

REVIEWING THE POLITICAL FIELD

Judge Hamer's strongest campaign card is, of course, his ability as a jurist. But in addition to this he has a strong card in his geographical location. There are seven judges of the supreme court. Not one of them lives upwards of 100 miles from the Missouri river—leaving that vast stretch of territory, 300 miles west of York and Norfolk absolutely without representation on the bench. In other words, four-fifths of the area of the state, and one-half of the people are not represented upon the bench by a judge who is acquainted with conditions and needs. It may be said that these things have no bearing on the question of a supreme judgeship, but the fact remains that very often justice depend upon local conditions, and even laws are sometimes found to hinge on matters that are ordinarily of local import. But Judge Hamer's candidacy is entitled to consideration for many reasons. He is a lawyer of ability and a jurist whose work shows for itself. He has helped to make many of the laws of Nebraska, just as he has helped to make Nebraska. As a homesteader, a pioneer lawyer, a jurist of the early day and a citizen of unblemished character, he is entitled to the support of the voters who think more of men than of party.

The courts lay great stress upon precedent, therefore this newspaper may be pardoned for insisting that precedent be followed in the matter of selecting our judicial officers. For years on end it has been customary to graduate our county judges from the police court bench and our district court judges from the county court bench. There is no reason why this precedent should not be followed this year by promoting Police Judge Risser to the probate bench and County Judge Cosgrave to the district bench. Both of these gentlemen have shown their ability, and both have made enviable records.

Judge Cornish has earned a re-election. He has eschewed politics and has attended strictly to the business which the people employed him to transact. A study of the records will show that he has been not only faithful but unusually correct in his judgments. In other words, Judge Cornish has been the faithful servant who is entitled not only to the thanks of the people, but to a strong endorsement in the way of a re-election.

If Judge Sanborn's decision is good law, then there is no use in our growing excited over the matter of electing a railway commissioner. That decision makes of the railway commissioners mere

clerks whose sole duties will be to insist that depots be scrubbed out once in a while, or holes in platforms covered over, or crossing made safe. So far as regulation is concerned, if the Sanborn decision shall stand, the commissioners will have about as much weight as a pith ball in a vacuum. But the Sanborn decision will stand only for the length of time necessary for the people to consign it to oblivion, hence we are going to insist that the voters of Nebraska owe it to themselves to be very careful whom they elect to the commission. W. J. Furse, appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Cowgill, is the logical man. He is experienced, is a lawyer of ability and the only one on the commission, is geographically right and fitted in every way to give the people the best service. Mr. Furse is not a candidate because he "needs the job." On the contrary he is a candidate in response to a legitimate demand for the services of a man of his calibre.

This newspaper is not prepared to second the World-Herald's demand for the election of democrats to the supreme bench on the ground that democrats are entitled to representation. But it is prepared to demand that the supreme bench be relieved of the suspicion now entertained that it is too much beholden to partisan favor.

As long as there is a prevailing suspicion that partisanship has played too large a part in supreme court affairs, just so long will the court be handicapped. And everybody who knows anything at all about Nebraska politics knows that more than one of our supreme judges owes his place to partisan scheming more than to any evidenced ability for the high place. Will Maupin's Weekly is in favor of electing a democrat or two to the bench, not because they are democrats, but because their election will serve to relieve the court of some grave suspicions. And we want a court above suspicion in order that we may have the proper respect for it.

When Judge Willard E. Stewart was a candidate for the bench the first time this newspaper, then under another name, was not at all favorable to his candidacy. But his service upon the bench has been of such a character that we, being of open and fair mind, are impelled to admit that our preconceived notions of Judge Stewart were erroneous, and that he has "made good." For this reason Will Maupin's Weekly is heartily in favor of Judge Stewart's re-election. He has attended strictly to his judicial duties, has

administered the laws with impartial justice, and has comported himself with dignity. In short, his services have been of that character that recommends him to the people. This newspaper has watched Judge Stewart's official career closely, rather selfishly looking for a vindication of its opposition to him during his first campaign. Happily for the public that vindication of our opposition failed to materialize, and now we are ready and willing to admit, openly and above board, that the opposition was unfounded. And, too, after thinking it over carefully, we are glad our fears proved unfounded. His services have been excellent, and because thereof, Judge Stewart is clearly entitled to an endorsement of his record.

"Gus" Hyers is giving us a genuine example of the virile young man in politics. He is making a clean, vigorous and effective campaign for the republican nomination for sheriff, and because of his ability, coupled with a personal regard for him, this newspaper is "for him." Being somewhat given to being open and above board in our remarks concerning judges and courts we may at any time be haled into court for contempt. This being the case we can imagine of no greater solace for the hurt than to have such a splendid officer as "Gus" will make charged with the duty of yanking us before the outraged official upon the bench. But more than that, we can imagine of no better man for such an important position as sheriff.

Paul Clark has been besought to sacrifice himself and his business and help rescue the First district from the clutches of the democrats. The indications are that Mr. Clark will rush to the rescue. But he is not going to have easy sailing, either in the primaries, nor before the people if he gets away with the nomination. Admitting Mr. Clark's superior skill as a political manager, and admitting his strength as a campaigner, the fact still remains that Mr. Clark has been before the public long enough to have made a record, and it is upon that record as a whole that he must stand or fall. Lincoln is vitally interested in the effects of some transportation legislation for which Paul Clark is responsible.

Our good friend Henry C. Richmond intimates that Bernard McNeny of Red Cloud—also our good friend—is casting eyes upon the democratic senatorial nomination. After cogitating the matter for several days we have reached the conclusion that Richmond is trying to perpetrate a joke on us. Not that Mr. Mc-