

# TALKING OF MEN AND THINGS

The city attorney has decided that Mr. Cochrane can not withdraw his name from the primary ticket. This may be good law. But if we remember rightly the Committee of Fifty considered withdrawing Mayor Love's name for the purpose of forcing the "wets" into an untenable position. It was finally decided to retain him as the republican candidate because the word "republican" was thought to be a valuable asset in Lincoln. What we want to know is: If the Committee of Fifty, of which Mr. Flansburg is either a member or a legal advisor, could withdraw Mayor Love's name for strategical purposes, why is it illegal for Mr. Cochrane to withdraw for the same purpose?

Representative Randall of Texas announces himself as a candidate for United States senator from that state. This means that Randall will contest for the place with Joseph W. Bailey. Will Maupin's Weekly is not conversant with the Randall record, but it's dollars to doughnuts that it is not nearly so full of vanity, shiftiness and audaciousness as the Bailey record. Governor Colquitt neglected a golden opportunity to confer a favor upon the democracy of the nation and upon the whole state of Texas when he failed to jump at a chance to make a Bailey's resignation a fact.

Political prognosticators pretend to see something significant in Mr. Bryan's recent visit to Governor Wilson of New Jersey. They may be right, and again they may not. But there is no gainsaying the fact that Governor Wilson looms large upon the horizon of presidential possibilities. But it is some fifteen or sixteen months ere the democratic national convention meets, and there may be a lot of political changes wrought within that time. Governor Harmon is going to show up with big backing, and ex-Governor Folk will have a sizeable bunch of delegates ready to go to the last ditch with him. The prognosticators seem to be overlooking Mr. Bryan's little reference to Governor Hoke Smith at a banquet pulled off in Atlanta recently. Time was, and recently, when the democrats were limited to a very narrow field of choice in the matter of presidential candidates, but that time is not now.

On the other hand, the g. o. p. is up against it pretty hard. The Big Noise of Oyster Bay is again out on a bloviating stunt, and that doesn't listen good to the Taft people. If Taft is not re-nominated who will be the g. o. p. presidential candidate? LaFollette? He would sit about as well on the stomach of "Big Business" as a hard boiled egg on the stomach of a typhoid fever patient. And even if it is Taft, that will be something of a dose for progressive republicans to swallow.

"A Bigger, Broader, Busier Lincoln" is the slogan of the Business Men's association. The real worth of that slogan, however, depends considerably upon what is meant by the word "broader."

The Iowa legislature is still wasting a couple of thousands of the taxpayers' money every day, fooling around on the senatorship question. We used to do that same foolish thing over here in Nebraska, but we quit. It took us just three days to elect a senator. One day spent at the election booths, one day in separate session of the two branches of the legislature, and one

day in joint session. Iowa wanted to do the thing the same way hereafter, but Governor Carroll said nay. The reasons he gave were about what would naturally be expected from a kindergarten kiddie.

A Paris, paper, "The Eclair," seems to have the right dope on this Mexico-Japanese—Uncle Sam situation in the southwest. It says: "The purpose of the mobilization is two-fold—to warn Mexico to be more careful of her foreign policy, and to obtain economic concessions desired by the trusts." If that latter clause does not cover the situation, then Will Maupin's Weekly is mistaken.

This newspaper does not take much stock in the report that Japan is trying to secure a coaling station off the coast of Mexico. In the first place Mexico knows that Uncle Sam wouldn't stand for such a violation of the Monroe doctrine, and in the second place Japan knows Uncle Sam wouldn't stand for it. And the cocky Jap, vain as he is, has no immediate desire to go up against Uncle Sam. Besides, Japan is carrying about all the war load it can conveniently carry. In case that nation should desire to engage in war with the United States, where would she get the money? Will some one please inform us what financial concern would undertake to finance Japan in a scrap with us? It takes dollars as well as men to wage war, and the dollar usually receives the first consideration.

