

THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT

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

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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.
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THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1906.

DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CONVENTION.

The convention was called to order by Chairman Morrissey and the call was read by I. M. Rice, secretary. The above named were elected as a temporary organization and then made permanent. Upon motion I. M. Rice, O. W. Hahn and M. F. Clynes were appointed a committee of three on resolutions and submitted the following which were adopted as read:

RESOLVED: That we, the democrats of Cherry county, in convention assembled, renew our allegiance to the principles advocated by the democratic party from the organization of the federal government to the present day.

We congratulate the country upon the growth and general acceptance of the democratic doctrines so ably championed for the past ten years by America's greatest citizen, William Jennings Bryan.

We approve most heartily the able, honest and efficient service of our sheriff, P. F. Simons, and our county judge, Hon. W. R. Towne.

We protest against the unwarranted attack made upon the live stock industry of Northwestern Nebraska by the Roosevelt administration for the purpose of detracting attention of the public from the frauds of eastern corporations, trusts and monopolies. And we protest against the extravagant use of public funds in the employment of secret service agents to spy upon American citizens and to destroy one of the stable industries of Cherry county. And we especially condemn Hon. M. F. Kinkaid, member of congress from this district, for his failure to represent his people or to make any effort to protect the interests of his district.

We condemn the present state administration for its extravagance and subservience to corporate interests, and for its failure to enforce the anti-trust laws of the state.

I. M. RICE, Secy.
O. W. HAHN, Pres.
M. F. CLYNES, Com.

The following delegations were then selected to attend the various conventions:

To State convention—A. M. Morrissey, W. E. Haley, F. Rothleintner, O. W. Hahn, M. F. Clynes and P. F. Simons.

To Congressional convention—James Hudson, James Quigley, T. C. Hornby, I. M. Rice, A. H. Metzgar and J. W. Stetter.

To Senatorial convention—L. E. Shepard, W. R. Towne, Frank Fischer, W. T. Bishop, Richard Grooms and John G. Stetter.

To Representative convention—W. H. McCloud, E. B. Quible, Charles Hudson, I. C. Stotts, W. A. Parker and Sam Heth.

John W. McDaniel was nominated for county surveyor to fill the unexpired term. Mr. McDaniel is the present incumbent by appointment and has given faithful attention to his work.

J. W. Stetter was nominated for commissioner of the 1st district. Mr. Stetter is so well known all over our county as to need no introduction. It has been said of him that he could come nearer weighing a steer or a hog or a bunch of them than any man in the west. He is a recognized authority on stock, and if his judgment is good as to weights and valuations, it ought to be employed to good advantage in the county commissioner's office. He has traveled over the county extensively and is better acquainted with the conditions than most people. His knowledge and experience will be valuable in conducting our county affairs and being centrally located in the district is important as a campaign argument and increases his usefulness.

The small attendance of the convention was probably the cause of

a majority being in favor of leaving the office of county attorney to be nominated by a committee of three, which, by motion, the chairman, A. M. Morrissey, was to appoint. He appointed Frank Rothleintner, Henry Stetter and L. E. Shepard on this committee, and it is probably safe to say that no one will be nominated by this committee, two of them having previously expressed themselves as opposed to it. This same committee was later empowered to fill any vacancies that might occur. We were in favor of nominating some one for that office for the reason that a great many people are not satisfied with the republican nominee and would prefer any good honest citizen to fill that office, even though he be not legally qualified as an attorney. The rank and file of the republican party, we believe, would welcome such nominee and the democratic party should have shown a disposition to relieve the situation and trust to the wishes of the voters at election to choose either an attorney in name or one who would employ proper counsel for our county, who would willingly and vigorously prosecute all cases fearlessly and without favor or prejudice for the best interest of our county and commonwealth. The attorney business seems to be something of a monopoly here in Cherry county. We have but one democratic attorney and he refuses to become a candidate. There are four republican attorneys and the one whom the republican ring selects, whether because of fitness or party service, or for what he will fail or neglect to do, he is given the power and authority of county attorney. Our county affairs, prosecutions and protection are also entrusted largely to that person. It has been customary, upon request of the county attorney, for the district judge to appoint and allow additional counsel at the county's expense, where the case seemed of sufficient importance. Many persons desiring a prosecution have also employed private counsel in our county because they did not feel satisfied with the ability of the county attorney, or because they mistrusted his willingness for a vigorous prosecution, or fearing that he may be friendly to the defendant. If Cherry county and this commonwealth must go into court with inferior counsel, she must admit that defeat stares her in the face. As a race horse, she could not hope to win many races with a windbroken horse or a short winded horse, nor with a good horse and an inexperienced rider. Our readers might draw additional inferences. Our people should nominate someone for county attorney and break up this ring or manipulated monopoly.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

Give the people every every opportunity for expressing themselves when it can be done at no cost at no hazard.

Place the best man in office at all times. It is a recommendation to the party.

The democratic party would assume no responsibility beyond the honesty, integrity and business qualifications of a man for county

attorney. The people know that it is all we could do and would not expect the democratic party to claim anything else for him.

Since there was a demand for such nomination, would it not have been better to nominate some one than to try to defeat the plan?

It is quite natural that people who expect to make more out of the defense than in the prosecution would want an easy battle. They are generally satisfied with the least opposition.

It is not a square deal to defeat the object of a prevailing motion in executing it by appointing men who were pronounced or known to be against it.

ABANDONED, OR NOT?

Is Fort Niobrara abandoned, or not? That is the question.

