

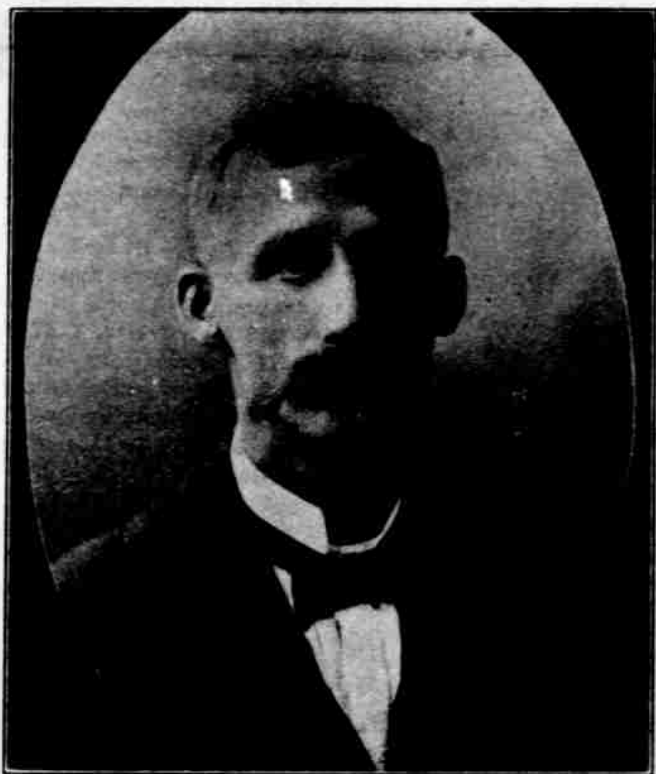
IN THE REALM OF POLITICS

The honor of a politician is a curious thing. It is easily touched and it is easily satisfied. A recent incident in Dodge county politics is a case in point. Ross Hammond has for four years been postmaster at Fremont, a position he earned by consistent, earnest work, not only for the party but for the selfish interests of various individuals. He supposed that as the party had again been victorious nationally he would be called upon to serve his country and his townspeople in the postoffice for four years more. Suddenly he woke up to the fact that Dan Swanson, erstwhile his friend and ally, was after the place. Dan had been representative in the last session and his vote for senator was largely guided by R. B. Schneider, who is the political mentor of Mr. Hammond. Mr. Schneider had taken Daniel unto the heights and showed him a fair array of offices, any of which should be his for the asking. When the time came to fulfill the promises Mr. Schneider was painfully shy of delivery. After Dan had been pulled hither and thither in pursuit of something he could not corral, he began to grow suspicious that he was about to get what is technically known as the dinky dink, or as Mr. Noah Webster succinctly defines it, the throw-down.

It was then he called upon L. D. Richards, who had been deposed as Mr. Hammond's mentor by his former protege, Mr. Schneider. Mr. Richards agreed to help Dan get the postoffice.

They worked silently and swiftly and before Hammond fairly awoke to the situation Dan had all the endorsements floating around save that of Mr. Schneider, who is national committeeman. Ross has not been upon the political earth a number of years without acquiring that subtlety of feeling that enables a man to know when he is up against it. Now he did not care so much about the salary attached to the office, because he then had a good, profitable business, but if he was not re-nominated it would be construed as a turning-down. There was where his political honor became involved. In the lexicon of politics there is no word surrounded with more dread alarm than that of turned-down. The possibility of it attaching to his fair fame sickened the brave heart of the editor-postmaster. He and Mr. Schneider immediately got their heads together and evolved a plan. It was that, to secure what he really thinks is a vindication and to avoid the possibility of the epithet of "turned down" being applied to him, a proposition should be made Swanson.

This was that Swanson should agree to allow Hammond to be named. This would enable him to triumph over his enemies and give them the merry ha-ha. At the same time Swanson would have Hammond's written agreement to resign within a given time and promised Hammond's influence for Swanson as his successor. Swanson saw therein a certainty, and they agreed.



It was in the days of the civil war when M. D. Clary was less than a dozen years of age, that his republicanism was born. Living with his parents at that time in West Virginia and lying between the opposing armies, Mr. Clary naturally took a zealous interest in the war. Not only did its glamour attract him, but he was concerned with all the lively fancy of a boy because his two elder brothers were northern soldiers. Ever since, he has been unswervingly republican.

Though Mr. Clary claims West Virginia as his natal land, he was born in Maryland. While still a baby his parents removed to West Virginia and there he lived until in 1867, when his parents moved west, locating in Polk county, Ia. There on a farm he lived until he was twenty-one years of age. Then he located near Dallas Center, Ia., and went into the cattle business. For three years this engrossed his attention and then under a republican administration, on July 9, 1893, he was appointed postmaster at that town. In this capacity he served four years. While in the office he learned of Lincoln and its inviting prospects. He concluded he was invited, and accepted. That was fifteen years ago. During his entire career in Lincoln he has been engaged in the cigar and tobacco business. Part of the time he wholesaled in it, but eventually he cut that out.

