

VALENTINE DEMOCRAT

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NEBRASKA DEMOCRACY THREATENED

SHALL WE PERMIT THE BARNACLE
INTERESTS TO LONGER INTER-
FERE WITH THE WILL
OF THE PEOPLE?

WILL THE NEBRASKA DEMOCRATS BE
TRUE TO THEIR OWN INTERESTS
AND RE-NOMINATE THEIR PRES-
ENT CHIEF EXECUTIVE. OR
WILL THEY TAMELY SUB-
MIT TO THE DICTA-
TION OF SPECIAL
INTERESTS?

Since Gov. Shallenberger has intimated that he will be a candidate for re-election, Nebraska democracy has a simple duty to perform. The governor should be re-nominated without a contest in the primaries. No reason has been given, none can be given, why he should not be re-nominated. The democrats of this state should rise as one man and show their appreciation of a competent and faithful official. By so doing, the party will prove itself not only just, but wise.

For years, Gov. Shallenberger has battled for democratic principles. His fight in 1907, though unsuccessful at the polls, resulted in the enactment of much reform legislation. A conspicuous example of this legislation is the two-cent fare law. In 1908, at the head of the state ticket, he led the democracy of Nebraska in the first successful battle it had made in a decade. In that contest, he received more votes than were ever given to any other democrat in Nebraska. Every pledge made by the state democracy in that campaign has been redeemed. Had it not been for the leadership and guidance of Gov. Shallenberger, the last legislature would not have been able to redeem all of the party pledges. Largely through the efforts of the governor, the democracy of this state kept faith with the people. No just criticism can be made of his administration. He has discharged all duties ably, honestly and faithfully. His official record is such that there is no room for debate among democrats, for the last democratic state convention endorsed all of his official conduct. The citizenship of Nebraska, generally, is pleased and endorses his administration.

The only complaint heard comes from certain selfish interests, which have not been able to dictate to and control the governor. These "interests" have planned to humiliate and intend to harass him in every way they can. These "interests" are forcing a fight on the governor in the democratic primaries for re-nomination. They have no hope of defeating him for re-nomination. The sole object is to create ill-feeling and dissatisfaction. In that way, the "interests" hope to weaken his cause at the general election. On the surface, this opposition appears to emanate from the brewery interests, but they are only a part of the opposition. Behind the breweries are the "allied interests," which are particularly anxious to defeat Gov. Shallenberger. These "interests" know that Gov. Shallenberger is a very formidable candidate. They believe that if democracy is united, he can defeat

any republican that may be nominated. They also know that any democrat who would contest the nomination with him in the primaries would have small chance of election at the polls.

Every person advised as to the political situation in the state knows that the foregoing is a plain statement of the present status of the gubernatorial political situation. Every thoughtful democrat knows that it will be political suicide to defeat Gov. Shallenberger for re-nomination. The republican leaders have been so strong in this belief that for months, through their press, they have attempted to induce the governor to be a candidate for United States senator. Republican leaders know that if the governor would consent to be a candidate for senator, there would be practically no opposition to the republican ticket. The strength of democracy lies in the fact that Gov. Shallenberger will lead the democratic state ticket as a candidate for re-election.

In view of this condition, what is the plain duty of the rank and file of the democratic party? What is the plain duty of the democratic press? Is it wise to remain silent and allow the breweries and other selfish interests to handicap and harass the governor? Is it not the duty of democratic newspapers to announce at once that they are for Shallenberger and give the reasons for the faith that is in them? The rank and file of democracy is for Shallenberger. It is sheer folly to remain neutral in the contest. Those leaders who think they can remain neutral in the contest between Shallenberger and the breweries and other selfish interests in the primary contest do not know the temper of democracy in Nebraska.

Let us be plain, gentlemen. If you are on the side of the people and in favor of pursuing a wise party policy, announce him from the hill tops and through the press that you are in favor of Shallenberger's re-nomination. If you are on the side of the breweries and other selfish interests, announce that you are opposed to Shallenberger.—Arapahoe Pioneer.

Mr. Taft's Injustice to Himself.

