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**Republican Congressional Convention.**  
The Republican voters of Platte county, Nebraska, are hereby notified to meet in their respective precincts and wards on Saturday, May 7, 1904, from 2 p. m. to 4 p. m., for the purpose of selecting delegates to the county convention, to be held at Platte Center, on Saturday, May 14, 1904, at 10 o'clock p. m., of that day, to choose delegates to the republican state convention, and delegates to the republican third congressional convention, for the further purpose of nominating candidates for county officers, delegates to the twenty-fourth district representative convention, delegates to the tenth district senatorial convention, to nominate representative for district number twenty-four, to select officers and members of the central committee for a term of two years, and for such other business as may come before the convention.

The township meetings will also nominate local officers.  
The several wards and precincts will be entitled to two delegates for each ward and precinct, and to one delegate for each fifteen votes and major fraction thereof cast for John R. Barnes at the last general election, and will have the following number of delegates:  
City of Columbus—4  
First ward—1  
Second ward—1  
Third ward—1  
Columbus township—2  
Harrison—1  
Lincoln—1  
Oxford—1  
Union—1  
Grand Prairie—1  
Hampton—1

**Republican Congressional Convention.**  
The republicans of the Third congressional district of Nebraska are hereby notified to meet in a general convention at the corner house in the city of Columbus, Nebraska, on Tuesday, May 17, 1904, at 12 o'clock in the afternoon for the purpose of placing in nomination a candidate for congress from the Third Congressional District to be voted for at the general election to be held in the state of Nebraska on the 8th day of November, 1904, for the election of two delegates to the national convention to be held in the city of Chicago June 21, 1904, and for the transaction of such other business as may regularly come before said convention.

The basis of representation of the several counties in said district at said convention shall be the votes cast for the Hon. J. J. McCarthy, candidate for congress at the regular election held on November 4, 1902, giving one delegate for each one hundred votes or major fraction thereof to cast for the Hon. J. J. McCarthy and one delegate at large for each county. Said apportionment entitles the following counties in said district to the following representation in said convention:  
Antelope—12  
Barnes—12  
Benoite—12  
Coffey—12  
Cuming—12  
Dakota—12  
Dodge—12  
Total—144

**Official Call for Republican State Convention.**  
The republicans of the state of Nebraska are hereby called to meet in convention at the Auditorium in the city of Lincoln, on Wednesday, May 18, 1904, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of placing in nomination candidates for the following offices, to be voted for at the next general election to be held in the state of Nebraska, November 8, 1904, viz:  
Governor.  
Lieutenant governor.  
Secretary of state.  
Attorney general.  
Treasurer.  
Superintendent of public instruction.  
Attorney general.  
Commissioner of public lands and buildings.  
Eight electors of president and vice president.  
And to elect four delegates at large and four alternates to the republican national convention to be held in the city of Chicago, Ill., on Tuesday, June 21, 1904, and for the transaction of such other business as may regularly come before said state convention.

The basis of representation of the several counties in said convention shall be the votes cast for Hon. John R. Barnes for judge of the supreme court at the general election held on November 3, 1902, giving one delegate for each 100 votes or major fraction thereof to cast for John R. Barnes, and one delegate at large for each county. Said apportionment entitles the counties mentioned below to the following representation in the convention:  
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**Germany and Switzerland have enacted tariff laws that will affect the export trade of the United States. American statesmen will have something to think about at their summer homes.**  
The Telegram is not pleased either with Hearst or Parker for president. What a walk-away the republicans will have in Platte county this year with the Telegram supporting Roosevelt.

October 18 will be Nebraska day at the World's Fair. Governor Mickey has received notice that the date had been selected by the fair management and that a special program relative to Nebraska will be prepared.  
Incidents at the Columbus Telegram, in its controversy with the Journal, has been to file a specific charge against Governor Mickey, while the Omaha Daily World-Herald has dared only to hint upon what it pretends to believe the summer will do in the future, the Telegram must be credited with more nerve than its big brother, the Omaha Daily World-Herald, in its conduct of the controversy. However, it is quite safe to presume that the Herald has used the better judgment in the matter, for it has learned by many a hot-air-enthusiasm that it is extremely premature to venture upon ground where definite knowledge is obtainable.

