

# THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT

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

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1908.

Charley Latta is a good democrat but calls it socialist doctrine. He's all right on many great questions, perhaps most of them, and his ideas are democratic but the name socialist has appealed to him as a good one to tie his wagon to. He is a democrat, not a socialist, a reform democrat, an advanced thinker along the lines of democracy or republicanism. He's not like that hot bed of anarchy of Chicago and we believe if the other socialists of our county were as mild and sound as Charles Latta on public questions they could be trusted as reform democrats or reform republicans and people might be glad to look up to them some time as leaders of a great party of the people, for the people and by the people, but socialist nit.

Preacher Connell is now roosting or roasting at Stuart, where, if he has no better success as a preacher and in building up a church organization than he had at Atkinson and Valentine and every place where we have ever heard of his being he would better Plow Corn than Preach Christ. Valentine M. E. church will be a long time recovering from the effects of Connell's having been its pastor and we hear that the same is true of other churches where he unfortunately for them was their pastor.

Happy New Year.

Write it 1909 now.

Wm. Erickson spent a couple of days in town this week.

Mrs. Francis Thackrey returned to Rapid City today.

Mrs. T. C. Hornby and Miss Blanche Van Orsdale are visiting in Chadron.

R. M. Faddis and J. H. Quigley returned this morning from Montana and Wyoming.

Mrs. S. A. Rice and Mrs. De Wyke returned to their homes in Kansas Sunday morning.

Miss Elsie Sherman has gone to Lincoln to visit Miss Myrtle Pettijohn and attend the inauguration of Gov. Shallenberger.

Mr. and Mrs. Marsden of Ainsworth visited Mr. and Mrs. John Slonecker the past week. Mrs. Marsden remained for a longer visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Scovel are visiting the city at the home of their daughter Mrs. Lockwood. Mr. Lockwood has about recovered from his recent illness.

Judge Olson and family are home after their visit to Omaha to see a sick relative of Mrs. Olson. While there they were called to Bassett by the sudden death of Judge Olson's father.

Rev. J. Robert Beale has announced his resignation as pastor of the Presbyterian church here to take effect Feb. 1, 1909. Rev. Beale has been a faithful worker in our community and we hope he may find appreciation of his valuable services wherever he may choose to locate.

## Old Resident Murdered.

Charles Wesley Massingale was found dead on an open lot near a school building in Eldorado, Ark., last Thursday morning. He had been shot Wednesday night about 9 o'clock, supposedly by a man who had been working for him in drilling wells. Lee Combs was arrested because of suspicious circumstances connecting him with the tragedy. He had telephoned three times to the hotel for Mr. Massingale to come down town and he finally went in company with a Mr. Baker who was a well driller. They met Combs at the corner of the square and stood talking with each other. Combs pretended to be interested in purchasing a parish or two in Louisiana or some territory in which to operate with the well device of Massingale and they started away together, going west and south towards the place where the body of Massingale was found next morning.

About 9 o'clock Combs appeared at a livery stable and asked for a horse. A negro who brought out a horse for him said he appeared to be very much excited. Next morning a pocketbook was picked up near the livery stable which proved to be Massingale's from the papers it contained and when Combs returned he was arrested on suspicion. He had \$75 when searched and told different stories about where he got the money, all of which were proven to be false. Combs had rode out to his father's home, 3 or 4 miles out of town and gave a revolver to his sister.

The Combs family is said to bear a good name, but that this Lee Combs was a wayward son, having once before been accused of theft and crooked work. Lee Combs collapsed, it is said, when he was taken to see corpse just before shipping it to Valentine.

J. H. McWilliams, an undertaker and hardware dealer, accompanied the body here from El Dorado and says that everything possible will be done to apprehend and punish the murderer and that their citizens feel much the same as Valentine citizens do over the mysterious murder committed here in October.

It is supposed that Mr. Massingale was murdered for his money, which was probably the amount found in Combs' possession when arrested.

The body reached Valentine Sunday night and the funeral was held in the M. E. church Monday afternoon, conducted by the Old Fellows and the sermon preached by Rev. Baker. A large number of friends and relatives, including Claude Jones and wife and W. F. Brown and family, were in attendance at the funeral.

E. G. Asay, "The Overland Limited Kid," is about to publish a book entitled "Scientific Hoboeing," containing about 60 pages, comprising a brief sketch of his travels during a period of the past 11 or 12 years. He has had the book copyrighted and it will be off the press about January 21 which he will sell for 50 cents per copy. Mr. Asay assures us that he has written this book with the view of discouraging wayward boys who should profit by reading his experiences.

## School Notes

By R. H. WATSON

Chester Wells, who is attending Creighton college at Omaha, is spending the holidays with his grandparents at Schuyler.

George Stetter, one of our grammar grade boys who is spending this year in the Kearney military academy is home for the holidays.

Clinton Collett, who has charge of the normal training work in the high school at Friend, is home this week renewing old friendships.

Eve Cary writes a long letter from Owyhee, Nev., where she has a position as laundress in an Indian school and sends the best wishes to the pupils of the Valentine schools.

