

THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT

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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 5c per line per issue.
Brands, 1 1/2 inches—\$4.00 per year in advance; additional space \$3.00 per year; engraved blocks extra—\$1.00 each.
10 per cent additional to above rates if over 6 months in arrears.
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1906.

"Good times" means to the republicans to be in power and position to get something from a boodle administration that in turn gets its boodle by higher taxes and robbing the masses of people to pay the bills. During Cleveland's last administration there were so many boodlers kicked out who had so long subsisted and depended upon an office or a boodle contract that the country was flooded with idlers and tramps who howled, of course for another boodle administration.

W. T. Bishop has built a large addition to his barn.

Save your money for the big show, coming Jan. 1st.

Jake Breachbill brought a load of wheat to town Monday.

Len Bivens and family spent Thanksgiving at Rosebud.

Supt. Travis and wife visited friends in the city Monday.

John Simpson is limping from the effects of a sprained ankle.

Mrs. Will Searby of Crookston was in town the first of the week.

Max E. Viertel, the Crookston merchant, was in the city Tuesday.

N. A. and John Bullis returned yesterday from their western trip.

Arthur Sherman's little boy, who has been staying at Del's, got a severe gash cut over his eye as a result of falling on the ice today.

Mr. and Mrs. John DeWoody came up from Ainsworth last week in time to eat Thanksgiving turkey with their daughter, Mrs. Frank Brayton, and are visiting in the city.

In youth the trouble is to find enough to eat and when you grow up you'll want a stomach as strong as a 40 mule team and large enough to accommodate a flock of turkeys, a barrel of cranberries and a carload of generalities.

Frank Peacock of Merriman was in the city yesterday on business. We learned from him that he had sold the prescription stock of his drug store to H. Green and intends to move his remaining stock to some other town.

Mrs. Elmore has decided to remove her stock of millinery to Gordon where she owns a building and will engage in the millinery business there. She shipped her goods yesterday and departed yesterday evening for Gordon.

Tom, George and Harvey Hornby and Fred Cumbow went up to Rosebud today to assist with work in the Jordan Merc. Co. store during the rush after the big payment to the Indians this week, which amounts to about \$30 per head.

The Junior League, assisted by the professor and teachers of the school, will give a unique entertainment—"A College Opening"—on Dec. 14, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Hornby. Every effort is being made to afford an enjoyable time for all who may attend. A cordial invitation is extended. Program will be printed in next week's paper.

PRICE OF WHEAT DOWN

Republican Protection Does Not Protect the Grower.

THE PROTECTED TRUSTS PROSPER

Prices of Commodities Have Advanced on the Average Nearly 50 Per Cent, While the Farmers Have to Pay These High Prices With Fifty Cent Wheat.

The export shippers of grain at Chicago declare that the trunk line railroads refuse to accept grain for shipment from Buffalo to New York, Boston and Philadelphia or contract for its future transportation. The railroads claim they have not cars enough to move grain, but the shippers declare it is all a scheme to hold back grain at Chicago and other western points until navigation on the lakes is closed for the winter. Then the railroads can take their time in transporting it at the advanced freight rates which invariably go into effect after navigation closes.

This is bad news for the wheat growers, for it will probably force down the price of wheat, which is already too low for profit. It may also lead to the loss of a market for large quantities of wheat which would be bought by English buyers if delivered in advance of the Argentine crop, which begins to move in January. The price of wheat is now but from 50 to 60 cents to the grower at the local markets, and a further decline in price will be a disaster to many growers that have bills to meet based on the high prices of what they have purchased.

How do those farmers who have accepted the stand pat doctrine that the wheat grower is protected by the tariff from the pauper wheat of Argentina, Russia, India and other countries like the outlook? How can the Republican spellbinders and organs explain the low price of wheat, although it is protected by a tariff duty of 25 cents a bushel? The speeches of Secretary Shaw and Secretary Wilson, in which they try to prove that the tariff protects the farmer and is a universal prosperity producer, must fall rather flat and provoke anything but enthusiasm in the hearts of the western wheat growers.

As the price of nearly everything the farmer buys is still advancing and Bradstreet's index numbers for October show that the average price of commodities has increased since June, 1907, nearly 30 per cent, to make things even wheat should be 50 per cent higher and be advancing annually in price about 5 per cent, as other protected products are.