**ON TRIAL.**  
The Telegram, under date of April 15, referring to the "narrow minded railroad tool who governs the state of Nebraska in the interest of his railroad masters," and terming him the "official outcrop of the corporations," declared that no republican of prominence would "undertake the defence of Mickey's railroad and Standard Oil record." The Journal thought the extravagance of the Telegram's language rendered the attack altogether harmless, and so informed the Telegram, suggesting at the same time that the "Mickey record" constituted its own defence and that the sufficiency of that defence could best be tested by making specific charges. The Telegram acted upon our suggestion and in its last issue made the following specific charge: "We charge that certain carloads of oil, owned by the Standard Oil company, were officially consigned by the Nebraska oil inspector as being unfit for family use, and dangerous to the lives and property of the people; that after such condemnation, by request of the agents of Mr. Rockefeller, our governor, John H. Mickey, permitted Rockefeller's man to bring that condemned oil into the state and sell it to the people."  
In a very courteous preface to this charge the Telegram appoints the Journal "attorney for the defendant," forbids the defendant's attorney "to introduce any of John Corwin's technical demurrers," and instructs the "jury" that "the only way in which Governor Mickey can hope to escape conviction in this case will be for his attorney to convince the jury that the charge is absolutely false." Now, brother, is it not a little irregular, even in a "newspaper court," for the plaintiff's attorney to appoint himself judge, and as judge appoint the attorney for the defense; to determine the rules of pleading; and to instruct the jury both as to the law and the facts in the case? There is a familiar rule in criminal procedure requiring that the guilt of the accused be established beyond a reasonable doubt. The learned court in the case at bar has set aside this rule and demands that we establish the innocence of the accused "absolutely." And he has deprived us of the right of technical demurrer. Restrained within such narrow limits, the Journal might attempt to bribe the court, if it were not for the court's wide reputation for anti-bribery sentiments. We might rant the court for arbitrarily changing the rules of criminal procedure, but for the court's monopoly on all court-roasting language. We might refuse to act as attorney for the defendant, for we did not volunteer to defend the "Mickey record"; we simply said that the Telegram's attack was without merit, and we suggested that the "record" was its own defence. But a refusal to act would imply a contempt of the court and would draw on the corrupt treasury of the Standard Oil company to pay our fine. And so, since there is no way of escape, we set our wits to work and "concocted" which received the applause of the Telegram, and enter into a contest, the contemplation of which has caused the Telegram, out of sympathy, to "trample" for us in advance.

"As to the Telegram's specific charge, it is a copy of the charge made by certain republicans about a month ago in an attempt to defeat Governor Mickey's re-nomination. Governor Mickey promptly explained that charge in a signed letter which silenced the opposition. The Telegram is pardoned for using a republican charge and for forgetting Governor Mickey's complete exoneration under it. Before giving Governor Mickey's answer to the charge, the Journal wishes to repeat that the "Mickey record" must be its own defense. We shall defend no public official outside of his own record. We do not know Governor Mickey personally. There may be men in Nebraska better qualified for the office than Mr. Mickey. If we obtain conclusive proof from the Telegram or from any other source that Mr. Mickey as Governor is a "railroad tool" and that he has abused the confidence of the people of Nebraska in his dealings with the Standard Oil Co., we will heartily join the Telegram in a campaign to unseat him. And in giving space to his own defense, we do not pledge the Journal to an unequal support of Governor Mickey. If it should occur, in the assessment of railroad property by the state board of equalization, headed by Governor Mickey, that the taxpayers of Nebraska have been wronged, the Journal will be among the first to attack him. With these preliminary statements, we quote from Governor Mickey's letter:

"The new law raising the tax of illuminating oil from 100 to 112 degrees became effective April 10, 1903. J. E. Hays was chief oil inspector at that time."  
"It is a generally accepted principle that when a law is passed affecting goods in transit, a reasonable time should be given the shipper in which to conform his shipments to the new order. Mr. Hays recognized this principle. He was not until April 14, four days after the law went into effect, that Mr. Hays notified the Standard Oil company of the highest tax required, showing that he was in no particular hurry to serve notice. As late as April 27, more than two weeks after the law went into effect, he passed a car of oil that tested 108 degrees below the new law. This car was in transit at the time the new law went into effect and that it would be an unwarranted hardship on the shippers to compel them to recall said oil."  
"A few days prior to April 29, I don't know the exact date, four cars more of oil were sent to Nebraska from the Standard Oil company which did not come up to the new test. Mr. Hays drew the line on them and refused to pass them."  
"They tested from 107 to 110, from seven to ten degrees higher than the law required. Mr. Ruth, the agent of the Standard Oil Company, came down from Omaha to see about the matter. On April 29 he and Mr. Hays came into my office to talk it over."  
"Mr. Ruth admitted that he had received Mr. Hays' letter of April 14, notifying him of the raise of the tax. He said he notified the company in Chicago by letter, and they in turn notified the refinery at Whiting, Ind.

