

THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT

I. M. RICE, Editor and Prop.

Entered at the postoffice at Valentine, Cherry county, Nebr., as Second Class Matter.

TERMS:

Subscription—\$1.00 per year in advance; \$1.50 when not paid in advance.
Display Advertising—1 inch single column 15c per issue or \$6.00 a year.
Local Notices, Obituaries, Lodge Resolutions and Socials for revenue 6c per line per issue.
Brands, 1 1/2 inches—\$1.00 per year in advance; additional space \$3.00 per year; engraved blocks extra—\$1.00 each.
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1905.

"I Have Kept The Faith."

World-Herald.

In his speech at St. Louis, Mr. Bryan said: "You may dispute whether I have fought a good fight; you may dispute whether I have finished my course, but you cannot deny that I have kept the faith."

In this great country of ours, there are many men who, as democrats, have kept the faith and while some of them may have been discouraged by repeated defeats, they have the consolation of knowing that now the stars are beginning to shine in the horizon of democracy and there are everywhere indications that democratic doctrines are growing in favor among the people. Men who, during the darkest days, remained faithful, now have the satisfaction of seeing a presidential move along lines laid down by the democratic party in three successive national campaigns.

It would be surprising if some democrats had not become discouraged. They have seen growing up before them what appeared to be an insurmountable mountain of error to which daily contributions were being made by blind men. But rather than discouraging democrats, the fact that error appeared to be gaining strength provided them with inspiration to give new effort to the cause for which they had so long and so faithfully labored. This is true because in all the history of the world, a history full of instances of skillful error-building, no falsehood has ever been built so strong that at some time or other, somewhere or other, it has not been pierced by the invincible shafts of truth.

There is constant strife between truth and falsehood. The history of the world is full of instances where error has triumphed over truth for a period of time, and yet truth has finally prevailed; prevailed, it is true, only for error to once more seek the combat; prevailed only for the contest to be revived as it will again and again be revived so long as human selfishness and human ignorance exist.

When the patriots of the colonies declared their right to be free from the impositions of the British crown, they stood for truth. When the trucklers of the day, living on American soil, insisted that rebellion against the king was wicked, that revolution was unstatesmanlike, that the effort to build a government dedicated, under God, to freedom, was an impossible effort and would be disastrous to business interests, they stood for falsehood. And after eight years of discouragement, after eight years of brave and faithful effort, after eight years in which the colonial forces were required to combat on the one hand the British soldiery and on the other the insidious influences of the tory element, truth prevailed and a new nation, baptized in the purest of blood, sprung into existence.

When the abolitionists insisted that no man has a right to place chains upon the limbs of another man they stood for truth. When other men of that day declared slavery to be a divine institution they stood for falsehood. When Abraham Lincoln declared that this nation could not survive half slave and half free he stood for truth. The men who attacked Lincoln's policy stood for falsehood. Truth triumphed and the shackles fell from the limbs of more than 4,000,000 human beings.

But the men who fought by Washington's side and the men who fought in Lincoln's time, and before Lincoln's time, for human liberty were hindered and discouraged by those who either did not recognize or care for a great principle. And so in our duty the men who are fighting in behalf of American principles need not be discouraged.

The strife of truth with falsehood is on today. In the immediate present it is not a battle of ballots; it is a conflict within the hearts of men. However discouraging the situation may have appeared, the light is breaking and sooner or later correct principles will prevail, sooner or later falsehood will meet defeat. If it seems today as it has seemed in other periods of the world's history in similar conflicts that truth is "forever on the scaffold and wrong forever on the throne," let it be remembered that experience has demonstrated that "that scaffold sways the future" and that those who faithfully combat error are warranted in believing that "behind the dim unknown, standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above his own."

Where are you standing today? Is it on the side of truth or on falsehood's side? Is your conscience the sovereign of your intellect or are you ruled by other and less worthy forces? Do you think for yourself, or are your conclusions regulated by other men who not only think for you, but who think according to their own selfish interests? You have sneered at the minority holding aloft the banner of democracy; but the time is not far off when you will be glad to give your aid to transform that minority into a majority; the time is not far distant when you will desert the forces of error to stand proudly among the supporters of truth.

But you will be a better man if you shall change your course at the command of your conscience and your intellect rather than by waiting to be dragged to the truth by the requirements of your stomach. You will be a better citizen if you refuse to longer blindly follow a party because of its name and in spite of its policy. You will be a better patriot if you desert falsehood in the hours of its triumph and reinforce truth in the days of its defeat.

A man may, without effort, stand up and be counted among a victorious throng, but it requires strength and courage to enable one to do battle for truth in the face of what seems to be overwhelming odds. "One on God's side is a majority," said Wendell Phillips, and that which is a majority in the sight of heaven it may be depended upon, will in time become a majority in the sight of men.

Then to side with Truth is noble when we share her wretched crust,
Ere her cause bring fame and profit, and 'tis prosperous to be just;
Then it is the brave man chooses while the coward stands aside,
Doubting in his abject spirit till his Lord is crucified.

INTO BAND WAGON DRIVEN BY KANSAS.

Missouri, Wisconsin, Oklahoma Thought to Be Ready to Climb Up With Anti-Oil Trust Legislation.

Milwaukee, Wis., Feb. 20.—A special to the Daily News from Madison, Wis., says:

Following the example of the Kansas legislature the Wisconsin legislature will soon take up the subject of the Standard Oil Co.

