

THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT FOR TARIFF REVISION.

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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, 14 inches—\$4.00 per year in advance; additional space \$3.00 per year; engraved blocks extra—\$1.00 each.
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1907.

SENATE PASSES 2-CENT RATE BILL

Everybody heave for a 2-cent flat rate for passenger traffic. Then, don't stop at that. We want a reduction in freight rates. Go back to the old populist maximum freight rate bill and enact it into a law again and make it stronger this time so that it will hold.

Later—Tuesday the state senate, becoming tired of the lengthy deliberations of the house of representatives, took up the 2-cent flat rate bill and hurriedly passed it by unanimous vote, two senators being absent, but all others present voted for the 2-cent flat rate and made the bill just the same as the one now on the statute books relating to the 3-cent maximum rate bill, excepting changing the 3 cents to 2 cents a mile.

The house committee of the whole agreed upon the flat 2-cent rate without amendment and the bill has probably passed the house by this time and the bill will go to the governor for his signature and immediately become a law.

There's been considerable opposition to this bill in the house by members who claimed they wanted to make the bill better and to stand the test of the courts as to legality.

Speaker Nettleton has always been to the front with his words of caution and explanation of why they wanted the amendment for revision by the railway commission and upon numerous occasions has deemed it his duty to instruct the members and has been very sarcastic against those who contended most earnestly and efficiently for the flat 2-cent rate. He has even gone beyond his duty as speaker to block the way of the 2-cent flat rate bill.

The people who have watched the developments of legislation on railroad rates and measures will notice that the same persons who appear concerned as to the flat 2-cent rate will be found attempting to block any bill at all for freight regulations or effectual lower rates in the interest of the people who have sent them in confidence to enact laws that we have long needed.

Now, we want effectual lower freight rates. They are much too high, and especially the discrimination in regard to coal rates should be gone into thoroughly. We, at Valentine, are paying \$13 per ton for hard coal and \$8.50 to \$9.00 per ton for Illinois or

Ohio coal. It has been impossible to get Glen Rock, Sheridan or Rock Springs coal with any regularity and apparently we are required to pay higher prices for it than it is sold for in Omaha, Lincoln or Fremont, or in many cities where the haul is longer than here. This is unjust discrimination against us. In addition to this we have not been able to get the western coal for several months. We want just rates on coal and want our legislature to look into this discrimination in favor of eastern markets.

The house passed the Fries voting bill, requiring every voter to vote or pay a penalty of \$3 to the state. This will be assessed as an additional tax against those who have no reasonable excuse for not voting at the general election. We hope this bill becomes a law.

The house is discussing the anti-pass bill and some members have shown that they are aware of a "railroad physician" and a "railroad attorney" in each county or big town who ride on passes for their services as railroad pluggers or lobbyists in their line or profession. "These," said a member of the house the other day, "are the most dangerous of all." If the abolition of the pass is to benefit the people, most assuredly the "most dangerous class" should be deprived of their passes and be compelled to pay their fare and receive cash for their services when they are needed.

By all means honorable let us have the anti-pass in theory and in fact and correct freight rates.

Good chairs save clothing—especially to those who sit much.

The old fashioned chairs bottomed with hickory bark were easy chairs in their day and are treasured now as relics of ancient times but there is no doubt that they outlasted many a pair of jeans pants. Rocking chairs are more comfortable now than when we were younger. A board laid across a box or the box itself was easy in the early days after a hard day's work planting corn with a Missouri corn planter or following a plow or harrow.

FOR SALE

Fruit and shade trees of all kinds, and small fruit, shrubs and flowers. Send in your orders or see me at the cellar in Valentine. Trees will be ready for delivery about middle of April. 5 JONX FERSTL.

GRANT BOYER, CARPENTER & BUILDER.

All kinds of wood work done to order. Stock tanks made in all sizes Valentine, Nebraska

SPECIAL SESSION OF SIXTIETH CONGRESS MAY BE CALLED.