"The Sunday World-Herald likewise accepted the invitation of the Journal to point out some specific acts of Governor Mickey, showing that he has favored corporate interests, especially the railroads and the Standard Oil company. The World-Herald, with much flourish of pen, used a column of space in announcing itself ready to point to many such acts on the part of the governor, but unfortunately became entangled in its own brilliant rhetoric and forgot to point.  
However, being very evidently unable to point to any fact of the past, the World-Herald writer, with a commendable desire to please, proceeds to point to certain fancies of the future, and shrieks in Herald-like accents, "will the Columbus Journal accept the test?" The test, as it appears, is to be whether or not the state board of equalization deals fairly with the railroads and the other taxpayers of the state. As has already been said in these columns, if at any time the record of Governor Mickey or any other public official is such as to condemn him before fair-minded men, we shall not be behind the World-Herald in opposition to him.  
Of course all this is pitifully beside the point. We suggested that democratic papers, instead of making general and meaningless assertions of the subservience of Mickey to the corporations, might more profitably mention some definite and particular fact. The esteemed World-Herald pointed off its coat to mention two or three dozen such, but after it got the froth out of its mouth and got in shape to talk it couldn't remember any, and wound up by expressing a pious hope (amounting almost to positive belief) that Mr. Mickey would yet do something wrong at the meeting of the state board of equalization, of which Governor Mickey is one of five members. This reminds us of a committee of public spirited citizens who once on a time, in a western community, went forth and put to death a certain Indian. He had always been a good Indian, but the committee entertained fears that some time he might get bad.

The railroads in Platte county were assessed at \$465,938 in 1902. The total valuation of all property was \$2,490,877.31. The railroads therefore paid more than 18 per cent of Platte county taxes. If the local assessors are fair in the assessment of personal and real property, and the state board of equalization is fair in the assessment of railroad property, under the new law, it will be easy to get a line on all former assessments and determine which of the two, the railroad or the private citizen, has been the greater shirker. That the assessors of both classes of property will be fair the Journal has no doubt.

When you have but one of the Columbus phones you swear when you want to talk to a fellow who has the other. When you have two you swear when you answer the wrong one first. Will you wonder why in the name of common sense an intelligent community will suffer this inconvenience and pay tribute to a superintendent of stockholders, when one set of poles, wires and instruments will do the business?

**COLUMBIANS.**  
Sunshine is valuable physically, but more valuable morally.  
The man who don't like to fish might make a good fisherman, politician or member of the R. P. C. A., but never a philosopher.  
If the best musicians of Columbus would get together we could have one of the best orchestras in the state. If you can't have harmony among musicians, where can you have it?  
We went out to the Karr-Nichols brick works the other day and watched Julius Nichols make bricks without straw. We had understood that Mr. Scott was going to raise the price of board to Julius, but after we explained to him how our brother was juggling twenty thousand full grown brick daily, he agreed that it was reasonable that such a man should require a considerable amount of bank money.  
We understand that young ladies consider it a good sign for a fellow to display much devotion to his mother; and we have also observed that his mother considers it a bad sign when he displays much devotion to the young ladies.  
These sporty fishermen who won't consider anything less than a trout or a black bass are perhaps to be commended on scientific grounds, but is a far cry from science to pure art. The soul of a child of nature is in accord with lovely things, and for such a one the humble bull-head has many endearing characteristics. There is a tranquil joy about sitting on a dead tree in the Lord's own sunshine, with the Schweitzer cheese, etc., within easy reach, where you may play seven-up with some other sounder about like yourself and wait for bits. This department was raised in Missouri and don't care who knows it.

A rumor reached the Journal office last week to the effect that a republican had been seen on the streets of Platte Center at midday. Being somewhat superstitious, the Journal while doubting the exact truth of the statement, believed that the rumor, if founded on fact, portended republican victory in Platte county this year, and sent one of its representatives out to investigate. The aforesaid representative did not quickly locate the wanderer, but seeing Blake Maher standing in front of an old building in his shirt sleeves, with no collar on and his hair out of part, the aforesaid representative putting two and two together decided that the wanderer had been in jail. Fearing a publication of the facts Blake was glad to fix up a deal. He promised to introduce the Journal man as an anarchist and a Roosevelt man to every prominent democrat in Platte Center, and in the future to treat as a brother every wandering republican found on the streets if the Journal would not mention the matter. Blake was true to his promise, and the Journal was, like wise. As a result of the compromise those anarchists who have failed to join the republican ranks through fear of violence at the hands of Blake Maher, will rise and walk the streets of Platte Center shouting for Roosevelt and Platte county will once more go republican. Then the Journal will erect a monument to the memory of Blake Maher and inscribe on it what is true: Blake Maher is a prince among good fellows.

**McKillop Keeps His Gun.**  
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**Rev. Gould Sentenced.**  
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The officials of the Nebraska High School Delectation union announce that the annual contest of the union would be held at Schuyler, Nebraska, on May 4. J. A. McLean, superintendent of the South Omaha schools, is secretary and treasurer of this association and he desires that all interested in the contest take note of the date set and govern themselves accordingly.  
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**Nebraska Telephone Co. Statement.**  
Secretary Morsman of the Nebraska Telephone company, with headquarters in Omaha, has filed a statement showing value of that company's property in Platte county. All property in the county is listed at \$19,100; total number of instruments, 229 in Platte county, and 172 in city of Columbus; 98 miles of toll wire and 62 miles of farm wire. Total receipts of the office for the past year \$8,194.92.  
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