

# VALENTINE DEMOCRAT

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We're giving you the state legislative and U. S. congressional news. Watch 'em.

If a county votes wet should everybody and every place have a saloon, or should we let it stand as it is.

Hide the primary law in the "Charter Oak." Amend or add to it, but save it for the people "to have a hand in the governing themselves.

We want our senators to work and vote for the TouVelle measure which is soon to come before them for consideration in the U. S. senate. We can see no reason why the government should give the printing of government envelopes all to the Dayton, Ohio, concern which has been reaping a harvest for years where others sow and cultivate. Let us have "equality before the law" and equality in competition instead of subsidies for one or two concerns.

Everybody knows the tariff is a tax now. Some want tariff for protection and others for revenue only and yet others who think no tariff at all would benefit the common people. If the common people knew this as they should they could not be blindfolded any longer by the protective association which has sent out their literature for years to educate the people in a false light. They want the people to send them a list of "first voters" so they may send them literature, telling them why they should vote for a protective high tariff system. Somebody pays these bills and those benefited by protection are reaping a sufficient reward to continue their campaign of blinding the people to continue voting the old tariff doctrines. Some say republican farmers wont think but they are beginning to think over these questions and they can see where they have been robbed in the past by high protective tariffs which they had formerly believed necessary because it was republican and Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves and held the union together. Sixteen years ago a life long republican told us that he would vote a republican ticket as long as they were printed and when they were no longer printed he would write the name republican at the head of his ballot and chuck it in. Such devotion and party worship has long been responsible for the evils of the times.

## FENCES ON PUBLIC LANDS.

There is a class of violations of the law, more or less technical in character, which no doubt should be prevented, but which lack that element of criminality which makes a base mind and reveals the presence of a spirit dangerous to the welfare of society. To this class belong a large percentage, if not all, those offenses which a number of years ago were committed by cattlemen who erected fences on the public lands.

It was a violation of the law to erect fences of that kind, but in the early days of the range it was so common a thing that nearly all cattlemen did it. The men who built the fences were good citizens, and those who survive are good citizens to this day. Some of them have done a great deal toward building up and developing the country. Instead of being enemies of society, they are its supporters and defenders. When the order came to remove the fences,

they complied, taking down those they had built and throwing the range open again.

A short time ago, however, a great crusade was started against the men who built those fences. Prosecutions were instituted against some of them, and in some cases convictions were obtained. Under these convictions some of the best men in the Western country are now suffering punishment under jail sentences. Not only has the stain of a criminal conviction been placed upon them, but they are made to suffer as though they belonged to the class of offenders of whose acts moral turpitude may be predicted. Yet they are not men who, were it not for their incarceration, would repeat the offense. Their removal of the fences shows their attitude in regard to the technically illegal character of their acts.

It should furthermore be observed that during the time the fences in question were in existence, little or no injury was done other men or the public in general. It is only recently, in consequence of the settlement of the range region by homesteaders, that material interests have been hurt by obstructions of that kind. The economic growth of the country has brought about a condition which makes a fence on the public lands an obstruction to the country's development. But there is no disposition now to erect illegal fences.

Under all these circumstances it would seem that public interests have been adequately served by the convictions, and that the government should not take upon itself the character of an avenger. The men now suffering terms of imprisonment are not criminals at heart. They are not bad men or "undesirable citizens." They are not a menace to society or to public welfare in any form. Instead of holding men of this kind in jail, the administration would do well to give them their liberty and allow them to return to their families and the many business matters which require their attention.—Denver Republican.

## COMMANDER SIMS WILL BE CENSURED

Washington, Jan. 11.—President Taft decided that Commander W. S. Sims, the United States naval officer who, at a recent dinner given in London by the mayor of that city, declared that if Great Britain ever was seriously threatened, it could depend on "every man, every dollar, every drop of blood in this country," should be publicly reprimanded.

"His offense has been so conspicuous," said the president in his letter to Secretary of the Navy Meyer, direct-



COMMANDER W.S. SIMS

ing the reprimand, "that the action of the department in reprimoving it should be equally so."

