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## Red Front Merc. Co.

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## A. JOHN & CO.

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Valentine - Nebraska

## Volunteer Column.

Under this column THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT has consented to publish from time to time such topics and editorial matter as will be furnished from the headquarters of the Bryan Volunteers of Nebraska. The Volunteers are in the field to make a clean and honest fight for Mr. Bryan and the principles which he so ably represents. We cherish the fond hope that the coming contest will develop into a campaign of education in the truest and noblest sense of that term. Vitiuperation and abuse will find no place in this column. It is our intention to so temper the argument that it will appeal to the earnest, thoughtful and inquiring mind, with the view to have the reader investigate the various claims of the respective presidential candidates, and then support that candidate who commends himself most to the honest judgment and conscience of the voter. We invite correspondence with the readers of this paper. Be free to write us at any time, giving such suggestions, criticisms or advice as may occur to you. Please address all communications to the undersigned.

C. M. GRUBB, Secretary,  
Box 68, Co. A. 2. Bus., Nebraska.

### You are the Juror.

On a bare wall of the jury room in an old court house of one of the counties of Nebraska, an unknown poet penciled these lines:

Your oath's as binding as any man's.  
Your judgment as likely true.  
Then why, I asked, should you yield to him,  
Instead of he to you?

They were evidently addressed to jurors to impress upon their minds the lesson of individual responsibility, and the duty of each to exercise his own judgment and to be true to his honest convictions. A man who lacks the power or the disposition to do that is not fit to serve as a juror. A verdict requires the concurrence of each juror. It is supposed to express the deliberate judgment of each on the issues submitted to the jury for their consideration. A juror who merely subscribes to the conclusion reached by others, without exercising his own judgment, fails of his duty. For all practical purposes he is a nonentity—a mere figure head in the make-up of the jury.

But the lines quoted have a wider application. The individual voter, like the individual juror, has a responsibility which he has no right to shirk, and a duty to perform which he cannot rightfully delegate to others. He is a part of the governing power of the country. He owes it to himself, no less than to the public, to bring his intelligence to bear upon the questions arising for solution, and to express, so far as possible by his vote, his honest convictions on those questions. To the extent that he fails to do this, he gives the lie to the proposition that ours is a government of the people and by the people, and becomes a mere cypher in public affairs.

One of the greatest obstacles in the way of intelligent action on the part of the individual voter is party prejudice. Self appointed party leaders, for their own selfish purposes, have sedulously cultivated this prejudice, and instilled the doctrine that to vote a straight ticket at all times and under all circumstances is the highest political virtue. Senator Cameron won the applause of his fellow party leaders when he said "I would vote for an ox if he were on the republican ticket" and David B. Hill was as heartily applauded by the leaders of his party when he made the simple statement "I am a democrat," without any reference to the principles or measures for which his party stood. Each meant to strike at the independent voter—at the voter who sets principle above party and dares to vote his honest convictions regardless of the dictates of party.

Parties in a government like ours, are useful, if not indispensable, and that every party should have its leaders, is inevitable. The character of a party from time to time depends upon the character of its leaders. If the leaders are controlled by sinister influences inimical to the interests of the people, the party for the time being will be controlled by such influences, and a victory for that party is a victory for those in-

fluences. The representatives of those influences do not ask whether a candidate belongs to the party of Jackson or of Lincoln, but merely whether he is friendly to the interests they represent. The voter with no interest to serve but that of himself and his country should learn a lesson from them, for they seldom make the mistake of voting for a candidate who is likely to thwart their purposes. When they are lined up in favor of a particular candidate, he may rest assured that it is because they have some guarantee that he will serve the interests they represent, and then if he is true to himself and to his country, he will cast his vote against that candidate, no matter by what party he is put forward.

The conscientious citizen-juror will in this presidential campaign carefully weigh the platform of principles adopted by the interests which nominated Mr. Taft, and will also weigh the merits of the candidate, and then make honest comparison between that candidate and that platform with the candidate and the platform which will be presented by the democratic national convention in July.

When J. Pierpont Morgan was told that Taft had been nominated by the republican national convention he is reported by the Associated Press to have jumped to his feet, clapped his hands and cried "good! good!" In its first edition after the nomination the infamous New York World said: "Taft will be elected, and his nomination means the end of Roosevelt and Rooseveltism." The question naturally arises: If the nomination of Taft can be so satisfactory to the criminal rich of the Morgan stripe, and if the election of Taft shall mean "the end of Roosevelt and Rooseveltism," as proclaimed by the New York World, speaking for the aristocratic element in the democratic party, then how can any honest man in the agriculture west find satisfaction in the election of a candidate so pleasing to those bad interests?

A party is no better than its leaders, and the leaders are no better than the influences that control them. If you want to know where the team will go, study the driver. If you want to know what the driver will do, study his employer. If you want to know the influence which built the republican national platform in Chicago last week, just read the answer in the smiles of satisfaction on the faces of all the great trust magnates in America.

## Tiger Hats

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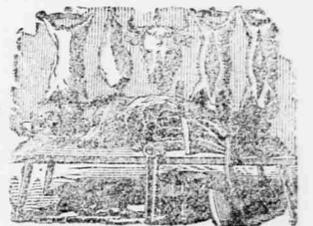
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