine,

Nebraska

W. T. Bishop,

LIVERY FEED AND SALE STABLE

The Wilber Barn

Your Patronage Solicited.

VALENTINE BOWLING ALLEY

No. 1 Standard Alleys.

A healthful, innocent sport.

OPEN DAILY FROM 1 O'CLOCK TO 11 O'CLOCK P. M.