The president says that whenever an officer of the American navy "is called on in a foreign country to speak in public, so that what he says will necessarily be brought to the attention of the people of other foreign countries, it is his obvious duty to avoid invidious comparisons and to limit his speech and his expressions of friendship for the country whose guest he is to language that will not indicate a lack of friendship toward other countries."

Commander Sims cannot escape censure, the president holds, "on the ground that what he said was a mere expression of his personal opinion; under the circumstances he must speak as an official representative and he should have known that the words he used would at once call for severe comment in other countries than Great Britain and might involve this government in explanation and disclaimer."

## FIRST BILLS INTRODUCED

Initiative and Referendum Measure Heads the List.

## NEW OFFICERS TAKE THE OATH

Lincoln, Jan. 10.—After a morning session, in which nineteen bills were introduced, varying in subjects from initiative and referendum to a binding time plant at the penitentiary, the house adjourned to tomorrow morning. Gallagher, the thirteenth member of the committee on committees



SPEAKER KUHLE

is still absent and the committee failed to report.

The first important bill in the house was the initiative and referendum, introduced by Hatfield of Lancaster. It provides for initiating and that a popular vote on bills may be demanded from the legislature in session by the people. Ten per cent petitions will be necessary for initiating a bill and 5 per cent for demanding a referendum.

### Strong Legislature.

Both houses of the legislature contain many strong men and it is expected that the session will develop some leaders of more than ordinary merit and courage. Among those in the house who have had experience or who are looked to to take a prominent part in legislation are Gerdes of Richardson, Johnson of Tecumseh, Quackebush of Nemaha, Nelson of Dodge, Speaker Kuhl of Cedar, Mockett and Hatfield of Lancaster, Taylor of Merick, Evans of Adams, Sink of Hall and the author of the law providing for nine-foot bed sheets, Prince of Hall, Cronin of O'Neill, Bassett of Buffalo and Taylor of Hitchcock.

In the senate much is expected of President Morehead of Richardson, Judge Albert of Platte, an attorney who drafted the bank guaranty act, Ollis of Valley, Brown and Selleck of Lancaster, Jansen of Gage, Tibbets of Adams, Cordell of Red Willow and Hoagland of Lincoln.

### Bank Guaranty Act Valid.

One of the sensations at the capital last week was the decision of the supreme court of the United States upholding the validity of the bank guaranty act passed by the last session of the legislature. The act was suspended by an injunction issued by the circuit court of the United States and did not go into effect when the time came for it to be enforced. Now that it has been held valid it will be enforced, but it may be sixty days before this can be done, owing to time necessary to obtain a mandate from the court and the disposing of a motion for a rehearing. Whether or not all of the tax upon banks which was to have been collected last year will now be set aside for a guaranty fund, or whether the tax will be gathered from this time on at six months intervals, as provided in the law, has not yet been decided by the state officers who will have charge of the enforcement in the future. The old law is still in force.

Governor Shallenberger, in view of the decision of the court, recommended no new banking legislation. It is likely that little or no change will be made by this legislature in the guaranty law, there being a desire to have it tried before amendments are proposed. Some, however, hope to amend it by taking off the emergency tax of one per cent a year upon banks and to extend the time for payment of losses when a bank fails. The law now practically requires the immediate payment of depositors. An effort may also be made to amend the law by permitting the entire banking board to appoint bank examiners and officers and employees of the board. The guaranty law provides that the governor alone shall make all such appointments.

Thursday afternoon the inaugural ceremonies were held before the joint session and the new state officers were sworn in and took possession of their offices. In the evening a public reception was held at the state house. Governor Shallenberger, the retiring governor, and Governor Chester H. Aldrich of David City, the incoming gov-

ernor, delivered messages to the joint session in the afternoon, one giving the result of his experience in office together with recommendations, and the other expressing his desires for future legislation.

Both houses adjourned Thursday until Tuesday forenoon.

### Shallenberger Message.

The present open primary election law comes in for severe condemnation. The governor says of it that "it is open for the political pirate to clandestinely vote for a candidate whom he has no intention of supporting at the general election, while at the same time the honest voter is bound by the provisions of the law and his own sense of honor." The governor marshals a number of arguments against the primary system but concludes with a recommendation for an amendment of the present law so as to provide registration that would prevent invasion of one party's primaries by members of other parties. He thinks that the convention system has merits beyond those of the primary, but he doesn't believe the people will consent to give it up because it hasn't yet been worked out.

