

# 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.  
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1907.

## ALFALFA ON DRY GROUND

Alfalfa has been raised for centuries in the driest parts of the earth as the greatest drouth resisting fodder plant known. It stands under irrigation equally well, but it is believed by some that years of irrigation have slightly impaired its drouth resisting qualities and that the seed from the Turkestan variety is the best for the dry farmer to plant. I have tried both, but find no appreciable difference.

According to the Utah college reports dry raised alfalfa contains about 20 per cent more nutriment than the irrigated variety, and is less likely to bloat stock. After once securing a stand, alfalfa without irrigation can be stacked at a cost of about 80 cents per ton. My neighbors who irrigate inform that theirs costs about \$1 to \$2 per ton in the stack.

Every ranchman should prospect his ranch as he would a mining claim. He should know what values he possesses under ground as well as those above the ground. There are many hollows, many bottoms, many table lands and even side hills, where water and moisture may be found at no great depth. Such lands are of inestimable value for alfalfa, for after the roots have reached the moist soil three cuttings can be harvested every season, wet or dry, without fail. Water at twelve or fifteen, or even twenty feet, may prove better for this crop than water at four or six feet. On my own ranch some of my alfalfa took three years to attain a depth of twelve feet, but now it is impossible to tell it from the irrigated product.

It is equally profitable to raise alfalfa on land that contains no moisture, except that which is conserved by cultivation, as the first cutting, which should be about a ton to the acre, is always assured after a moderately moist spring and winter. Alfalfa needs deep soil and no rock within ten feet, but, provided you have two or three feet of good soil on top, clay or adobe or gopher clay will make a very fair subsoil. Alfalfa does not do well in coarse gravel. It is a great soil restorer and can be planted to advantage on any soil that is beginning to run down from constant cropping.

Some ranchmen report failures to obtain a stand; the cause is usually shallow plowing or planting with oats, which absorb the moisture and kill it out. Alfalfa should never under any consideration be planted with a nurse crop. There is only just as much moisture to the square inch and if another crop absorbs it the alfalfa dies out for want of it. The shade the nurse crop affords is of no

value whatever, as the young plants need the sturdiness which they can only acquire from the rays of the sun. The age of alfalfa seed makes very little difference in its germinating power, but as a general rule always the best seed should be planted.

The ground should be plowed at least nine or ten inches in depth and harrowed finer than for any other crop. Sod may be plowed deep and planted, but it must be disked until the surface is as fine as old mellow soil. It should also be rolled or packed with the Campbell packer before disking. The best time to plant is just as soon as the frost is out of the ground. Under the melting snow and cool spring rains every seed will germinate. The seed should be lightly harrowed in, and at this season of the year will need very little covering. Ten pounds of seed per acre I have always found ample for early planting, though the quantity may be increased by a few pounds for later planting. No seed should be planted later than June.

On very light colored soil the young alfalfa may sometimes burn out before it becomes established, the radiation being too severe. On very sandy soils exposed to the wind the plants may sometimes be cut out by the shifting sand, but on fairly heavy soil these dangers are averted. Rich, sandy loam or not too heavy a clay loam are the best soils for this crop, but I have seen it grow at a profit even on adobe.

If planted early the alfalfa can be mowed in July or August as soon as the sunflowers bloom. This will top off and destroy the largest of the weeds, thus providing more moisture for the alfalfa. The weeds can be left as they fall, for there will be nothing worth raking the first season unless water is very close. The following spring it can be thoroughly disked early in the spring and when well established after each cutting.

By the end of August early-planted alfalfa is well established and no drouth can kill it. The tops may dry out, but the crowns will bud out when spring comes. A combination of dry weather and hard frosts near the zero mark or below may sometimes kill out a per cent of the plant, but this rarely happens more than once in a quarter of a century, and then mostly on irrigated lands, which crack and dry out in winter more than does land which has never been irrigated. A good disking or harrowing as soon as the last cutting is off is the best preventative of this.

