

POINTS IN POLITICS.

The fifth ward is in its usual state of chaos or h—l as some statesmen put it. In the "bloody fifth" every man over twenty-one years of age is a statesman and every other man you meet is a candidate for office. Most of them want to be mayor, a few would be contented with treasurer and one man was found on the street yesterday who was willing to take anything he could get—he will probably get left, for such a lack of ambition is never encouraged in the Fifth.

The fine Italian work of this campaign has been done so far by the Gillilan-Sizer-Maule clique. They have held a number of secret meetings, ostensibly for reform, but really to push the interests of Col. Sizer for mayor. When the work was well in hand, a public meeting was called for Wednesday night to endorse the effort of the reformers. And what a disappointment that meeting was for some people! One citizen had the audacity to suggest that Col. Sizer wasn't the best man for mayor, another suggested there were other candidates and another suggested that the Fifth had a candidate for treasurer in Mart Aitken. Mr. Gillilan's face grew long, John Maule's smile faded and Col. Sizer, seeing the handwriting on the wall, rose and said he wasn't a candidate for mayor and never had been.

But there was one comfort left to the patriots—Gillilan's pet crematory resolution was carried. As a reformer Mr. Gillilan is a success, more of a success than at almost anything he has ever tackled. It was in the name of reform two years ago that Gillilan, Sizer and their friends treacherously stole the Fifth ward delegation from Mart Aitken for treasurer and stabbed him in the back on the floor of the convention. It was as reformers that they made a fight for Percival for water commissioner and gave him the fifth ward delegation and now as reformers they are pushing the candidacy of Sizer for mayor. But when after a number of secret meetings they decided to take the dear people into their confidence they found their efforts were unappreciated.

If Mr. Sizer is sincere in his declaration that he is not a candidate for mayor it will simplify things somewhat. The fight will narrow down to a contest between Barr Parker for mayor and Mart Aitken for treasurer. As under present conditions it is extremely doubtful if a mayor can be nominated from the Fifth ward in the convention where there seems to be a general feeling that if the ward should support Aitken for treasurer it insures nomination. His friends think it due him for the treachery of two years ago. In any event there promises to be a lively caucus in the bloody fifth.

Geo. Woods friends have been working hard and at present he is conceded to be in the lead for mayor. It is claimed that he will come into the convention with several delegations besides his own, and if the convention were held today would be nominated on the first ballot. Of course the combinations may change, but he is by all odds the strongest candidate at present.

If John Wright secures the fourth ward delegation he will be a strong candidate before the convention.

John Knight and Alva Kennard are both after the fourth ward delegation for treasurer. Hazlett is a candidate from the First ward and Smith and Stire from the Seventh. Aitken is after the Fifth ward delegation and if he secures it will undoubtedly be the strongest candidate before the convention. It is said also that he would be entirely satisfactory to the that element of the party who are after true reform in the city government.

The reform meeting held in the U. S. court room Tuesday evening was a disappointment to some of the friends of reform who thing it should be carried out on party lines. It was understood by many of those who signed the call for the meeting that an effort would be made to secure desired reforms within the parties without putting a up a separate ticket except as a last resort. But it seems to be the intention to put up a separate ticket without regard to the character or acceptability of the men nominated by the old parties. This was advocated most strongly by democrats and independents inter

ested in breaking up the republican party and will be a source of weakness to the new movement.

It would have been far wiser to have endeavored to control the nomination of the regular parties at the primaries and convention and then if the best men were not selected it would have been time enough to talk about an independent ticket.

THE NATIONAL GAME

News of the Week Among the Ball Players.

Kid Speer has recovered from his illness.

†

Hollingsworth likes to play pass these warm days.

†

The Rockford club has not come to terms with Catcher Friel.

†

Next week the National league teams will begin to play ball in south.

†

Omaha management claim Pitcher Darby who is on the Kansas City reserve list.

†

Jacksonville has a good man in Zeis who played right field for Rock Island.

†

Manager Ebright says that he would not sign another ball player if he would work for nothing.

†

Boxingdale of last year's Omaha team has signed with the Lynchburg team of the Virginia league.

†

There is a great deal of speculating going on as to whom the pitchers will be when the season opens.

†

Pequigney has signed with Sioux City if they are able to break into the Western association this year.

†

Manager Ebright has the measures of all the players for the new uniforms which will be gray trimmed with white.

†

Bob Langsford, who played short for Omaha last season, is said to have had five offers. No one knows of his signing yet.

†

President Kent has called a meeting for next Tuesday at Quincy, at which time a schedule will be adopted and other business will be transacted.

†

Art Creighton of Omaha, who has signed with St. Joe, is getting columns of free advertising because he is a champion sprinter. Wait until you see him play ball.

†

The Kansas City Blues, with the following players, will be in the city April 15, 16 and 17th: Daniels, Stultz and McFarland, pitchers; Bergen and Rupert, catchers; Klusman, first base; Manning, second base; Nattres, third base, and Nichol, center field.

†

The Lincoln team is now complete with six pitchers an extra infielder and an extra fielder. The new catcher, Mahoney, is an amateur and is something of an experiment but he has a batting average in the Colorado league that is very good. Should he bat as well in this league he will be sure of a position on the team.

†

In a few weeks the local ball players will begin to arrive from all over the country. Barnes, Kimerer, Ebright, Speer and Hollingsworth are already here. Archie Cole is wintering at Hastings. Van Buren is in a small Illinois town. Gragg will come from Lowell, Ind. Hill hails from Illinois. Sullivan is in San Francisco. Maloney and Simons are in Central City, Colo. Fisher comes from Louisville, Ky. Myers is in Memphis, Tenn., and Taylor in Pittsburgh, Pa.