How much longer will Republican farmers submit to this one sided protection that fosters trusts and allows them to force up the prices of their tariff protected products and compels the farmer to sell his surplus products in the markets of the world at world-wide prices? No system of trust protection can protect the farmer in obtaining better prices for his products, of which more are raised than can be consumed in this country. The surplus must be sold for what it will bring. No combination of wheat growers can force up the price of wheat, for the shrinkage and expense of storing will eat up any increase in price which might be gained by holding back the surplus from market, unless there should be a worldwide failure of the wheat crop to cause a very great advance in price.

The impudent attempt of the Republicans to make the farmers believe that their prosperity has been brought about by the Republican policy of protected instead of the bountiful crops which nature and hard work have provided is entirely disproved by the disappointment of the wheat growers at the drop in the price of wheat. Nor can the Republicans explain to the satisfaction of any wide awake farmer why under the system of trust protection that has so vastly increased the price of trust products the price of protected wheat should not be equally advanced. To explain how the tariff fosters trusts and does not foster agriculture would, if truthfully given, entirely demolish the stand pat doctrine upon which the farmers are asked to support the Republican ticket.

Homer Tait drove in from Kennedy Tuesday after a load of freight.

WHAT SHOULD BE MADE OF THE UNAPPROPRIATED GOVERNMENT LANDS?

By C. H. Cornell.

It is estimated by best authorities that when all the millions that it is proposed to expend, both in national and private capital, in the reclamation of the arid and semi-arid lands by irrigation, shall have been disbursed, that not to exceed ten per cent of said lands will have been brought under subjection. That is, that irrigation cannot possibly cover more than ten per cent of that vast area; consequently the 90 per cent remaining cannot be depended upon to furnish homes in such quantities as has heretofore met the requirements of the homesteader. True, what is known as "surface cultivation" or the "Campbell system," is being vigorously advertised just now, and is the agency through which many hundreds of settlers are being induced to locate on lands, that four or five years ago it would have been thought insane for a man to undertake to farm, and so far with comparative success. However, while the rain-falls of the past two or three seasons have not been very much in excess of those of the years immediately preceding, they have been seasonable, falling at a time when a given amount of moisture could do the most good. It is to be hoped that this condition will continue to become more humid, but nearly thirty year's continuous residence, during most of which time dry winds have blighted the hopes and ambitions of the frontier farmer, inclines me to fear the contrary. Even though a large area should become subject to the "Campbell system," to an extent that a homestead would grow enough farm products to prevent its occupant deserting it in the hope of better results with each succeeding season, there would then remain a very much larger area that could by no possible means become agricultural lands. The sand hills of western Nebraska; the bad lands of Dakota and Wyoming; the rocky, craggy canons of almost every state containing arid lands, and those millions of acres are used and will continue to be used for grazing only. Those are the lands that are in question at this time. Those are the lands that have been fenced by the mile, a single pasture embracing hundreds of acres. Those are the lands for which sheep have been driven over precipices and killed by the thousands, the intimation being that the owners of cattle did so for the preservation of what they termed their ranges, although it was at the time, and is yet, government land.

Strange to say, there is no authority in law for preventing trespass upon strictly public or government lands. Reservations, under special enactments, confer authority upon some governmental department to exercise jurisdiction, as, for instance, the Interior Department over Indian, war over military, and the agricultural of the recently enacted forest reservation. But the decisions are that people have trespassed upon the public lands since the foundation of the government, and although the public lands are under the control of the Interior Department, that department is not in position (by reason of United States supreme court decisions) to say to a cattleman nor sheepman that he cannot graze his herds upon nor drive them over said lands at his pleasure. It can say to him, due to the Van Wyck law of February 25, 1885, that he cannot fence the land, thus keeping off the other fellow, but he can stay there if the other fellow cannot put him off. Also no authority is conferred on any person to collect any revenue, and under present laws, neither nation, state, county nor any other authority can levy a cent of revenue for use of those lands.