The age of dry land alfalfa depends more on the gophers than anything else. These little pests do not live on the root, but chew it to obtain moisture. Some patches will stand for ten or fifteen

## Calumet Baking Powder

Perfect in quality. Moderate in price.

years, while others will become pretty well thinned out in six. Mr. Joseph Kroll of Douglas county, Colorado, who raised immense quantities of wheat and alfalfa every year by a dry system, informs me that disking not only spreads and invigorates the alfalfa but that it also kills hundreds of gophers, thus prolonging the life of the patch and at the same time thickening the stand.

I strongly advise all farmers who milk for the creameries to lessen their labor and increase their profits by giving the alfalfa question their serious consideration. One neighbor of mine, who never had enough feed, planted his bottom and sand hill land to alfalfa and is now cutting his 70 tons a year without irrigation.—E. R. Parson in Twentieth Century Farmer.

### EDUCATIONAL NOTES

SUPT. R. H. WATSON, Editor

A thoughtful farmer remarked on the street last Saturday that by a little head work and a few dollars expended for plowing, Valentine now has a grove of trees on the school grounds that adds fully five hundred dollars to the value of the school property.

The school board at their last regular meeting on Monday evening of this week voted to have a strip of ground plowed on the inside of the fence on the west side of the school ground and have a row of trees planted extending the full length of the school lot from north to south.

To the many who are inquiring concerning the junior normal we will say that it is almost certain that Valentine will have a junior normal just as she has had for the past four years. The only question now to be considered is whether the legislature will make the necessary appropriation to pay the instructors, and it does not seem reasonable that the members of the legislature will refuse the mere pittance asked for by the western counties when they are appropriating such immense sums for the eastern part of the state.

Miss Bessie Schifferns of the class of '06, who is teaching in Sheridan county, was married at Rushville on Feb. 17, and we are informed by a friend in Sheridan county that the young man whom she married comes of an excellent quaker family. We trust he is worthy of the prize he has drawn. Miss Schifferns was one of our strongest graduates. After taking the ninth grade work in Valentine she taught two years before returning for the work of the tenth and eleventh grades, thus making her last two years' work especially strong. She is a quiet, unassuming young woman who has friends wherever she is known.

Recently Capt. Jack Crawford wrote a four line stanza of poetry and handed the first three lines to the editor of the Lyceumite of Chicago, the fourth line he placed in an envelope and securely sealed it. The Lyceumite published the three lines and offered prizes to all who could supply the missing line. Of the 390 lines sent in but 5 were the same as the line in the sealed envelope. The Lyceumite in commenting on the incident says that "not only did many of the lines sent in not rhyme but the meter was extremely bad proving that some who read and teach the reading of poetry fail to grasp the first essentials of a poem." We give below the three lines as given in the Lyceumite, believing that some who read this column will be glad to try their

hand at supplying the missing line. By studying the lines given it will be seen that the missing line must consist of three iambic feet with an added unaccented syllable at the close of the line. "The sweetest thing I've ever seen, The grandest, yet most simple; In all the world it reigns supreme."

It will be an accommodation to Miss Gordon, the primary teacher, and a special advantage to all the children concerned, if every parent who has a child to enter the primary room will see that that child enters next Monday morning. Children who do not enter during the first two weeks of the spring term must wait until September to enter.

At the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Yoerg on last Saturday evening, the teachers of the Valentine school, together with Mr. and Mrs. Yoerg and Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Pettycrew, gave to Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Watson a most unique reception in the form of a Browning party. The literary part of the program was a "Brown study" and the refreshments were most deliciously brown. Miss Schaper, in behalf of those present, gave the browning touch to the evening's pleasure and in a well worded speech presented to Mr. and Mrs. Watson a beautiful candelabra. The evening was a most pleasant affair and one long to be remembered.

### Snake River.

Robt. Davis is helping Mr. Christopher.

J. M. Ralya ran a pitchfork in his foot last week.

John Thompson and wife of Valentine came out to attend the Ralya dance.