THE GERMAN COMPLICATIONS.

Ultra Protectionism Has Produced Retaliation by Other Countries—Congress Can Reduce High Trust Prices if Public Opinion So Demands.

The extraordinary proposition of the German government, which, it is said, will be contained in the report of the tariff commission, which has nearly concluded its investigations and agreements with the German tariff experts at Berlin that the export price of products from that country shall be fixed by its government, will hardly be ratified by congress. This ultimatum to offset our high tariff rates as a compensation to Germany for acceding to us her minimum rates of duty for our products is unlooked for and unparalleled, for it virtually nullifies section 32, which amends sections 7 and 11 of the act of 1890, which provides the manner of determining the true value of goods in the exporting country at the time of export. There has been constant friction between German exporters and our customs officials on the question of value, and it is claimed that many invoices of German goods are purposely undervalued so as to escape part of the ad valorem rates of duty. Hundreds of such cases occur every month, and the board of appraisers is constantly increasing the valuation of goods, which thus increases the duty paid.

Such increase in valuation is what the German government wants to avoid by having this country agree to receive her products at the special valuation the German government undertakes to provide. Such an agreement cannot be made without congressional action modifying the sections of the present tariff act above referred to. It will be impossible for the present congress to amend the law before it adjourns on March 4, for the whole question of tariff revision would naturally arise. It is possible under a special rule to force such a bill through the house of representatives virtually without debate, for doubtless the subservient Republican majority would agree to it, yet it will be impossible for such a measure to pass the senate, where there is no such gag rule.

As the present arrangement with Germany to admit our products at the minimum tariff rates expires on July 1 and it cannot be expected that an extension of time will be granted, especially as congress has made no move toward tariff revision, it would seem probable that the president will feel constrained to call an extra session of congress immediately upon the expiration of the term of the present congress on March 4.

As all the trusts and other interests protected by the tariff will, in the event of a special session, be represented before congress by attorneys and lobbyists, it is advisable for any one who feels the pinch of high trust prices to inform their representatives and senators that they will expect relief by a reasonable reduction of the rates of duty on trust products. Even those representatives and senators reputed to be controlled by the trusts and corporations are not entirely oblivious to public opinion if it is freely expressed. The solid Democratic membership of both houses of congress can be relied upon to stand for a bill that will make a reasonable reduction in tariff rates. As the Sixtieth congress has a Republican majority of fifty-four, it will require only twenty-eight Republican members to act with the Democrats to pass a bill that will produce real reform of the present rates that allow the industrial corporations to plunder the people by present high prices. What is to be feared is a bogus reform bill which will patch up our differences with Germany and Canada, but still leave the trusts protected so that there will be no relief to the people from the present high cost of living.

Enforce the Law.

The governors of all the states whose legislatures are in session have recommended legislation to control the railroads and curb the trusts, and it will be interesting to notice how far these necessary reforms will be legally provided for. But recommending laws to control corporations and even enacting such is useless unless the laws are enforced. That is what brings results. The Valentine law of Ohio has been on the statute books ten years, but until last year it has virtually been a dead letter, when an attorney general was elected who was possessed with the old fashioned idea that laws are made to be enforced.

In Cold Storage.

No one has heard Vice President Fairbanks' opinion of the Brownsville matter or any other disagreeable issue in the Republican ranks. But he no doubt has his ideas in cold storage for future use, when it is politically safe for a candidate to say anything.

A Starter For 1907.

The window glass trust has boosted the price of its products 5 per cent just as a starter for the new year. The Republican tariff of 40 to over 100 per cent on window glass allows the trust to plunder the people by forcing up prices.

Robbing the Many.

The Republican policy of giving a subsidy to shipowners is but carrying out the tariff policy of robbing the many for the benefit of the few.

PESSIMISTIC PLUTOCRAT.

Looks With Gloomy Eyes on Future Caught in His Own Net.

