

# THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT

I. M. RICE - Editor and Proprietor.  
MARK ZARR - Foreman.

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

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1907.

## Who Gets Your Vote?

The campaign in this county is no exception to the general rule. There are rival candidates seeking public favor and each has his friends and followers. Valentine, especially, is filled with men eager to advise their fellow citizens how to exercise the elective franchise. You get advice while you wait, so to speak. And if you do not wait they follow and force it onto you, or spur your recollection by writing personal letters and importuning you to get out and work for some favorite. There are just as many reasons urged as there are voters to be interviewed. One man is urged to support some one because he is an "old timer"; another is urged to support him because he has been a long time seeking the nomination; and another is asked to remain loyal to the party nominee, regardless of the candidate's fitness for the place. In some of the letters that have been sent out from the republican county committee the secretary of the committee attempts to cajole the voter by familiarity, calling him by his first name. He says: "Now, Bill, get out and see a few of the boys," or "You know, Tom, that we old pals must pull together, you are one of the push and we will depend on you," or words to that effect. And in this familiar sort of way he seeks to make the recipient of the letter think that he is the one man in all the county on whom the candidate and the county committee relies for support. He is the staff on which the party leans and if he fails the organization will go down to utter defeat. But this sort of thing will not fool anybody. "Bill" soon discovers that a copy of the very same letter has been written to "Tom" and to "Dick" and to every other man in his precinct. They have all been run off the same press and differ only in the name.

We are not complaining about the young secretary. He is holding an official position by favor of the political machine, and, in all fairness to him, let it be said that if the candidates in whose favor he is sending these letters were as well qualified for the places they seek as he is for the place he holds no one would question their competency. But at the same time it is not safe to take his certificate at its face value. Better make an investigation on your own account. Why not elect a man assessor that is a good judge of property of all kinds? Mr. Young is just that kind of a man. If he is elected assessor he will be master of the office, because he will be independent of professional book-keepers; he will be independent of the little clique around town that is only too willing to arrange schedules and prepare the books and make them "show up as good as the best of them." If you elect Mr. Young to the office he will be the assessor, and we venture the prediction that his books will show up all right, his work will be right and he will not be dependent upon others.



P. H. Young

## COUNTY SHERIFF

The committee in charge of Mr. Sherman's campaign for sheriff first made an appeal through the columns of the local press for support for Mr. Sherman because he was the party nominee. They said: He is the first nominee we have had under the primary system of making nominations. His name was submitted to the voters and he won out and is therefore entitled to the vote of every loyal republican. This was the first argument put forth by his friends and we want to discuss it for just a moment.

It is true that his name was submitted to the voters at a general primary and that he secured more votes in the primary than either of his competitors. But it is also true that he received considerably less than half his party vote. More republicans voted against him than voted for him. He is not the candidate by virtue of a majority of his party. His nomination was brought about by an application of practical politics to the new law. It was a case of using old methods in a new emergency. He has for years been a candidate for this nomination and never succeeded in a republican convention, but this year the law was changed. Under the old convention plan a candidate had to receive a majority vote of the delegates. Under the new plan the candidate receiving the highest number of votes became the nominee, although the remainder of the vote, if taken as a whole, might outnumber his two to one. Here was the opportunity for the veteran politician. What was easier than to gain the much coveted nomination under an arrangement like this? There was just one thing to be done and that only. See to it that two men from the

country precincts enter the race. Get any two men from the country—only two men to divide the country vote—and let the town vote solidly for its own candidate. The scheme worked. The politicians in town assured their country friends that the town vote would be divided. Men from the country precincts were assured they would receive a fair percentage of the town vote. Two representative men entered the race under these conditions. The country vote was divided. The vote controlled by the machine was cast for the town candidate. Mr. Kime had been promised support from some of the leading politicians in the town of Valentine, but when the vote was counted he had received just 12 votes. He was betrayed by the men whose business it is to run the politics of the county. The vote he got was from personal friends who could not be worked by the "leaders." If there had been but one candidate in the country Mr. Sherman never would have been the nominee. After securing a nomination in this way doesn't it require considerable gall to insist on a republican supporting him simply because his name is on the ballot?

We have now discussed the argument made in his behalf by his campaign committee. He has advanced quite another argument himself. In his circular letter, a copy of which has been mailed to every voter whose name and address he has been able to secure, he says, that although he is the nominee of the republican party he realizes that the day of partisan politics is past and urges as his chief claims for the office that he has lived for a long time in the county and spent much time "among the cowboys." We fully agree with him that the day of partisan politics is past. Men no longer shut their eyes and vote for any man who happens to be their party candidate. The time was when men thought it a matter of honor that they vote their ticket straight. Fortunately we have outgrown that sort of foolishness. Men now look to a candidate's qualifications. They have learned that not all the poor timber is in the other party. They have learned that there are good men and poor men in all parties and they have grown independent enough to vote for the man they believe will serve the public best. They are applying the same rule in the selection of officers that corporations and business men apply in the management of their business. Mr. Sherman's own statement shows that his managers were in error when, in the early days of the campaign, they published an appeal to party prejudice. It is quite probable that he discovered this and wrote his letters to correct the mistake they made.

So far as the other argument is concerned, namely: That he has spent much of his time among the "cowboys," we have but to say that if the "cowboys" want to do something for a cowboy they had better support Clyde Rosseter, who, for the past ten years, has been riding the range, pitching hay and branding cattle at his ranch south of Cody. The time his opponent has spent in getting acquainted with the cowboys Mr. Rosseter has spent in the practical work of a stockman. Mr. Rosseter has no means of getting out letters to the voters. This is the first fall he has been running for office, and he has no organized committee to issue letters, but he will appreciate your vote and your influence. And, now, while it is still early in the campaign and you have time to look up his record, we want to ask you to inquire as to his character and fitness for the place he seeks. Lay aside party feeling, whether you are a democrat or a republican, and then vote for the man you feel will make the best officer for Cherry county. If you are a democrat do not hesitate to vote for Sherman if you think he will make a better officer than Rosseter. If you are a republican do not hesitate to vote for Rosseter if you think he will make a better sheriff than Sherman. Mr. Sherman, in his letter, virtually releases republicans from party obligation, and we have authority from Mr. Rosseter to say that in the same way he releases democrats. He submits his candidacy to all the people regardless of party affiliations. Vote your convictions between man and man. Vote for him who in your best judgment will make the most acceptable sheriff.



Clyde A. Rosseter

## COUNTY JUDGE

There appears to be too little consideration paid to the office of county judge. Many people rate an office by the salary it pays, or by the political prestige it holds. It is admitted that in the matter of salary and political prestige the office of county judge does not compare with that of clerk, treasurer and sheriff, but nevertheless, it is to the people, as a whole, one of the most important offices they have to fill. It is certain that no other office requires more accuracy or more discrimination than the office of probate judge. Under the law of this state, every estate must be probated in this court. Sooner or later every acre of land in the county will pass through the probate proceedings. No man of property can tell when that property will be undergoing the process of probate. You may be a strong healthy man today, but before another two years rolls around your widow and children may be probating your estate. You naturally want to leave your estate in as good condition as possible; you would have your widow and children realize as much out of that estate as possible, and you would have the proceedings as carefully and quickly done as possible. Naturally you would have the records correctly made so they would not be annoyed in the future.

Now, if you would have all these things done, why not stop for a moment before selecting the judge that

(Continued on next page.)

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