The governor recommends an amendment to the constitution giving the power of direct legislation to the people. He thinks that the amendment should discourage the submission of questions that should more properly be left to legislative action and thus prevent a deluge of measures at each election. He recommends that it provide that no law shall be enacted that does not receive a majority of the votes cast at the election, and that a vote in the party circle shall never be counted for a law even though a part of the party platform. He recommends that the amendment to be adopted shall require a petition of more than 10 per cent of the electorate of a state to initiate legislation and not less than 5 per cent to invoke the referendum.

The governor thinks the present state house is artistic and convenient, and that all the room needed can be secured by erecting a building on the ground opposite the state house now owned by it, to house the supreme court, the state library, the attorney general and the historical society. To build this he would levy 1 mill and with the remainder of the money rebuild the east wing of the capitol, redecorate the legislative chambers and by a judicious use of the cash on hand make the present building sufficient for all needs for years to come.

The governor recommends among other things:

That better salaries be paid the state officers; \$5,000 a year for the attorney general and treasurer, and increased salaries for all other state officers. The governor ought to be paid as much as a United States senator.

The creation of a non-partisan board of control of all state institutions. To prevent this board from making pull and not merit a potent factor, civil service examinations and a waiting list should be inaugurated.

The gradual removal of the state university to the state farm campus, and consolidation of all educational work there. This on the grounds of economy of operating expenses and to obviate the tremendous cost of increasing the bounds of the present campus.

The re-enactment of the law providing for non-partisan election of judges and school superintendents, omitting the sections that were declared bad by the court.

The election of six supreme court judges by congressional districts and of the chief justice at large. This to prevent the court being made up of one party only.

A four-year term for governor and all state officers, with right to hold office limited to one term. This would prevent use of position to re-elect officers.

That enough money be appropriated to finish the work of making a physical valuation of the railroads of the state. He recommends making the same valuation of express, telegraph and telephone companies.

The creation of the office of public weighmaster and scale inspector to insure correct weights to the people and the extension to other industries of the right now guaranteed elevator men to secure necessary facilities to do business.

That the attorney general be directed to at once proceed to forfeit the charters of all corporations that have refused to pay state corporation tax.

That the Sackett law be amended so that the governor may hear charges against delinquent public officers and suspend them. The present system is objected to as too slow and cumbersome. If this were done the laws now on the statute books, especially those relating to the sale of liquors, could be enforced.

### Views of Governor Aldrich.

Peppery and plain is the language used by Governor Aldrich in his inaugural. He tells the people that, un mindful of the lesson of the election, the breweries and liquor lobby have financed a combination to defeat county option and direct legislation. He promises that if the legislature will help he will make Lincoln too hot for their personal health.

In his message the governor urges the passage of direct legislation and county option; the restoration of the closed primary; strengthening of the anti-trust law; giving cities the power to make their own charters; ratification of the income tax amendment; favoring the use of voting machines; overhauling of the registration law to prevent certificate frauds; liberal appropriations. He wants the legislature to eschew party politics, pass needed laws and adjourn by March 1.

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### Seward Man Shoots Wife and Self.

Seward, Neb., Jan. 11.—Word was received in Seward from San Diego, Cal., that Fred Bick, a former Seward boy, shot his wife, killing her, and then took his own life with the same weapon. Bick grew to manhood in Seward and was well known here. He married a Seward girl, Miss Lillie Pendell. They moved to California several years ago, and at the time of the tragedy Mr. Bick was operating a laundry in San Diego.

### Reciting Scared Him Speechless.

Lincoln, Jan. 11.—Elmer Dill, a student in the university, intended when called upon to recite in a history class to Professor Caldwell. The professor rushed to his assistance and reached him in time to be almost bowled over by his fall and was helped by a football player, who sprang to the rescue. Dill recovered in a few minutes and is none the worse for the incident. It has not developed whether he knew his lesson or not.

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