Unquestionably as a FORT it is and that for all time. As a RESERVATION it is not, and cannot be while it consists of so many acres, owned by the government. A reservation is a certain area of land withdrawn from settlement and awaiting the time when the government shall open it for entry under the laws and regulations of the land department. As such, Niobrara will still be a RESERVATION, but as a FORT it has been dismantled and abandoned, and all dreams of the troops coming "marching back" are pipe dreams and all statements leading to the belief that Niobrara will at some time be reoccupied by troops are misleading, however obtained, or by whomsoever uttered. I will not imitate grave senators by bandying the words "lies" and "liars," but I endorse your expression that they are campaign stories. I believe you uttered the exact truth when you so designated the statements relating to the restoration of the fort.

Let me call your attention to the singular features of this case. The story that the fort is not abandoned originated at O'Neill, from a party in the confidence of Kinkaid, if not from Kinkaid himself. It goes from O'Neill to the State Journal at Lincoln, and thence is sent forth to be quoted by the local press and to confuse the voters of the Sixth District. It purports to be based upon a letter from the secretary of war, directed to Kinkaid. Studied carefully it will appear to any man of common sense to be a transparent fraud. How came Secretary Taft to write such a letter, if he did write it? How did he know that such a statement from him was required, in any case, at this time? Why because he was employed to interpose. By whom? Any one can guess, and I can imagine the secretary receiving such a letter as this from a despairing congressman: "Dear Secretary—I am in a devil of a fix through the abandonment of Fort Niobrara. People say I have been remiss in the matter and it is going to cost me votes. Can't you help with something—no matter what—that shall give a different complexion to the removal of the troops?" Now, look at the supposed letter from Taft. What does it really say?

First—That Niobrara has not been abandoned AS A RESERVATION.

Second—That it will be retained for use AS AN ENCAMPMENT.

Third—That he, the secretary, has just directed the allotment of ABOUT \$300,000 for an addition to "Fort Niobrara."

In regard to the first statement I admit that Niobrara has not been abandoned AS A RESERVATION! for the reason that it cannot be, at present. The government owns it and, whether it uses it or not, it is a reservation. In regard to the second statement, its use as an encampment, it is merely a supposition. Other places have recently been selected for that purpose and such would only be occasional and for a limited period, if ever it should be used at all. But the third statement is the one which most creates unbelief and most clearly betrays the scheme

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and the fraud involved.

The letter reads: "I have just directed, etc., etc." Now, insert the words "After receiving your letter" after the word "just," and you get the whole thing as it doubtless is. A clerk is directed to write a slip—not an official order—to the effect that \$300,000 are allotted, etc., which will give color to the secretary's reply and save him from a lie, as they would call it in the U. S. senate, and which slip is to be torn up and tossed into the waste basket before mail time. That is one way in which a corner is sometimes turned in the departments. Then, notice the assumption "I have allotted." It is generally believed that appropriations for all purposes are made by congress and that such sums as \$300,000 are not left to be thrown hither and thither at the sweet will of even the secretary of war. No such appropriation was made for Fort Niobrara. Then we read that it was to pay for an addition to the fort. Good heavens! Is this the action of the government of the U. S.? Not long ago it secured several thousand acres to enlarge the reservation. Now it abandons the reservation, removes the troops, dismantles the fort, and yet is going to spend \$300,000 for an addition. An addition to what? The whole thing is so absurd that one wonders that Kinkaid should try and begot the people with such a story.

But as a climax I quote the following, not from O'Neill, by way of the State Journal, but from the headquarters of the department of the Missouri which exercises jurisdiction over Fort Niobrara.

In about a year the reservation will be open for settlement. The article follows:

Up through the Sixth Congressional district it is said that Congressman Kinkaid is circulating a report that Fort Niobrara has not been abandoned, but instead

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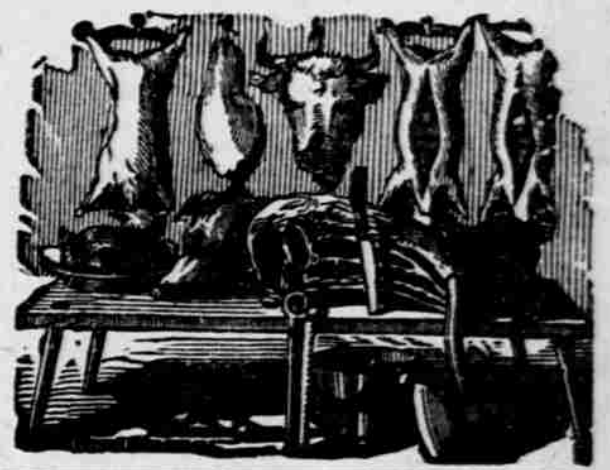
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will be retained as a military reservation.

The facts are that more than ten days ago the last of the soldiers departed from Fort Niobrara and that the post has been abandoned, the last vestige of everything pertaining to the army having been removed. The information comes from the headquarters of the department of the Missouri, that exercised jurisdiction over Fort Niobrara.

At army headquarters it is stated that if the provisions of law governing such matters are followed out, within one year from the date of abandonment, the old reservation must be transferred from the war department to the department of the interior.—World-Herald.

JUNIOR.

*Two or three other papers in

printing this story said the \$300,000 had been allotted to Ft. Robinson, but in any event the story is misleading and calculated to deceive.—Ed.

A special edition of nearly every republican paper in the state was gotten out last week to print the proposed constitutional amendment. It's the same old republican graft for republican newspapers, amounting this year to about \$5,000. "Grafters" is a mild term.

The moving pictures presented by Whitney's Bioscope Co., are the best ever seen here, being shown without the usual flicker and vibration.—Superior, Wis., Evening Telegram, Jan. 4, 1904.