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## OBSERVATIONS

Perhaps some people are disposed to overestimate the importance of the issues involved in the ante-convention campaign in the republican party in this state. It may be after all, that it is in bad taste to protest. Really, on second thought, it doesn't make much difference what is done at the coming state convention. For the men who are nominated July 1 will, the ensuing November, be elected only to state offices—a mere governor and auditor and treasurer, etc. These men are simply to be intrusted with the administration of the business of an unimportant state—Nebraska, comprising a mere handful of people, only about a million.

Of course, there are questions of taxes, and the handling and expenditure of state funds, and a dozen other inconsequential topics of similar import, but then these things do not affect the people, and there is scarcely any reason why they should take any interest in the matter of the selection of the party's candidates. The outcome being of no importance it is just as well, if not better, to leave the nominations to the small coterie of gentlemen who have kindly taken it upon themselves to relieve the party of the burden of responsibility. By all means tell the members of the philanthropic political syndicate to go ahead and pick out our governor and other officers for us. We are too busy to attend to such things and then the syndicate is so much better qualified for this duty. If the gentlemen of the syndicate take entire charge of all matters of this sort we would have so much more time in which to read the newspapers and learn of atrocities in Cuba, McKinley's triumph, official maladministration, shortages in the accounts of public officers, political corruption, etc. It is certainly much more profitable to improve the mind by

reading and learning of such things as these than to bother ourselves about such mere trifles as who shall be the republican nominees for governor, treasurer, auditor, secretary, commissioner, etc. etc.

We ought to be thankful that there is in the republican party of Nebraska a benevolent syndicate not only willing but anxious to assume all the functions of the party. When Fox made up his book of Martyrs the crop did not become extinct. It is good to know that there are those among us who are willing to sacrifice themselves for the weal of the body politic.

A correspondent who is enthusiastically optimistic forwards the following from Lexington, Neb.

"To the Editor—Nebraska, in this May month 1896, never looked so radiant as now. The heavens have wept that our fields might smile. The air is fragrant with the delicate odor of new blossoms. The trees hang heavy with foliage. The birds sing aloud in a joyful note. There is promise everywhere. The people have emerged from discouragement and taken their places on the field of hope. Prosperity impends and happiness is become more than a meaningless word. This is going to be a great year in Nebraska. We are going to raise more sugar beets, more corn, more oats, more alfalfa—the biggest crops ever raised in this state. We are going to see caravans of returning pilgrims and new home-seekers moving westward from the Missouri river. We are going to see our farms sought for, and our cities filled up with new comers. We are going to see all the people join hands in a great endeavor to realize the new Nebraska, the dawn of a new era of public spirit, patriotism, enterprise. From this on we are going to put all that is greatest and best forward, and push upward for the highest development of our great state. Our political parties, realizing the responsibility that is upon them in this critical time, are going to take the lead in promoting the welfare of the state. They are going to stand up for Nebraska by stamping under foot the little men, the clap-trap politicians, the schemers and fixers, and taking up as candidates for the big state's big offices the biggest men they can find, to the end that in Nebraska we may elect men who will be an honor and credit to the new, revived Nebraska. We are going to take a big step forward in this year 1896."

This correspondent appears to be laboring under the impression that Nebraska amounts to something and is worth taking care of. Inasmuch as the conclusion has just been reached in these columns that it really makes no difference what becomes of the state, I am under the necessity of declaring this friend from Lexington, which, by the way, is the home of the Honorable "Jack" Hankering McColl, foolishly serious.

It may be of interest to the people of Nebraska to know that the coming session of the legislature will be distinguished for at least one thing. For the past twenty years, at the biennial sessions, there has been a sufficient quantity of oil to keep the members from corroding. But arrangements are now being made to produce a supply of legislative lubricant altogether unparalleled in the history of the state. The oil producer, vulgarly known as the lobby will make a specialty of looking after insurance joints.

