

MEN AND THINGS

(Continued from page 3)

grabbing off the choice mineral lands of Alaska, the syndicate's agents were quietly getting hold of harbor concessions that will make the mineral lands worthless to anybody else. And Charles P. Taft seems to be the man who has been doing the fine work down at Washington. Just about the time, however, that the government sleuths were getting "warm," a lot of the correspondence disappears. Brother Charley seems to be the real busy little boy down Washington way.

A long time ago—long measured by the life of Nebraska—Jason Smith of Harlan county decided to be a candidate for the legislature. Having so decided he mounted his horse and started out campaigning. About the first man he struck was Tom Harlan, for whom Harlan county was named. "Well, Tom," said Smith, "I've decided to run for the legislature this fall." "The hell you have!" said Smith. "Yes, and of course you'll vote for me, won't you?" said Smith. "Not by a blankety-blank and umpty-de-dum sight I won't!" yelled Harlan. "Well, Tom," said Smith, reaching down into his pocket and pulling forth the stub of a pencil and a patent medicine notebook, "I guess, then, I'll just have to put you down as 'doubtful.'"

Ex-Congressman Stark of Aurora has filed for the supreme bench as a democrat-populist, which rather complicates matters. Some of the democratic managers had sort o' framed up to have only three filings and thus prevent a contest at the primaries. This would allow a lot of democrats to slip over into the G. O. P. primaries. But along comes Judge Stark and upsets the skillet. The Alberts-Oldham-Tibbetts combination will now have to tighten up a few screws.

When Col. Ed Marshall decided to be a candidate for county treasurer, providing the republicans saw fit to nominate him, he was not impelled to do so by reason of urgent requests from his friends. He frankly admits that no friends urged him to become a candidate. Neither was he impelled to do so because he needs the money. He wants the office because it is an honor, because it means work instead of loafing around after forty-five years of active life, and because he is a business man who wants to look after the business affairs of the county. He is not a politician, he isn't around shaking hands with everybody, and he is not wasting his time or the time of other men by personally asking them to vote for him. But in a business-like way he is letting the fact of his candidacy be known, and he is willing to have his competency judged by his record as a business man in Nebraska for a third of a century. Somehow or other, after having had years of experience with the other species of officeseekers, Colonel Marshall's plan of

campaign strikes us rather favorably. Having known Colonel Marshall for many years we are quite free to say of him that if he is elected he will play no favorites, he will have the nerve to say "no" when "no" is the word to use, and he will transact the county's business in the same businesslike and successful way he has conducted his own business for years. If Lancaster county wants that kind of a man to handle its finances, then Col. Marshall is the kind of a man Lancaster county wants.

Cyrus Black of Hickman has filed for the republican nomination for county clerk. Mr. Black is so deserving of recognition from the party he has served so well and faithfully, and there are so many reasons why there should be some new blood in that particular department of the county, that we greatly fear he will not be nominated.

J. C. Baer will have no opposition for re-nomination for clerk of the district court. Neither will he be opposed at the polls. This is due to two facts—first, it is customary to give an efficient and faithful official a second term; second, Mr. Baer has been so efficient and faithful that to merely hint at his having opposition would be to laugh.

APPALLING IGNORANCE.

We have favored the "See America First" campaign from its very inception, but we are more enthusiastically for it now than ever before. The average New Englander or New Yorker of wealth is much more familiar with Europe than he is with that portion of his own country lying west of Pittsburg. Doubtless one-half the people living east of the Allegheny mountains believe all the country west of the Mississippi river to be thinly settled, overrun with buffalo and still the habitat of the fierce and bloodthirsty Indian. A party of sixty automobilists will soon start from Philadelphia, and to advertise themselves they have sent a handsomely printed itinerary to the newspapers of the west. The one received in the office of this Household Comfort has been carefully read, some portions with pleasure, some with unconcern, and some with disgust. One paragraph therein says:

"Fifteen days will be spent in the mountains west of Omaha, Nebraska, where it is a different task to reach a hotel in a day's running."

At first we laughed; then we were filled with disgust to think that there were Americans rich enough to take such an automobile jaunt who are so damnably ignorant of their own country.

"The mountains west of Omaha!" There are mountains nearer Philadelphia by half.

"Difficult to reach a hotel in day's running!" Philadelphia automobiles must have speed quite in keeping with that of Philadelphia. The autos we use in Nebraska can reach a first-class hotel from

a standing start in any thirty minutes of running, and in the mountains "west of Omaha" first-class hotels and summer resorts are a blamed sight more numerous than honest politicians in Philadelphia. And if it will take a "day's running" on the part of a Philadelphia auto to reach a hotel "in the mountains west of Omaha," that bunch of Philadelphia motorists will be 2,000 years motoring from Omaha westward to the aforesaid mountains.

We hasten to assure the Philadelphia motorists that they will have a long and pleasant drive westward from Omaha before they see a mountain. They will pass through the most fertile sections of the world. They will see an agricultural section so rich, so progressive and so enterprising that it will startle them. They will see never a buffalo, nor any other wild animal larger than a prairie dog. They will see silk hats galore, and never a shot taken at one of them. If so be they should stop at some hotel, found in much less than a day's running, they may happen upon a social function and actually see Nebraskans in swallowtail coats instead of buckskin breeches. In the whole 450 miles across Nebraska they will see less poverty than they may see in a single voting precinct in Philadelphia, less ignorance than may be found in any one of a hundred Pennsylvania mining towns, and more happiness than a half million wage slaves in Pennsylvania ever dreamed could exist on the face of the earth. They will travel through the garden spot of the world, see a state less than a half-century old that doesn't owe a dollar of state debt, possesses an \$8,000,000 school fund, spends more money per capita for education than any other state, raises more corn, wheat and oats per capita and per acre than any other state, is not afflicted with a political boss like Quay was and Penrose is, has more progressive laws than any other state and got them with less fuss and feathers, and which in forty-seven years has made more progress than Pennsylvania has in a century.

We hope the automobiles of that Philadelphia party are as slow as their city is reputed to be. In that case the Philadelphians will be such a long time crossing Nebraska that even they will be able to soak up a lot of valuable information—information that every American should have, and which every American should be ashamed not to have.

"The mountains west of Omaha!"

"Hotels not easily found in a day's running!"

And they have schools and colleges and newspapers in Philadelphia, too!

Food Inspector Harriet MacMurphy personally superintended the dumping into the Missouri river of five tons of spoiled canned tomatoes. What this state needs is more women attending to the business of conserving the health of the people. Then men are too darned busy playing politics.