What does this pessimism portend that seems to prevail with so many of the frenzied financiers? Here we have John D. Rockefeller telling us that "many business men in this country have suffered a loss amounting to millions of dollars through shrinkage in the value of their shareholdings during the twelve months just past." He accounts for it by the unwarranted attacks that have been made upon corporate interests and thinks the man with the dinner pail will be the next to suffer.

Mr. Stuyvesant Fish, whom Mr. Harriman deposed as president of the Illinois Central railroad, warns the public that there are many indications of a great industrial crisis. He also declares that the Wall Street Stock Exchange has become "the plaything of a few managers of cliques and pools." These opinions from two different elements of our financial magnates do not agree with the general impression that the railroads, the industrial trust and other corporations are most prosperous and therefore should be contented. It is evident that Mr. Rockefeller fears the future and would try and arouse the public mind to similar fears. But his evidence that many business men have suffered loss through shrinkage in the value of stocks is very unconvincing, for the dividends on stocks have been very generally increased, so that the owners should be now better off than they were before. Standard Oil stock has paid 40 per cent on its par value, and, although the price of the shares has declined from \$706 to \$505, yet that can make no difference to Mr. Rockefeller unless he is trying to unload Standard Oil shares on the public. All his enormous railroad holdings are in similar condition. The stock may be quoted at a lower price, but net earnings have increased, and in many instances the dividends have been largely increased. The real value therefore of stocks has not decreased, but the frenzied financiers have lost control of the market for them and cannot induce the public to give \$7 for what is only worth \$5.

It can hardly be possible that the good John D. is one of the managers of the wicked cliques and pools that Mr. Fish tells us are playing with the Stock Exchange and has become involved in a web of his own creation, perhaps spun with delicate care to catch some other clique manager or at all events to catch the public. If John D. has been caught in his own net no wonder he has turned pessimist and looks with a gloomy eye on the future.

HANKS AND HARRIMAN.

The Investigators Investigated—Some Things the Senate Wants to Know.

There is, according to the United States senate, some mystery about the Hanks and Harriman investigations of the books and reports of the interstate commerce commission which the senate would like to be informed upon, so the following resolution introduced by Senator Culberson was adopted:

Whereas, According to press accounts, Charles S. Hanks in a recent address delivered before the Boston chamber of commerce said, among other things: "Since last June I have been at work in Washington at the interstate commerce commission, and I have spent several thousand dollars of the good money of the United States in clerical services to show that the freight and passenger rates of this country can be reduced 10 per cent without affecting the dividends on the stock of any railroad or the wages of any employee. In connection with this work certain other facts have come to my attention which may interest you." Therefore be it resolved, That the interstate commerce commission be and is hereby directed—

First.—To inform the senate whether said Charles S. Hanks is employed in any capacity in connection with said commission and, if so, in what capacity, by whom employed and from what appropriation he is paid.

Second.—To send to the senate a full statement of the facts found by said Hanks which show or tend to show that the freight and passenger rates can be reduced as stated by him in said address.

Hanks and Harriman appear to be proteges of President Roosevelt and were employed by him to investigate and report on their scheme for 10 per cent reduction on railroad rates. But somehow the theories of Hanks and Harriman failed in the limelight, and they failed to make good and were finally "let out" by the commission from acquiring any more of the money of the taxpayers.

What an inquisitive and economical body the United States senate is becoming under the prodding of Democratic senators, and when the commission reports in answer to the above resolution there may be another Republican scandal unearthed.

Tariff Retaliation.

The German pottery trust, which the board of United States general appraisers declares is divided into three groups, has been doing the same as our trusts by selling cheaper for export than to their own people. The board of appraisers has therefore raised the price 10 per cent of a large number of imports of German pottery, which of course increases the duty on such products. This arbitrary increase in the value of German exports is what the German government is complaining of, and the new maximum tariff rates of that country are intended to be used in retaliation. If this programme of retaliation is carried out by both countries to its logical end, it will pretty effectually close the ports of each country to the trade of the other. This instance of the effect of protectionism on trade should open the eyes of the people of both countries to the fact that they are made to suffer for the selfish ends of politicians in league with trusts and combines to plunder them.