It is understood that certain persons have prepared embarrassing questions touching the insurance issue which, at the proper time, will be propounded to candidates for the legislature. At the coming session an effort will be made to repeal the valued policy law, and the insurance lobby will endeavor to pass such other laws as will make it impossible for the mutual insurance companies to do business in this state.

Next November when Mr. McKinley reads the returns of elections throughout the country; next March when Mr. Cleveland shall gather together his dogs and guns and say a long farewell to the White House, and make way for the new president, the distinguished Ohioan will feel all the exultation and exaltation of victory, the consciousness of being first in a nation of sixty million people. But the satisfaction that will come to Mr. McKinley on these occasions can scarcely be greater than that which he enjoys at the present moment, or will enjoy next month. At the triumphant close of the American revolution, the two political parties then existing united in the selection of Washington as the first president of the United States, and four years later they again united to elect him. All the members of both parties wanted him. When Munroe was chosen president for the second time in 1821 the people of the United States showed their confidence in him by giving him an electoral vote which lacked only one of being unanimous. The first national convention of the republican party met on the 17th of June, 1856. John C. Fremont was nominated for president on the first ballot, receiving 359 votes to 196 for John McLean. In 1860 William H. Seward, prior to the convention, was supposed to be the leading aspirant for the nomination for president, and he led on the first and second ballots. In 1864 at Baltimore, Lincoln was nominated by acclamation. In 1868 Grant was nominated for president by acclamation; and 1872 he was given the nomination a second time by acclamation. Hayes was nominated for president in 1876 on the seventh ballot by a vote of 384 to 351 for Blaine and 31 for Bristow. In 1880 it took thirty-six ballots to nominate a candidate for president, the vote standing on the first ballot Garfield, 390; Grant, 306; Blaine, 42; Sherman, 3; Wasburne 5. In 1884 Blaine won after a contest, and in 1888 Blaine

cabled a disavowal of candidacy from abroad and Harrison was made the republican nominee. In 1892 Harrison was bitterly opposed, but was successful in securing a second nomination.

Assuming then that McKinley will be nominated by acclamation in St. Louis it will be seen that his triumph is comparable to Washington's and Munroe's and Lincoln's and Grant's. Lincoln's renomination by acclamation, with the war unfinished, came as a matter of course. Grant owed his unanimous nomination to his services in the civil war. McKinley's triumph is different from these and proves that peace hath her victories no less renowned than war.

In 1892 the people thought they had enough of the McKinley tariff and they gave the country over to the democrats. In four years the pendulum of public sentiment swings back, and the author of the repudiated tariff law is demanded by the rank and file of the party from Maine to California as the party's choice for president. McKinley entered the contest with the people with him, and the bosses against him. From the first he has won steadily, and Platt and Quay and Clarkson and Manley, with their diminutive candidates will find themselves in the same position in St. Louis that Napoleon found himself in in Waterloo, only more so. The enthusiasm for McKinley, in a time of peace like the present, is absolutely unprecedented in the history of the country, and certainly presages an overwhelming republican victory in November.

When Marcus Aurelius Hanna said that Thomas Corall-em-Platt is "only a baby in politics," some people thought the new Richmond a little presumptuous. But subsequent events have tended to develop the idea that Mr. Hanna is a man of excellent judgment.

There seems to be an issue in this county, either real or imaginary, as to whether the papers in certain cases at law shall, at the discretion of some officer, be withheld from the press. It is seriously contended by some esteemed attorneys and equally esteemed court officers that the element of publicity should be removed from the trial of certain cases. And this in the age of cathode rays and electric lights. Along in the dark ages the law moved in a mysterious, secret way its atrocities to perform. Decrees emanated from sequestered places, and justice walked in a shroud. Corruption danced in diabolical glee in the black corridors. Centuries passed. Enlightenment came to the people. The dark ages faded away. Publicity entered the judgment halls and secrecy was cast out of the courts. Justice, still a trifle halt, dropped her shroud and donned a new garb, and her scales, weighed and balanced in the public gaze, measured and adjusted differences with some