In the past, where there were more public lands than were desired by the herdsman or homesteader, these conditions worked no injury to anyone, but, with the gradual settlement of those tracts that offer any inducement to the home maker, thus driving back the range stockman, together with the vastly increasing numbers of the latter, thus largely increasing the numbers of live stock, more particularly sheep, conditions have changed. While formerly range could be had for the taking, or occupancy, now a contest is on between cattle and sheep men, with here and there the homesteader "butting in" to the discomfort of both. This, with no one to say nay, with the least authority. While formerly these arid plains had no value because there was a surplus of acres, now the stockman occupies them, conducting a more or less paying business, each anxious to increase his area, with no one to adjust differences, consequently chaos. My position is that congress should enact laws vesting in some branch of the government, preferably the Interior Department, the right of absolute control over the same, to the extent of depriving anyone of the use of any part of the government domain if found necessary, but since it is better for the land itself that someone should occupy and control it, said department should be authorized to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of the same. Since conditions differ so materially in the several states, I shall not attempt to deal with the manner of disposition of the lands as a whole, but confine myself to the sand hill counties of Nebraska, and for illustration take Cherry county; Cherry county is 63 by 96 miles, comprising 3,684,000 acres, divided as follows:

Sections 16 and 36—State school lands.....	214,667
School indemnity.....	27,321
Total state school lands..	241,988
Fort Niobrara military reservation.....	60,501
Forest reserve.....	177,188
Patented to individuals, and taxable.....	722,132
Under homestead filings..	1,167,869
Vacant or unappropriated (See report Comr. Gen'l Land Office fiscal year ending June 30, 1906).....	1,314,322
Total.....	3,684,000

It must not be inferred from the above that Cherry county comprises all poor land since the deeded (taxable) land covers an area a little larger than the combined areas of Pierce and Madison counties, and some of these acres are producing as good farm products as the most favored spots of Nebraska. However; surveys were made in the latter seventies, since which time invitations have been out to the homesteader to avail himself of 160 acres free. That offer not appearing sufficiently attractive, congress on April 28, 1904, or nearly thirty years after the lands were surveyed for settlement, under the "Kinkaid Act," multiplied the area by four granting an actual homestead settler 640 acres. That attracted attention to the remaining vacant lands as nothing else had, and brought about examination by persons desirous of establishing actual bona fide homes and in some cases a resumption of filings, some of them in good faith but many not. However, the records show that at present there approximately 1,167,869 acres held under homestead entry. It would require one familiar with the country, to be very optimistic to predict that more than fifty per cent or a little

(Continued of page 5)

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A. JOHN & CO.

W. C. T. U. Column.

We hope on Dec. 18 we may have a special program at our regular meeting by a superintendent of department work. Let us rally our forces and make our meetings interesting and profitable.

Excursion Rates to Lincoln, Nebr.,

Via the Northwestern Line. Tickets will be sold December 11 to 14, inclusive, limited to return until Dec. 17, inclusive, on account of Nebraska Corn Contest and Convention. Apply to agents Chicago & Northwestern Ry. 472

"In A Woman's Power," a play for the masses, appeals so strongly to the hearts of the people that it has become endeared to the theatre-going public. It will appear at Church's opera house Tuesday, Jan. 1st. Wait for it.

Mrs. Marsden of Ainsworth is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Slonecker, in this city.

A lot of railroad ties are being unloaded at Valentine, preparatory to building the new track from Arabia to Valentine, which will probably be done the first thing in the spring. Surveyors are busy every day looking over the ground.

C. W. Cramer and wife departed last Thursday evening, going to St. Joe from here, where Mr. Cramer expects to consult an eye specialist and will visit their daughter in St. Joe. Mr. Cramer was in very poor health when he left Valentine.

We Sell Lumber

BISHOP & YOUNG, CODY, NEB.

U. S. Weather Bureau Report for week ending Dec. 5.

The daily mean temperature was 33.4° and the normal 30.3°, a rise of 3° above. The highest temperature was 64° on the 3rd, lowest 15° on the 5th.

The precipitation was 0.25 of an inch in the form of rain, sleet and snow. The sleet here was very heavy; the snow very light but covering the ground. The total precipitation for the year to date is 26.39 inches and the average for the same period for 18 years is 18.83.

Fischer's New Orchestra is now open for concert, dance and reception engagements. Reasonable prices. Latest standard dance and concert music. Special music furnished for any occasion. This orchestra does church, benefit and charity work at actual expense. Frank Fischer, conductor; Robert J. Webb, trombonist; Wallace McDonald, cornetist; Miss Blanche Springer, pianist. We also solicit out of town engagements. 46