

THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT.

I. M. Rice, Editor and Proprietor

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OUR LINCOLN LETTER.

(Special Correspondence.)

Lincoln, Neb., April 27.—The republican papers still maintain their charge of extravagance against the last legislature, and by comparing totals make it appear that the republican legislature of 1907 was a model of economy as compared with the democratic legislature of 1909. But a careful investigation of the facts will reveal quite the contrary.

It is true that the total amount appropriated in 1909 exceeded the amount appropriated in 1907. No one will care to deny the fact, nor is there any necessity for denying it. But the democratic legislature of 1909 had to appropriate a total of \$160,000 to take care of deficiencies created by republican managers of state institutions. And the state institutions during the next two years will cost more to maintain than they cost during the two years under the Sheldon administration. For instance, the legislature of 1907 appropriated for the penitentiary on the basis of 325 convicts. There are 427 convicts in the big prison today. The same ratio of increase is found in all of the other state institutions.

Two years ago Gov. Sheldon vetoed building appropriations amounting to about \$400,000, although he admitted that the new buildings were sadly needed. His claim was, however, that the expenditures must be kept inside the revenue. And when he issued the vetoes helpless inmates of the Hastings, Lincoln and Norfolk asylums were sleeping on cots in halls, sleeping in attics and basements, sleeping two in a bed; and the feeble minded children in the Beatrice institution were forced to sleep in unfinished attics and in damp basements. The 1909 legislature appropriated \$500,000 for new buildings in which to house these helpless and dependent wards of the state. Yet, with same levy and the increased expenditures for new buildings and for educational purposes the present biennium will end with more money in the treasury than was left under the Sheldon administration.

The total appropriations of the 1909 legislature look bigger than the total appropriations of the 1907 legislature for the simple reason the 1909 legislature had to take care of all that the 1907 legislature left uncared for.

Adding the \$160,000 deficiency to the total of the 1907 legislature, and subtracting it from the total of the 1909 legislature, and the difference between the two totals is not large enough to excite comment. Take into account the growth of the state institutions and the difference is wiped out. And then give the 1909 legislature credit for \$500,000 of new buildings and \$700,000 more for educational purposes—all without adding a single iota to the tax rate. When you analyze the facts you will discover that the 1909 legislature was one of the most economical in the history of the state.

Another charge industriously circulated is that the Shallenberger administration exhibited an awful hunger for political pie. This charge is founded on the fact the legislature gave into the hands of the governor some appointments heretofore in the hands of other state officers. But in doing this the legislature only went back to the system in vogue prior to the election of Wm. A. Poynter. The republican legislature, in its greed, took a lot of appointments away from the demo-pop governor. The legislature of 1909 merely gave them back. When Gov. Deitrich succeeded Gov. Poynter he made a clean sweep of the Poynter appointees. Gov. Shallenberger has not done so. There has been no change in the girls' industrial school



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at Geneva; no change at the home of the friendless. A score of important clerkships in different departments directly under the governor are still retained by republicans. True, a number of these are women, and they are being retained because of efficiency. But the continued charges of "hunger" made by republican organs is endangering the situations of these people.

The state board of printing formerly made up of the treasurer, secretary of state and auditor, but now made up with the governor in place of the treasurer, refuses to recognize the law which gives the appointment of the secretary to the governor. The two republican members of the board insist on retaining the republican secretary, who receives a salary of \$1,000 a year. The governor will not contest this decision. He will merely replace a \$2,500 republican secretary on another board with a democrat. If the majority of the printing board had not grown "chesty" the \$2,500 secretary would probably have been retained.

Any farmer in Nebraska who is proud of his farm and would like to see a picture of it in a bulletin issued by the Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics, may have his desire gratified by sending a photograph of it to the bureau. Deputy Commissioner Maupin is making a collection of such photographs for use in advertising the "barren wilds of Nebraska."

Gov. Shallenberger was the guest of Kansas democrats in Salina last week.

State Treasurer Brian went to Montana last week to negotiate for \$700,000 worth of Montana bonds as an investment for the Nebraska permanent school fund.

St. Nicholas Church.

Services will be held in the Catholic church as follows:

In Nenzel on Sunday, April 25
In Valentine on Sunday May 2
Low mass at 8. m. High mass and sermon at 10. a. m. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament after mass.

At 3 p. m. instruction for the children.

In Crookston on Sunday, May 9, at 10. a. m.

Leo M. BAERE, Rector.

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