Miss Rosa Lord came home from Simeon recently and is now at school again.

Mr. and Mrs. Carr of Simeon have been visiting their daughter Mrs. R. B. Thompson last week.

Oscar Buechle and family are out making improvements on their homestead. They also attended the Ralya dance.

Ed Ralya and family, and Miss Maud and Claude Ralya, John Thompson and wife ate Sunday dinner at R. B. Thompson's.

A large crowd attended the Ralya dance Friday evening, Feb. 22. People came from Georgia, Kennedy, O'Connor's and the Diamond Bar ranches, Niobrara river and Valentine—about 60 in all. At midnight very nice refreshments were served. Some excellent music furnished by Mrs. John Thompson and Ernest Wilkinson on the piano and violin was one of the features of the evening. OLD MAID.

### Wood Lake

Hugo Hoef was in town Monday after supplies.

Several children are out of school this week, having the chicken-pox.

Mr. White, our genial blacksmith is just recovering from an attack of the mumps.

Dr. Cobee reports the arrival of a bright baby girl at the home of Julius Schromm, Feb. 21.

Mrs. Paul Kennicott returned Monday afternoon to the ranch, expecting to remain two weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Carter, parents of the principal of our school, Miss May Carter, were in town Monday.

Rev. Herman will speak on the subject of "Sinful Amusements" at the Union church Sunday evening, March 10.

G. W. Denberger, of Lincoln, who bought the Plumb ranch, has bought moved his household goods into the F. W. King house on the lake.

Mrs. George Hornby and daughter Helen, came down from Valentine Feb. 20, and returned on the evening train, after visiting at the homes of Mesdames Whillans and Kennicott. SAND HILLS.

FRED WHITTEMORE, Pres. J. W. STEFFEL, Vice Pres. CHARLES PARKS, Cashier. ORAH L. BRITTON, Asst. Cashier.

## Valentine State Bank

Valentine, Nebraska

Office Hours: 9 a. m. to 4 p. m.

Capital \$25,000. Surplus \$2,500.

Persons seeking a place of safety for their money, will profit by investigating the methods employed in our business.

## A Dollar Saved IS A DOLLAR MADE!

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 medical 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		CHARACTER OF DAY	
MAX.	MIN.	(Inches)	(In hundredths)		
1	35	14	24	16	Cloudy
2	36	5	15	0	Clear
3	25	12	6	0	PC
4	25	25	3	0	PC
5	39	4	25	0	T. PC
6	11	9	1	0	PC
7	14	7	24	0	PC
8	14	7	24	0	Clear
9	33	1	17	0	Clear
10	34	21	29	0	PC
11	23	17	30	0	PC
12	14	3	8	0	Cloudy
13	12	0	6	0	Cloudy
14	6	0	1	0	Cloudy
15	11	9	1	0	Cloudy
16	16	5	6	0	PC
17	40	5	14	0	Clear
18	40	12	25	0	PC
19	35	5	29	0	Clear
20	25	0	12	0	PC
21	30	10	30	0	PC
22	34	5	29	0	T. P.
23	59	26	41	0	Clear
24	46	5	28	0	PC
25	16	1	8	0	Clear
26	18	2	9	0	PC
27	9	6	6	0	Cloudy
28	9	4	1	14	Joy
29	1	12	6	0	PC
30	23	12	6	0	PC
31	32	14	14	0	PC
Mean	26	3	15		

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

JOHN J. MCLEAN, Observer Weather Bureau.

## GRANT BOYER, CARPENTER & BUILDER.

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

## LET US FIGURE ON YOUR LUMBER BILLS

### BISHOP & YOUNG, Cody, Neb.

A masquerade skating contest will be held at the Valentine Skating Rink Wednesday evening, March 6. Only those masking will be permitted to skate. A suitable prize will be awarded to the best couple taking part in this contest. Everybody is invited. Admittance free. T. H. WATKINS, Mgr.