

TALKING OF MEN AND THINGS

Already things are shaping up for the state and national campaign of 1912 in Nebraska. Francis G. Hamer of Kearney announces that he will be a candidate for the supreme bench this fall, which announcement is a sort of starter for the big campaign of next year. Judge Hamer was a judge of the district court for several years, his district comprising a huge expanse of territory in central Nebraska north of the Platte river. He became judge in the early history of that section, and for several years was a contemporary of Judge Gaslin. Judge Hamer made a good record as district judge, which is a recommendation for him in his candidacy for a seat upon the supreme bench.

Hon. Fred Volpp of Dodge is being frequently mentioned in connection with the democratic nomination for governor next year. It is not likely, however, that Mr. Volpp will consent to be a candidate then, preferring to wait a few years. There are good and sound political reasons for such a conclusion, some of them having connection with a recent lamentable failure as a democratic gubernatorial campaign. Early in the legislative session Will Maupin's Weekly mentioned Senator John H. Morehead of Richardson as a likely bit of democratic gubernatorial timber, and the suggestion met with instant favor. As president of the senate Senator Morehead often presided with fairness and parliamentary skill. His record as a senator is as clean as a hound's tooth, and his record as a successful and enterprising man of affairs is such as to recommend him to the favorable consideration of Nebraska voters.

It is not surprising that a Lincoln publication refers to Senator Morehead as a "corporation candidate." That publication has a habit of impugning the motives and abusing the men whose opinions fail to square with its opinions on certain questions having no part in partisan politics. Happily for Nebraska the time has gone by when the cry of "corporation candidate" frightens Nebraska voters. The corporations have been divorced from politics in Nebraska and are now content to obey the laws. They find it cheaper to obey reasonable laws than to pay for immunity. To charge Senator Morehead with being corporation tool is not only silly but libelous. He is a successful farmer and stockman, and is interested in two or three banking institutions in Richardson county. He came to Nebraska something like twenty-five years ago without a dollar. He began as a school teacher, got hold of a bit of farm land and farmed it himself, saved his money, invested it where it would bring reasonable returns, and is today accounted a man of some means, though far from a millionaire. Every dollar he has made he made legitimately and his record as a

citizen and as a business man is an open book that all may read who so desire. The editor of Will Maupin's Weekly has known John H. Morehead for nearly twenty years, and knows there is no better gubernatorial timber in the democratic forest.

Hon. Willis E. Reed of Madison announces that he will contest with other democrats for the senatorial nomination in 1912. Mr. Reed was a candidate last fall but was defeated by Gilbert M. Hitchcock. He is a lawyer of splendid ability, an enthusiastic democrat of the progressive school and a good campaigner. His geographical location will militate against his candidacy to some extent, but it should not. A very bothersome question, and one that interfered somewhat in the last primary, will be out of the way in 1912, and Mr. Reed's candidacy will receive considerably more attention than that it did last fall.

Ex-Governor Ashton C. Shallenberger has not yet announced his candidacy for the senate, and it may be that he is not contemplating a race for the office. If he does announce his candidacy he will enter the race with a splendid following, for there are thousands of Nebraska democrats who feel that Shallenberger was not given a square deal last fall. Besides his geographical location is greatly in his favor. And when it comes to campaigning there are none better than "Shaily" in this western country.

To those who figure that Senator Brown and Congressman Norris will be the only contestants for the republican senatorial nomination Will Maupin's Weekly would drop a gentle hint. There will be another contestant in the field, and his sprinting ability is not to be sneezed at. He has proved his ability as a campaigner and vote getter, and personally there is no more popular man in all Nebraska. We are not at liberty to announce his candidacy nor even to mention his name in that connection, but he will be in the race. And he'll make the man who beats him to the nomination travel at a mighty fast pace.

Not even Theodore Roosevelt's biased and unfair editorial, "Murder is Murder," will blind the eyes of thoughtful people to the real issues in the McNamara case. Organized labor is not on trial. Mr. Roosevelt sought with all the power and weight of presidential influence to bias the public mind against the officials of the Western Federation of Miners when they were on trial for their lives after having been kidnaped from Colorado. They were acquitted by a jury after the Rooseveltian verdict of "guilty without trial." McNamara was kidnaped from Indiana. The evidence against him is detective-made, just as was the evidence against the officials of

the Western Federation of Miners. Mr. Roosevelt has a pernicious habit of going off half-cocked, and then denouncing as "liars" men who fail to agree with his hasty conclusions. We never think of Theodore Roosevelt but we think of the little girl who claimed her papa knew more than any other man in the world. "But your papa don't know as much as God," remarked her little companion. "Well, you must remember my papa ain't as old as God yet." replied the boastful little girl. Now and then Mr. Roosevelt gives evidence of forgetting that he lacks a great deal of being as old as the Almighty.

The death of Judge S. B. Pound removes from the scene of action another of the pioneers of Nebraska. Upon the bench, at the bar, and as a private citizen, Judge Pound held position in the front ranks. He was identified with the legal history of the state, having helped in large measure to make it. More than that, he helped to make Nebraska history, for he was identified with Nebraska's growth and development for nearly two score years. Nebraska is a young state, for many of the men who were here when the state emerged from territorial clothes are still with us. But the ranks are growing thinner day by day. The death of Judge Pound leaves another gap in their ranks—gaps which can not be filled. The sweetest memory to be cherished by Judge Pound's relatives will be that of a man who played well his part upon the stage of action, and dying left behind his impress upon the commonwealth which he served so well and honored so much.

Will Maupin's Weekly was not a bit surprised when it learned that Junius Graham Oldham of Kearney had made the debating contest of the Nebraska High School Debating League. It could have been surprised only by the announcement that young Oldham had failed to make good as a debater. "Like father like son," and young Oldham wouldn't be the son of Willis D. Oldham if he couldn't stand upon the rostrum and argify well. Three years ago Judge Oldham's daughter, Miss Isabel, won third honors in the high school debating league. It runs in the Oldham family. But if the young Oldhams manage to beat their father at the oratorical and argumentative game they will have to work overtime.

Why all this fuss over the report that a big athlete pocketed a piece of money for playing on the University of Nebraska football team a year or two ago? Does anybody believe it was the first time such a thing has happened in University of Nebraska circles, or at any other state university? The athletic rules put a premium on that sort of thing. One rule is that no one who has competed for