

CONCERNING MEN AND MATTERS

Frankly we do not understand the methods political now being pursued by Col. Michael Harrington. A few months ago he was opposing Bryan tooth and toe nail. Now he is urging Bryan for the senate. A short time ago he bitterly arraigned Clarence E. Harman, who is now democratic candidate for railway commissioner. Harman was nominated and Michael is still hollering. He says he will not support or vote for Harman. Isn't this awful? Harrington a "bolter!" It seems that only a few weeks ago we heard a voice suspiciously like Michael's denouncing Bryan for not standing "hitched" when beaten in the primaries.

Mike Harrington has been something of a stormy petrel in Nebraska politics for a long time. For a number of years we never could tell whether he was a populist or a democrat. When necessary he could go into a democratic convention and be a democrat among democrats. Then he would lie over to the populist convention and out-pop the most radical populist of the lot. A few months ago he was vociferating vigorously in denunciation of "bolters." Now he is bolting. We confess to great admiration for Michael. His ability is unquestioned, and his political agility fearsome to behold. Besides he is a most entertaining gentleman, with a fund of anecdote and information. We anticipate a great deal of pleasure during the next twelve or fifteen months in watching his moves upon the political chessboard.

Representative Norris of the Fifth district refuses to commit himself on some things. When we asked him to explain how a man could advocate putting what the farmer has to sell on the free list, and retain on the tariff taxed list all that the farmer must buy, he replied: "I do not know, never having undergone any such mental gymnastics." The indications are that when William Howard Taft strikes Nebraska next Sunday he will find the political atmosphere frigid. However, the president of the United States will find all Nebraskans ready and willing to pay all due honors to the chief executive of the nation.

But is President Taft trying to play even with the "insurgents" by snubbing Lincoln, the Nebraska headquarters of insurgency? He gives Lincoln a measly little two hours of his time, half of which is to be spent in eating dinner. He spends a day in Omaha, and twice as much time in Hastings as in Lincoln. Hastings, by the way, is in Representative Norris' district. Has the president an ulterior motive in spending so much time in the dis-

trict represented by the acknowledged leader of the house insurgents and one of the really progressive representatives of the west? We greatly fear the president is being made the victim of some almighty poor political advice.

The "Boy Scout" movement may be all right, but we may be permitted to doubt it. But there is no question about the "rightness" of the farm movement now on among the boys of the country. While some of his boy friends were "scouting" and learning a lot of military tommyrot, N. H. Brewer, a lad of Connecticut, was winning big money prize for raising 133 bushels of corn to the acre on worn-out Connecticut land. And P. P. Davis, a Massachusetts boy, was raising 103 bushels of corn to the acre and winning a handsome prize while some of his boy friends were dressed up like frontiersmen and doing a lot of saluting and trailing and campfiring and all that sort of thing. At the same time a North Carolina boy was beating the world's record for corn growing by gathering over 200 bushels an acre while some of his boy comrades were doing the "scout" stunt and acquiring the habit of lazing around in the woods instead of learning profitable production. As between the boy who studies up on agriculture and the boy who learns to build a campfire and get up a camp supper, we'll take the corn grower every time.

All of which reminds us that the boys are setting the pace for their fathers in the matter of making the land productive. The "old man" is very apt to be set in his ways, contending that the way he learned to farm is good enough for him because it was good enough for his father. The boy, however, is an inquisitive, acquisitive being. Not only does he want to know how to make the work lighter, but how to make it more profitable at the same expenditure of physical energy. Hence the agricultural college. We wouldn't give one graduate of the Nebraska State School of Agriculture for all the graduated "boy scouts" you could crowd into the Lincoln auditorium.

Free speech and a free press have nothing to stand on when a federal judge feels like taking a whack at them. Judge Hanford of Tacoma issued an injunction restraining the people of Washington from demanding transfers from the street railway companies. The fact that the ordinance required transfers did not cut any ice. Judge Hanford held up the law and enjoined the whole public. Ex-Mayor Fawcett of Tacoma, Councilman Erickson of Seattle, and five other men, in-

cluding the editors of the Seattle Star, were haled into court for contempt because they dared to criticize the Hanford injunction. Judge Hanford says these men are guilty, also, of conspiracy to obstruct justice, and asks that they be indicted.

What divinity is it that hedges federal judges? According to the Hanford idea any attempt to impeach a federal judge—the only method of removal—would be an "attempt to obstruct justice." According to Hanford it would make no difference what a federal judge may do, any criticism or denunciation would be punishable by fine and imprisonment. The accused men addressed a mass meeting called to protest against the Hanford injunction. For this they are to be fined and imprisoned if Judge Hanford has his way. It is high time that the people take hold of the federal judiciary and shake it down hard. It is becoming altogether too powerful for a free country.

The Plattsmouth Journal asserts that Roderick Dhu Sutherland of Nelson will be a candidate for the democratic gubernatorial nomination next year. There will be no lack of available gubernatorial timber in the democratic forest, and Sutherland will cut a pretty good sized log. Of course the republican nomination is cinched, for Aldrich will have no opposition worthy of the name. Nor should he. He has rendered good service and is standing squarely on the principles upon which he was elected. But he will be opposed politically, and by a man who will give him plenty to occupy his time during the campaign. Some time ago Will Maupin's Weekly was committed to the candidacy of State Senator Morehead of Richardson, and to date nothing has transpired to change its views. Senator Morehead's business ability, his freedom from entangling alliances and his knowledge of Nebraska conditions peculiarly fit him for the office of governor.

The "American Economist," subsidized organ of the tariff beneficiaries, demands a "scientific tariff." Gosh, have they discovered a neater way of robbing us?

The Marion, Ia., Register calls attention to a bulletin recently issued by the United States Bureau of Labor wherein it is shown that wages in the United States average two and one-half times higher than in free trade England. Well, what of it. That is not the question at all. The question is, do the wage earners of the United States get more wages in proportion to their production than the wage earners of other countries. An