Two measures will be presented, one a joint resolution for an investigation of the methods of that corporation in Wisconsin, and the other a bill remodeled as a substitute for the measure Senator McGillverday has introduced, which will be stringent anti-trust legislation.

REFINERY FOR OKLAHOMA.

Guthrie, O. T., Feb. 20.—A bill providing for a territorial oil refinery has been prepared by Representative McBride and will be presented in the house. The measure will also, it is said, compel any corporation operating in the territory to sell its product at an equal price throughout the territory. Governor Ferguson is said to favor a measure similar to that recently passed by the Kansas legislature.

KANSAS MAY ALSO INVESTIGATE.

Topeka, Kan., Feb. 20.—Senator F. Dumont Smith has prepared a resolution providing for the appointment by the legislature of a committee to investigate the charges filed with the commissioners of corporations at Washington, by the representatives of the Oil Producers' association.

When the anti-discrimination bill came up today, objection was made to its immediate consideration and it was carried over until Friday next, for a further hearing.

BILLS READY IN MISSOURI.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 20.—The Missouri legislature may be asked to take up Kansas' fight against the Standard Oil company. Representative Leslie J. Lyons of Kansas City has, it is said, agreed to introduce in the house at Jefferson City the maximum freight rate bill and the bill making oil pipe lines common carriers.

As soon as copies of the bills passed by the Kansas legislature are received a number of Kansas City men interested in the Kansas field will, it is stated, go to the Missouri capital in the interest of these measures.—World-Herald.

The World-Herald Representative at Topeka, Kansas.

In the plucky fight which the state of Kansas is waging with the Standard Oil octopus, the people of Nebraska are intensely interested.

The people of every state are, in fact, watching with the closest attention every detail of the rebellion against this powerful monopoly.

Recognizing the eagerness with which the people of this section are regarding the Kansas crusade, the World-Herald has sent one of its staff representatives, Frank P. Gallagher, to the seat of war—Topeka. Mr. Gallagher will review the entire Kansas situation. He will note the progress of the fight with daily telegraphic dispatches. Beginning tomorrow morning, the World-Herald will publish these dispatches.

The eyes of Nebraska are on Kansas and the war against the Standard Oil monopoly.—World-Herald.

No Hope of Railroad Legislation at This Session.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 20.—President Roosevelt, who for weeks has been hopeful that some definite action might be taken at the present session of congress on the railroad rate question, practically has relinquished the idea of securing legislation on the subject this winter. It is reasonably certain that he will not call an ex-

traordinary session of congress to meet in the spring, but, unless he changes his mind, he will probably call congress together next October. Representatives Esh and Townsend had a talk with the president today and outlined the rate situation in congress as they have found it. They agreed with him that the prospect for the enactment of rate legislation at this session was remote. Later both Messrs. Esh and Townsend expressed the conviction that an extraordinary session would be called for next autumn to deal with the question.—World-Herald.

A Cheering Sign Of The Times.

The war waged on gambling in New York, in Cincinnati, and in many other cities, is a sign of the times, and a mighty cheering one too.

There are a few misguided folks who insist that a city can only prosper with the "lid off;" that visitors to a great city naturally expect to find a good deal of relaxation, and that they seek the place where there is the greatest opportunity for a "good time."

That is nonsense. It is also a reflection on humanity.

Why should the opportunity for a stranger to lose his money be considered a municipal asset?

The truth of the matter is that from one end of the country to the other vice is becoming all the time less privileged. Those who are wise do not expect perfection. They realize that where people are herded together there is bound to be some immorality, and they do not expect or demand blue laws or puritanical methods.

But they do expect the enforcement of sane laws, the punishment of those who do wrong and, as far as is possible, the removal of temptation from the paths of mankind.

The official who is strong enough and courageous enough to do his duty finds more backing from the public than he ever had before, and there is less maudlin sympathy for those who disobey the laws than there has been heretofore.

There is almost constant warfare in New York on vice. The foul thing that contaminated the police force and made a great city noted for sin has been compelled to fight for its very existence for years, and the fight gains strength as it progresses.

The crooks, and gamblers, and bribers have suffered, while the great city has grown greater and prospered more than at any time in its history.

To say that a city must be bad in order to grow and flourish is the veriest nonsense.—Omaha Daily News.

Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 18, '05. LECTURE COMMITTEE, Valentine, Nebr.

The Midland Lyceum Bureau notifies me that your town has kindly made me a date with them for one of my lectures.

All right. You may count upon my being there for the evening named, Friday, March 3, 1905.

As to subject, it would be my choice to give the lecture of "The Pursuit of Happiness."

If you think best, have same announced through your papers, as people usually like to know a man's subject as well as to know his name.

Speaking of names, if anyone should inquire how mine is pronounced, please tell them to bear down on the first syllable, and to sound the a like a in fate, not like a in fat.

Thanking you for your confidence in placing me on your course, and promising you my best efforts, I am

Yours very truly,
FRANK McCLURE CHAFFEE.

P. S. The lecture on "The Pursuit of Happiness" is a new one and, I think, my best.

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The Commoner

Mr. Bryan's Paper

Now is the time to secure Mr. Bryan's paper. All democrats need the paper and Mr. Bryan needs the support and co-operation of all true friends of reform. The Commoner has commenced to organize the democratic hosts for 1908. Mr. Bryan's advocacy through The Commoner of public ownership of railroad and telegraph systems, the election of U. S. judges and U. S. senators by popular vote, direct legislation, the overthrow of private monopolies, tariff reform and other issues, insures interesting and instructive reading as well as new life to the party.

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