

POINTS IN POLITICS

A little watermelon and a little green corn in Idaho caused a great commotion in Nebraska last week. Senator-elect John M. Thurston had an attack of cholera morbus, and politicians in this state had attacks of chagrin and hope. One would not have believed that the reports of Mr. Thurston's illness would have caused so much excitement. Men who ordinarily take no interest in politics manifested anxiety as to the real condition of the absent senator elect, and when favorable news was received there was a general feeling of relief. At one time it was reported in this city that Thurston was dead, and within fourteen minutes after the receipt of this false announcement the politicians—some of them—had leapt the distance between death and burial and arrived at the point where they were ready to congratulate his successor. Thus it is that we are very much alive in the midst of death. How the palpitating populist heart swelled with hope those few hours! What an important personage the rotund gentleman who sits in the executive office and writes letters to the board of public lands and buildings had become, with the belief that Mr. Thurston had taken his place in an other than earthly Senate!

If Thurston had succumbed to watermelon and green corn certain ambitious gentlemen whose names are even now at the tip of my pen, were in a state of tension almost as dangerous as the cholera. But the watermelon and the green corn were not really in earnest. They were only trifling in the great game of destiny. They carried the game far enough to show the depth of affection honestly felt for the newly-elected senator and to open the gates of desire. The watermelon and green corn in Idaho produced a powerful object lesson here at home. The value and importance of the senatorship were appreciated, and patriotic citizens of Nebraska had the fact borne in upon them that it is a matter of some importance to have in the governor's office a patriot rather than a populist. Patriotism and populism do not, as a rule, go in double harness.

Had Mr. Thurston's attack proved fatal, Governor Holcomb would have had the privilege of naming his successor. And that would have meant a great deal. When, last winter, Thurston was elected to the United States senate, there was much satisfaction that a suitable antidote for William Vincent Allen's inanity and gracelessness had been provided. Thurston, it was thought, would more than atone for the blunders and buncombe of Allen. The present governor of Nebraska owes his election to the same elements that gave Allen a place in the senate, and had there been a vacancy the state would have suffered the enforced humiliation of a second pop senator. In the present uncertain condition of

affairs in congress there is no telling what effect this might have had on the politics and welfare of the nation. Holcomb is not commonly supposed to be in the inner circle of the worshippers of Bryan; but it would not have been surprising if he had, under pressure named the statesman whose star is just now eclipsed. Mr. Bryan, personally, is the same admirable and bland gentleman he was before he deserted the Sunday school for the rostrum; but he is a populist and is known to be a subscriber to most of the heresies and vagaries so flamboyantly advocated by Fourteen Hour Allen; and Nebraska, now that she is merging from the slough of populism, could not have profitably taken a second plunge.

It is often said at conventions and elections that it doesn't make very much difference who is governor. It is really of the utmost importance, from the republican standpoint, that the governor be a republican, and it is to be hoped that the leaders of the party will have the good sense and wise judgment to so arrange matters that the successor to Holcomb will be a republican. It is safer, much safer, to have a republican in this office.

Mr. Thurston is probably on the threshold of a career that will give him greatness and the state a considerable measure of credit. He has an unusually favorable opportunity to distinguish himself, and there is little doubt that he will avail himself of the opportunity. If John Sherman represents the sound money idea, and William McKinley the protection idea, John M. Thurston represents the broadly patriotic idea. The present is a time when the Thurston kind of Americanism, patriotism, is greatly needed in this country. It is a mercy that Thurston was spared.

The county campaign has not commenced; but Paul Clark and his co-workers have not waited for the commencement to put in work for the ticket. A great deal of preliminary work has been done, and things are in excellent shape. As the time for election draws near the confidence in a sweeping republican victory is increased. It is admitted on all sides, by members of all political parties, that the republican party in this county has never put up a better ticket than the one now before the people. Indeed the feeling is generally entertained that it is the best ticket ever nominated by the party. With a strong ticket and a large republican majority in the county it would seem that there ought to be no question about the election of every man on the ticket. What reason is there, pray, why any republican should not vote for every republican candidate? There may be, and in fact there are, good men on the other tickets; but if one is a republican he can surely find no reason for going outside of the party for a candidate. The indications are that the republican victory will be decisive and complete.

If the young men are largely represented on the ticket, the veterans have also a place, and one of the elements of

strength of the republican party in the approaching campaign will be the veteran republicans who are candidates.

If any man deserves well of his party it is John Trompen. Trompen is honestly entitled to the full republican vote. If a residence of more than 20 years in the county, a quarter century of devotion to the party, and a life long honorable business career, do not entitle a man to the respect and good will and votes of his party, then what does? John Trompen is a popular citizen and a good republican. His name ought to strengthen the ticket. And Captain Trimble, the candidate for county clerk. Mr. Trimble is an old soldier, and an old resident of the county. He is thoroughly respected, and his nomination is eminently satisfactory to the older members of the party.

The coming state convention will not be wholly devoid of interest; but it will not be wildly exciting. Judge Norval will be re-nominated, of course. This judge has made an excellent record on the supreme bench. He has served the state well. He is popular with the bar.

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