### THE NEBRASKA SCENE

by James R. Lowell

cratic state conventions and nu- of the state's congressional dismerous county conventions have tricts. In Colorado, petitions condeclared for some change in the taining the names of two per cent primary that will insure the select- of the total vote cast for the leadion of better qualified persons for public office than were selected in several of the contests in the recent primary election.

Numerous suggestions have been made, and they may be boiled down as follows:

1. Adoption of the primary system now used by Colorado-a law permitting indorsement of two or more candidates by party conventions before the primary election, and allowing other candidates to enter if they present a petition bearing enough names.

2. Narrowing the elective field to possibly three offices whereby a governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general would be elected, leaving the other officers to be filled by appointment. This would reasonably insure qualified officers for such positions as state treasurer where qualification is the entire qualification and party lines have nothing to do with it. The elective officers, of course, would he held accountable for their choice in appointments.

3. Making the filing fees larger so as to shut out the unemployed and border-line candidates. (This course is not compatible with our democratic system of government.

4. Go back to the old convention system whereby two candidates are selected for each place. This would return the primary to the old evil of strict party control and the possibility of "buying" candidates.

5. A "run-off" primary after the conventional primary election, in which the two high candidates would contest. This would have the advantage of narrowing the field to the point where the voters could inform themselves as to the merits of the respective candidates, but would add considerable cost to the election system.

Anyway the voter looks at it, the fact remains that some of the present elective offices such as secretary of state and state treasurer could be better filled by appoint-

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IN THE YEARS TO COME?

ment than by election. The Colorado system which is ion are required.

upheld by a majority of Nebraska's If a candidate is uncertain of his cans at their state conventions, ballot. The endorsed candidates state's primary laws. The league She was a primary candidate political observers, provides that a party strength, he may obtain 300 provides that all candidates, other would be placed at the head of the is adamant in its resistance to any against Governor Cochran in 1934, It has been definitely decided by candidate to gain a place on the signatures on a petition and have than the governor and those now ballot in the order of their prefer- attempt to revert back to the old but after her defeat she supported political observers that there is party ticket at the primary may his name placed on the general elected by non-political ballot, be ence. "Other persons may file as convention system of nominating Cochran for the general election, plenty of room for reform in the approach the goal by either of two election ticket as an independent nominated at party conventions candidates for party nomination candidates. Nebraska primary election sys- routes. He may gain the party candidate. However, as an inde- held before the primary election. but their names shall be rotated as tem, but the next question is what endorsement, or if he fears he can-pendent, he cannot use the words The essential points of the Colora- between themselves and shall folto do? and is the majority of opin- not muster the necessary support "republican" or "democrat" in his do law are contained in this pro- low the names of endorsed candi- social security program which as- expenditure of more than \$1,000,ion in the state in favor of such in the party convention, he may party designation. The Colorado posal. place his name on the primary bal- system has been effective in secur-Both the republican and demo- lot by circulating petitions in each ing qualified persons as candidates. vention endorsement, should receive oppose any change of the present past month rather quietly, while in monthly grants to needy famil-

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The primary law amendment one-third or more of the votes of primary system is the Nebraska old age pensions have held the (Continued on page 8, column 1.)

ing candidate at the previous elect- proposal discussed by a joint com- the convention in order to have League of Women Voters, which spotlight. Mrs. Maude Nuquist is mittee of democrats and republi- their names placed on the primary will oppose drastic changes in the the state child welfare director.

and the governor saw fit to reward her capabilities by appointment.

That part of the state-federal Mrs. Nuquist will supervise the sists dependent and crippled child- 000 this year. Thru county agen-Candidates to receive party con- Conspicious among those who ren has been functioning for the cies will be distributed \$1,026,549

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