Bernice O'Kief, who has become so popular in the primary department of the Fairmont schools that she seems to be permanently located there, is spending a few days with her parents at Arabia.

A card from Estelle Nicholson while she was at Centre Point, Ia., stated she had spent the previous week visiting schools, but had found none which she liked as well as the school in Valentine.

Owing to the serious illness of her mother Miss McKercher has notified the school board that she cannot return to Valentine, and Miss Nance Conety of Valley has been hired to fill the vacancy.

Marie Nelson of the class 1903, V. H. S., is spending her vacation with her mother and sister in Valentine. Marie has a position in the Merriman schools this year where she is doing good work.

We regret very much to lose miss McKercher from our corps of teachers. She is a woman of superior worth. It means much to a boy or girl to spend a year with a woman of such true and noble ideas of life.

In response to a telegram from State Supt. McBrien, Supt. Watson went to Lincoln Dec. 20, and spent three days with Supt. Stephens of the Lincoln schools reading the proof and discussing the new course of study for the grammar work in the high schools of Nebraska.

During the past few weeks we have received postals, photographs, letters and Christmas cards from more than a score of the alumni of the Valentine high school, expressing good wishes and pleasant thoughts. Such things call up pleasant memories of years gone by.

Tacy Collett, field matron, at the Omaha Indian reservation, attended the family reunion at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Collett on Hall street this week. Three of the five children of Mr. and Mrs. Collett are members of the alumni of the Valentine high school and the other two ought to be.

Miss Conety, who comes to take Miss McKercher's place, has had three year's college training since completing her high school course and now holds a life certificate. She comes highly recommended by the superintendent of schools at Pierce where she has taught the same grade of work that she will have in Valentine.

Ellie Carlson who has a position in the high school at Kimball, is spending her vacation with her parents south of Valentine. Kimball has the honors of having the only county high school in Nebraska. The county high school law which was enacted two years ago contains so many restrictions that it was thought that there would be no schools established under it, but Kimball, the county seat of Kimball county, being peculiarly situated, has succeeded in establishing a county high school. We believe that plan has been defeated in every county in which it has been voted on except in Kimball. It looked at one time as if it

might carry in Brown county but when the vote was counted it looked different. With a few changes in the law quite a number of counties might well take advantage of it.

We have just received a large box of oranges and grape fruit, sent by Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Rawls from their grove in Southern Florida. This is the first time we have tasted oranges which were allowed to ripen and fully mature on the tree. Mrs. Rawls is a member of the class of 1901 of the V. H. S.

We had planned to describe the handwork which the pupils had on exhibition in the different rooms on Dec. 18, but those who failed to see the exhibition would not understand it and those who did see it need no description. However, if each teacher will describe the work done in her room it may appear in the school notes later.

School closed on Friday, Dec. 18, for a two week's vacation and most of the non-resident pupils went to their homes for the holidays. Of the teachers Miss Tennant went to her home in Iowa, Mr. Mohlman made a brief visit in Lincoln and then went to his home at Glenville, and Miss Gordon went to her home in Hot Springs, S. D.

Leta Stetter, who has been teaching in the McCook high school and her sister Ruth who is teaching in Ponca, have been visiting in Valentine the past ten days. Leta has resigned her position at McCook and will go to New York where she will become Mrs. Hollingsworth about Jan. 1. Miss Stetter is a young woman of true and noble character and untiring energy. Mr. Hollingsworth is to be congratulated on his choice.

Nebraska has been divided into eleven districts for the purpose of holding joint debates. O'Neill, Atkinson and Valentine have been placed in one district and the debate between Ainsworth and Valentine will take place some time in January. The part of the work in Valentine will be left entirely in the hands of Mr. Mohlman, the principal of the high school. The preliminary debate to determine who will represent Valentine will be held in the court room Friday evening, Jan. 8.

Of the graduates of the Valentine schools who are in college this year, Oliver Walcott and Harrison Davenport from the state university are spending their holidays in Valentine. Laura Pettijohn, who is also in the state university this year, is visiting her parents at Longpine. From Bellevue Fred and Herbert Jones went to Cody. Margaret Quigley is at her home in Valentine and Alberta O'Kane is with her mother at Itaba. Of those attending the state normal at Peru, Ennis Boyer is spending her vacation with Miss Wahlstrom, a classmate, at Wahoo, Alfa Dunham is visiting Mrs. Hattie Stevenson at Auburn and Bessie Gaskill and Anna Hahn are spending their vacation at their homes near Valentine. Maggie Stetter, who is taking the course for kindergarten teachers at Peru, is also spending her vacation in Valentine. Maggie, although she did not remain to complete the high school course at Valentine, is reported to be doing good work at Peru. Mabel Helzer, who will complete her college course at Park college, Mo., this year, is spending her vacation at that college. Mabel is fitting herself for special high school work and we prophesy she will do first class work wherever she goes.

The Rushville Recorder seems to be under the impression that any newspaper who favors any candidate for governor other than George A. Sheldon two years hence, are necessarily tied up with the brewery and liquor interests. Does this include all the water wagon editors and their friends who succeeded last fall in electing a democratic governor? Atkinson Graphic.

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