

POINTS IN POLITICS.

THE publication of Mr. Bryan's letter, closely followed by the call for the free silver conference, has excited a great deal of interest in this state, notwithstanding the attempts of Mr. Annin, the Washington correspondent of the *Journal*, to throw cold water on the congressman's spectacular play. That the call for a free silver conference was act No. 2 in a concerted scheme for the formation of a new Bryan party in Nebraska, there is no doubt. It will meet with active opposition on the part of old line democrats, and some independents who are in favor of keeping their party organization intact. The democrats and populists whose only political principle is their worship of Mr. Bryan, will of course, gladly fall into line under the banner of Mr. Bryan and free silver. But democrats like J. Sterling Morton and Albert Watkins and N. S. Harwood have some influence within their party, and that influence will be exerted to the utmost to defeat the scheme of Mr. Bryan for queering the democratic party. These men have something of a pull in the manipulation of state conventions, as Mr. Bryan will find out when the regular democratic state convention is held. The entire strength of the administration in this state will be used against the congressman, and the effect may be disastrous to the soaring ambition of that gentleman.

It has been noticed that Mr. Tommy Allen is one of the enthusiastic supporters of the free silver conference. Now, Mr. Allen is an employe of the government and as such is ostensibly an administration democrat. In this instance his zeal for Mr. Bryan seems to have overcome his obligation to the administration, and he must find himself in a very embarrassing position, because the free silver project which he advocates, is very distasteful to Mr. Cleveland and his friends. Mr. Harley also is in a predicament. His sympathies, of course, are with Mr. Bryan, but holding an important government position with a lucrative salary thereto attached, he will doubtless find it very profitable to maintain a diplomatic reticence.

It has been held by some democrats that Mr. Bryan does not desire the nomination for governor; that he would prefer to have some one else nominated and then take the stump for that man, for the state ticket and for himself as a candidate for the United States senate. But there is little doubt but that the congressman would much prefer to be nominated for governor himself by the populists and democrats and try to climb into the senate through the executive office. There are a good many men in the populist party as well as in the democratic party who are opposed to Mr. Bryan for this office because they want it themselves and for other reasons, and the scheme to make Bryan a gubernatorial candidate will meet with a good many more or less serious obstacles. Mr. Gaffin and the Schraders and the Elders and even Mayor Weir, will have no acute desire to see Mr. Bryan secure this nomination. They will block up the way. There are not as many democrats who desire a nomination for governor, as there are populists, but the anti-Bryanites will doubtless find some one of their number willing to sacrifice himself in order to help defeat the congressman.

A review of the situation at this time seems to develop the fact that while there may be a so-called new party or fusion, there will, nevertheless be three or four distinct and regularly nominated candidates for governor. So that the way before Mr. Bryan is not by any means clear.

The republican situation is somewhat changed. Three months ago McColl had not yet announced his candidacy, and Mr. Raymond of this city was still a dark horse. Tom Majors was the only open and avowed candidate and everything, apparently, seemed to be coming his way. It was freely predicted that he would be nominated on the first ballot, with practically no opposition; but the times and conditions have changed. Jack McColl, who had for months been working up his case, suddenly jumped into the breach and now for the past thirty days there has been a very rapid acceleration in the movement of the McColl boom, principally in the western part of the state. The McColl shouters have a way of making a vast amount of noise. There was an hegira of McCollites toward Omaha last week, the occasion being the meeting of the republican state central committee. To all intents and purposes this meeting was

really a sort of a preliminary McColl convention. It became early manifest that the organization of the republican state central committee was not only opposed to Majors; but was strongly in favor of McColl's candidacy. Col. Majors had some few followers present, and these gentlemen asserted that there was no special significance in the demonstration at Omaha, that their time would come later, at the state convention. It is known that Majors himself is entirely confident, and that he will fight to the end.

The announcement of Mr. I. M. Raymond's candidacy caused something of a change in the political situation. The fact that Mr. Raymond is in the same part of the state with Tom Majors and in a county where the latter expected to receive considerable support, has had the effect of materially weakening Majors. At first it seemed as though Raymond's strength, should he receive the endorsement of Lancaster county, would come very largely from Majors men. But later indications are that he would also draw from the western part of the state, as well as from the east. The expressions of newspapers in Mr. McColl's district, and letters received by Mr. Raymond and his friends in this city, would show that there is a strong tendency in the western part of the state to give Raymond a show. Mr. Raymond is looked upon as a representative business man and there seems to be a sentiment, more or less general, that it would not be a bad idea to nominate for governor a man who is something besides a politician. It has been urged by Majors' men that Mr. Raymond's candidacy is in the interest of Jack McColl. Nothing could be more absurd than this. Raymond is not a man to make a bluff of this sort. He is, as is very well known, in the race for himself alone. He has nothing in common with either Majors or McColl. He thinks there is a fair prospect that he may receive the nomination, and he is determined to use all honorable means to secure it.

Although there are many candidates for state offices in this county it looks as though the situation in Lancaster would simmer down to a straight out and out contest between Raymond for governor and R. E. Moore, for lieutenant governor. Mr. Raymond will of course have his own ward, the Third, and probably several others, also some outside precincts, to begin with. Mr. Moore will have to fight for his ward. L. L. H. Austin, candidate for state superintendent of public instruction, is thoroughly in earnest in his desire to secure that office, and he will contest every inch of the ground in the Fifth ward with Mr. Moore. Apparently a large majority of the active workers in that precinct are for Austin, and very thorough work will be done in his behalf. It looks now as though Austin would secure the ward. F. D. McClusky of the Fifth is also a candidate for the nomination for state superintendent of public instruction, and Tom Munger of the same ward wants to be nominated for representative.

The Sixth ward as usual bobs up with a spirited fight. Col. L. C. Pace and Paul F. Clark are both possessed of an enthusiastic desire to become members of the next legislature and receive \$300 for three months service and have the privilege of having Hon. prefixed to their names. Mr. Clark as the president of the Young Men's Republican club naturally has the support of the young men in his ward; he is also fortunate in having on his side the factors that have achieved success in the recent political campaigns in that precinct.

John C. Fremont McKesson of Emerald precinct, who has been mentioned for almost every office in the state from congressman down, will probably content himself with running for the house of representatives again. Owing to the multiplicity of candidates for state offices in Lancaster county, it is hardly probable that he would venture to apply for the nomination for secretary of state.

So far there has been nothing done in the way of preparing for the republican state league convention to be held in this city on the 12th of June. The Young Men's Republican club through its executive committee will, however, show its accustomed activity and will doubtless see to it that the delegates to the state convention are received in a proper manner. Lancaster county will have between 150 and 200 delegates in the convention, all of whom will be for W. F. Collins, for the president of the state league. Mr. Collins has also the assurance of support from other counties, the First con-