University removal looks like a winner. Will Maupin's Weekly would prevent the consummation of the scheme to lug the university proper out to the state farm if it could. Admitting that the removal might work to the advantage of the university, this paper believes that it would result in injury to the agricultural college, and its first consideration is for the farm school. That is the big educational asset of this state. It should not be mixed up with any other educational enterprise. The graduates it is turning out are of vastly more benefit to Nebraska than the graduates of the institution down town, for they are fitted to be producers—the future developers of Nebraska's greatest possibilities.

One of the humorous features of the legislature developed at a meeting of the house committee on labor Tuesday evening, when the paid attorney of a lot of employers opposed the employer's liability bill on the ground that it was an injustice to the employe as well as the employer.

Postmaster Thomas of Omaha is having his troubles these days. He is charged with having been perniciously active during the recent campaign, raising a "jackpot" for Burket and plugging the postoffice employes to attend Burkett meetings. The indications are that Mr. Thomas has been caught with the goods on him. It is taking some of the old guard a long time to catch on to the fact that postmasters are now being appointed for the purpose of attending to postoffice business. It's hard on the old guard, but it is quite satisfactory to the people.

Omaha is framing up to get on a commission basis of government. We started out on that line here in Lincoln about four years ago, but to date we haven't got anywhere save into a fearful muddle. Making no pretensions of superior culture Omaha

will probably be under a satisfactory commission form of government while a lot of idealists and dreamers in Lincoln are still chewing the rag over the question. There are, after all, some drawbacks to this thing of being made of superior clay.

With startling frequency men bob up to throw shuddering fits over the idea of electing the president of the local gas company to the office of mayor. Will Maupin's Weekly, which has the best interests of Lincoln at heart to about as great an extent as most of them, is not worrying a bit about that matter. It opines that if Mr. Armstrong is elected mayor he will not sit up until after midnight Saturday night to sign an ordinance jammed through a council to let a railroad corporation build up a busy street right into the heart of the city, and for the sole purpose of accommodating a newspaper concern that is fearful lest the election of a gas company official will knock Lincoln into a cocked hat. Under old conditions Will Maupin's Weekly would oppose the election of Mr. Armstrong to any municipal office were he connected with any public service corporation in any capacity. But with the initiative and referendum, and enlightened public opinion to back it, there is nothing to fear. And Mr. Armstrong's business experience and well known public spirit peculiarly fit him for the office.

Fred C. Foster, who is a candidate for the republican nomination for city attorney, is a young man who worked his way through the university law school, and then worked his way up as a practicing attorney. If nominated and elected to the office of city attorney he will give the office his personal attention, and not turn the duties over to a fledgling to perform. He is not of the opinion that the office is beneath his dignity or unworthy of his standing as a lawyer, nor is he posing as making a personal sacrifice in accepting the position. Mr. Foster has the ability and the virility to make the city a capable legal officer, and his candidacy is worthy of the careful consideration of the voters.

T. J. Doyle will have no opposition for the democratic nomination for city attorney. And if nominated and elected the city will have an attorney whose ability and standing is beyond question. It is not often that a city the size of Lincoln has an opportunity to secure a legal advisor of the Doyle stamp, and it should be seized with eagerness.

Just as we were convinced that every vestige of the old days of the trapper had disappeared from Nebraska, along comes the news that the beaver are raising hob with things along the Minnechaduzza. They have become so numerous that they are a pest to the farmers in northwestern Nebraska. And the squirrels are overrunning us in southeastern Nebraska.

A plague on this vexed excise question! Why mix the personality of our candidates with the question of "wet" or "dry?" We have the initiative and referendum in Lincoln, and we can make Lincoln "wet" or "dry" as we desire, regardless of the opinions of the men we select for municipal officers. We elect public officers to do our bidding, not to make us do their bidding. Can we not do the sensible thing and settle this excise question wholly apart from the question of the fitness of candidates? If Lincoln goes "wet" and Mayor Love is re-