

THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT.

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With the view of the present high and discriminating freight rates and the numerous accidents upon railroads and the fact established that corporations control the votes of their employees which permit railroads to do about as they please and have laws framed to suit their convenience through their chosen or influenced representatives in congress and the apparent failure of our own government to be able to enforce control and regulation of railroads and traffic rates and provide efficient and effective service for the people of these United States I now declare myself and the policy of THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT hereafter to be in favor of the government ownership of railroads to such an extent as possible; to appraise and buy or build through lines between commercial centers and beginning the operation of said lines of railroad, known as the U. S. Railroad, on one of the present lines now stretching across the continent and follow with the acquiring or building of other lines necessary to transact the business of the country.

To this end all convicts and men serving time for offenses, to be put to work building and constructing railroads for the government and such other work as is practical for convict labor.

I also favor the government ownership and operation of coal mines and oil wells used for fuel and light. To condemn and abstract from the present owners and operators of said mines and oil wells and oil fields at not to exceed the cost of said mines, oil wells and oil fields to the owners thereof.

All this in the interest of the people which has been taken from the people as their proper and lawful heritage and to them belong these properties usurped and confiscated from their lawful store.

I. M. RICE,
 Editor The Valentine Democrat.

The primary law is better than the old system of sending delegates to do the work at a county convention and those delegates select other delegates to a state or congressional convention according to the personal popularity of the individuals who may or may not be representative of the people's interests or business. Most generally the man who thought he could spare the time and the expense to go was put on as a delegate and a few others that couldn't go, didn't attend, but were given some party recognition by the local politicians who had other chestnuts to rake out and needed some return assistance of a more substantial character. It was different with the republicans who secured transportation, until only recently when the democrats forced the giving up of the pass. This put the republicans on the same footing as the democrats and a primary law was essential to keep the railroads from getting all the ready money required to haul delegates to and from conventions. It meant a big expense to us westerners and we like the primary law, but we want some changes, if possible, to keep republicans from voting an objectionable candidate into the democrats and vice versa.

We also want some of the rough features trimmed down so that precinct and county officers may become candidates with less trouble and expense where there is no opposition in the party. Thus, what is the use of going to the polls to vote and carry one name through the whole list when there is no opposition? It means expense and trouble with no advantage to be gained. We want a more simplified system excepting where there is actual contest for the place.

The increased expense of a primary election, which, in Cherry county, amounts to approximately \$1500, would pay for lots of good roads or an extra bridge across the Niobrara. \$1500 would pay for all the delegates to the different conventions and a rip-roaring old drunk apiece and have money left to bet on general results, but it wouldn't give the people the choice of voting for their favorite man or set of men. Then, beside the money being spent at home for a primary election and with the railroads and hotels of the city by a delegate convention, there is a satisfaction that can be obtained in no other way than for the people to have a hand in the governing themselves. They want to know who is being talked of for a place. Who is the proper man can best be settled by a primary election where there are two or more contesting for a place.

How could any set of delegates have ever settled the dispute as to who should be candidate for governor on the democratic ticket this year? The primary election settled it satisfactorily and chose the right man and everybody was satisfied that there was no plugged convention.

Let us keep the primary law, but make the proper amendments that will make it more satisfactory for county, districts and state and reach the needs of the precinct.

With the complete vote now in it develops that the democrats have elected only governor and railway commissioner on the state ticket; congressmen in the First, Second and Third districts; 21 out of 33 state senators and 68 out of 96 representatives. This gives the democrats a good working majority in both houses and they're going to do business.

Our friend Fred J. Pratt of the Humphrey Democrat has been appointed Deputy oil inspector of the 3rd district. Congratulations. We had not thought of an appointment of any kind in case of victory for the democrats but a nice plum would be all the nicer should it come unsolicited; but we suppose there are few things that come to people in this world with out an effort. First we suppose there must be a fitness for the job, a qualification for the work and then a lot of wire pulling to get in position to have a plum offered you, which one might accept as a duty to his country.

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For 10 days only we are putting on sale at marvelous low prices the following merchandise in ladies', men's and children's wear:

\$1.50 and \$1.75 values in Ladies' Misses' and Children's Shoes, 98c.

\$1.75 and \$2.00 values in Men's Shoes at \$1.39.

75c to \$1 values in Children's and Misses' Overshoes at 43c.

\$1.50 values in good grade Comforts at 98c.

25c values in Child's assorted Gloves and Mittens, 15 and 10c pr.

75c values in Men's good weight Demin Overalls at 59c.

\$1.25 values in Ladies' Dressing Saques at 75c.

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