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Furniture and Hardware, Household Necessities in the best Enamel Ware, Rustless Tin, Copper and Nickel Plated Cooking Vessels. Everything to furnish the home. My goods were bought before the raise. Come and get them at the old prices which are equal to a big discount. To see is to believe. Come and be convinced.

FRANK FISCHER, Hardware, Furniture and Coal.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE Valentine's Pure Liquor Center

In all ages of the World and in all Countries men have indulged in "social drinks and have used Whiskey for medicinal purposes." They have always possessed themselves of some popular beverage apart from water and those of the breakfast and tea table. Whether it is Judicious that Mankind should continue to indulge in such things, or whether it would be wise to abstain from all enjoyments of that character, it is not our province to decide. We leave that question to the Moral Philosopher.

We desire the PUBLIC TO KNOW that we are neither BLENDERS, COMPOUNDERS NOR RECTIFIERS; also that we use the utmost care to purchase our goods from the most reliable houses in America, and just as we get them, they pass into the hands of our customers. NO SPURIOUS IMITATIONS OR IMPURE LIQUORS OFFERED FOR SALE. WE HAVE THE LARGEST ASSORTMENT IN TOWN.

WHOLESALE DEALER IN PABST AND KRUG BEERS

W. F. A. MELTENDORFF

Monthly Meteorological Summary.

STATION: Valentine, Nebr.

MONTH: January, 1907

TEMPERATURE		PRECIPITATION		WIND	
Max.	Min.	Mo.	Me.	Dir.	Vel.
1. 35	14	0	0	0	0
2. 36	6	0	0	0	0
3. 35	12	0	0	0	0
4. 49	15	0	0	0	0
5. 39	4	0	0	0	0
6. 40	2	0	0	0	0
7. 40	7	0	0	0	0
8. 14	1	0	0	0	0
9. 23	17	0	0	0	0
10. 34	21	0	0	0	0
11. 32	17	0	0	0	0
12. 14	3	0	0	0	0
13. 12	0	0	0	0	0
14. 10	0	0	0	0	0
15. 11	9	0	0	0	0
16. 16	5	0	0	0	0
17. 40	18	0	0	0	0
18. 40	12	0	0	0	0
19. 35	5	0	0	0	0
20. 25	0	0	0	0	0
21. 50	10	0	0	0	0
22. 34	5	0	0	0	0
23. 56	20	0	0	0	0
24. 40	5	0	0	0	0
25. 16	1	0	0	0	0
26. 16	9	0	0	0	0
27. 9	2	0	0	0	0
28. 2	4	0	0	0	0
29. 11	2	0	0	0	0
30. 23	12	0	0	0	0
31. 32	4	0	0	0	0
Mean	26	3	15		

NOTE: "T" indicates trace of precipitation; "-" below zero; "PC" partly cloudy.

JOHN J. McLEAN, Observer Weather Bureau.

Sheriff's Sale.

By virtue of an order of sale issued by the clerk of the district court of Cherry county, Nebraska, January 11, under a decree of tax lien foreclosure, wherein John Sholes is claimant and Lutz Reinlein, impeded with the \$24 of section 8, township 32n, range 32w, Cherry county, Nebraska, defendant, I will sell at the front door of the court house in Valentine, Cherry county, Nebraska, that being the building wherein the last term of said court was held, on the 23rd day of February, 1907, at 10 o'clock a. m., to satisfy judgment of \$90.50 and interest at 7 per cent from date of judgment, November 12, 1906, and costs taxed at \$37.95 and accruing costs, at public auction, to the highest bidder, for cash, the following described property, to-wit: The S.E. 1/4 of section 8, township 32n, range 32w, Cherry county, Nebraska. Dated this 24th day of January, 1907.

LET US FIGURE ON YOUR LUMBER BILLS

BISHOP & YOUNG, Cody, Neb.