On the 22nd of September, 1908 Mr. Taft, then a candidate, said at Chicago:

"The revision of the tariff which republicans desire is a revision which shall reduce excessive rates and at the same time preserve the industries of the country * * * I wish there to be no doubt in respect to the revisions of the tariff."

On the 16th of December, 1908, Mr. Taft, then president-elect, said in New York City:

"Unless we act in accordance with our promises * * * we shall be made accountable to the American people and suffer such consequences as failure to keep faith has always been visited with. It would be better to have no revision at all unless we are going to honestly and fairly revise the tariff on the basis promised by our party."

On the 30th of June, 1909, Mr. Taft, then president of the United States, said in New Haven:

"Now I venture to say that if the republican party does not live up to its promises, and what the people expect of it, it will be relegated to a position like that of his majesty's opposition."

On the 5th of August, 1909, when President Taft signed the

Payne-Aldrich bill, he said:

"This law is not a perfect tariff law or a complete compliance with the promises made in the republican platform, strictly interpreted."

On the 12th of February, 1910, speaking again in New York, President Taft said:

Nothing was expressly said in the platform that this revision was to be a downward revision. * * * I therefore venture to repeat the remark that I have had occasion to make before, that the present custom law is the best that has ever been passed."

The president is doing his best for Messrs. Cannon and Aldrich, but he is strangely neglectful of himself.—New York World.

Our Lincoln Letter.

(Special Correspondence.)

Just now the capitol city is in the throes of a "wet" and "dry" fight and one hears little else than that. Under the referendum law a vote will be taken on the question some time this month.

The senatorial situation remains unchanged. Hitchcock, Thompson and Metcalfe are still the most mentioned, although there remains a quiet insistence that Bryan become a candidate. The senatorial situation will be clearer after Mr. Bryan returns from South America.

The Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics is busy these days supplying the demands for farm help. During the last six weeks not less than 200 farmers have been supplied with help, and something like 300 men have secured jobs through this bureau. So far, however, the demands for help have exceeded the supply.

"Test your seed corn" is the cry today. It has been demonstrated that less than 30 per cent of the corn raised last year is fit for seed. The early opening of the winter caused a lot of the corn to remain in the fields—and a lot of it yet remains unhusked. This corn is not showing up well in the seed tests and it behooves farmers to be very careful in selecting their seed corn this spring.

The democratic students of the university have taken preliminary steps looking towards the organization of a democratic club, and the first meeting to discuss the matter was an eye-opener because of the number present and the enthusiasm displayed. The club will be organized and perfected before the close of the university year, and will be in fine shape to perform active service in the interest of democracy during the coming campaign.

Professor Crabtree has not yet resigned, as demanded by the eminent republican bosses who resent the idea that a state institution should not be run as an annex to the g. o. p. Eminent legal authority declares that the governor has a right to oust an appointive officer at any time, but Governor Shallenberger has not yet taken this phase of the matter into consideration. In the meanwhile the republican partisans who played such a coarse political game in the Peru Normal School case are being roundly cursed by their own party associates.

The republican bureau for the dissemination of misinformation

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with headquarters at Lincoln, continues actively at work. One of the chief objects is to misinform the public as to the actions of the governor. It is constantly trying to convince the public that the governor is neglecting the state's business in order to travel around. It is true that Gov. Shallenberger is absent from office more than was his immediate predecessor, but Gov. Shallenberger is attending to vastly more business than any of his predecessors. Being a business man he is able to transact business more speedily than any of his predecessors, and his travels have been forced upon him by the wonderful growth of the state. He has lectured on the university extension course, addressed farmers' institutes and appeared before gatherings of business men held for the purpose of considering how best to conserve and promote the welfare of the state. While Gov. Shallenberger has traveled more than any other governor Nebraska has ever had, he is also better informed as to the state's needs and is better able to judge as to what should or should not be done to advance the state's best interests.

In the "Big Sixth" Uncle Mose Kipkaid has his work cut out for him. The revelation of Uncle Mose's connection with the Alaska land grabs has made Uncle Mose squirm, and the way he is trying to explain creates a lot of laughter. Shumway of Scottsbluff and Taylor of Custer have announced themselves as candidates for the democratic nomination, and either of them would probably retire Uncle Mose to private. Taken as a whole the outlook for an increased democratic representation in congress is far brighter than usual.

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