His political ambitions have not been many. Once before, two years ago, he was a candidate for the council in the First ward, and was defeated by just nine votes, Bob Malone taking the victory. He was also defeated for the excise board nomination last spring. These are the only instances of his candidacy for office, but he has always been active in the interest of his friends when they were candidates.

In addition to a common school education, Mr. Clary attended college at Indianola, Ia., a few years, though he did not graduate. He is married, but has no children.



Charles E. Wilkinson, republican candidate for councilman in the Second ward, is a native of Indiana. He is fifty years of age and first came to Lincoln in 1880. Since then he has resided in various sections of the state, but has always considered Lincoln his home.

Mr. Wilkinson received his education at the Methodist college in Brookville, Indiana. At the age of nineteen he began "railroading" and has followed that calling for thirty-one years. At present he is foreman at the Burlington freight depot.

In regard to politics Mr. Wilkinson has always been a republican. Never but once has he been an officeholder. In 1890, while residing in Broken Bow, he was elected mayor on a citizens' ticket. In 1896 Mr. Wilkinson was made president of the railway men's republican sound money club, an organization that enjoyed the unique distinction of being the first of its kind in the United States.

In the recent contest at the primaries he won the nomination in the Second ward, where he has been a resident and property holder for many years. He is thoroughly conversant with the needs of his neighbors and is well acquainted with all the voters.

Ed. H. Wilkinson, a son of the subject of this sketch, is also employed by the Burlington and holds the position of cashier in Omaha. He was reared in Lincoln and is well known here.

Later Richards kicked over this agreement, and it became a fight between Hammond and Swanson. Schneider would not endorse Swanson and Millard would not appoint Hammond. He, in fact, would not appoint anyone until the Dodge county leaders got together. This meant an outsider. Hammond would not get his vindication and Swanson would not get his office. And so they got together. Hammond has been reappointed but is to resign before the first of the year and Dan is to get three years picking of the plums. If this agreement could have been kept secret Hammond would have had his vindication, but the publicity of the whole affair robs his seeming triumph of that genuine satisfaction that comes to the man who wins out. Most men would have insisted upon four years more or none at all, but so long as Mr. Hammond is satisfied there is nothing more to say. It is possible that in view of the great disaster that fell upon Mr. Hammond Tuesday, when the accrued labors of twenty years were wiped out by fire in a few hours, arrangements may be made to permit him to continue as postmaster for the full term. The services he has rendered Fremont both in a business and an editorial capacity entitle him to this assistance, just now, and no one would object to this recognition of his past efforts.

Next Thursday the republican state committee will meet in this city and determine on a date for the state nominating convention. The general opinion seems to favor setting the time in the latter part of May or the early part of June. The reason back of the opinion is apparent to the most superficial observer.

The contest before the convention is to be between Governor Savage and his opponents, and the whole issue will revolve about the pardon of Joseph Bartley. There is no escaping the conclusion that sentiment throughout the state at present is strongly against the governor on this one act of his administration. Savage's enemies are in control of the state machinery. The

convention that made the committeemen is the same convention that passed a resolution condemning the parole of the ex-state treasurer and demanded that he be returned to prison at once. If these men would take advantage of the general hostile feeling, brevity of time will be of the essence of their success. The longer they delay the more they endanger their cause.

From the other side it is hinted that the governor has not yet played his highest card. From those who are in a position to know comes the word that it is yet within the power of Governor Savage to make himself the next nominee. The big trump is in his hand, and all it requires is the courage to lay it down. No one yet has doubted the courage of the governor and it is possible that he will do the very thing his opponents least suspect. If he does so act an early convention will be more to his liking than to his disadvantage.

On the heels of the announcement of the meeting of the republican committee came the proclamation of the democrats and populists calling their state committees together in this city one day ahead of the republicans, Wednesday, March 19th. Just what this means the republicans are wondering, and in many quarters there is a suspicion that the fusionists intend doing a little forestalling.

It has been suggested, and not without a showing of color, that, when they meet in joint session after the respective wings have completed the preliminary matters for which they have been called to consider, they will proceed to pass a few resolutions on matters pertaining to what will apparently be issues in the coming state campaign. It is not difficult to foretell the things that will receive public attention throughout the fall, and few could miss very far the tenor of the platforms the various parties will adopt. If the fusionists can get together first and commit themselves on certain issues they will thus, they figure, get ahead of their opponents and have the credit of leading the procession in matters of reform.