

months before the national convention he is the target for all shafts. The A. P. A. rises on one hand and seeks to incite to treachery instructed McKinley delegates. On the other hand comes the report, instigated by covert enemies, that the liquor dealers of the country have combined to advance his interests, this report being intended to cause the disaffection of the temperance people. In a hundred such ways, to say nothing of the attempt of Quay, Platte and Clarkson to steal the control of the organization of the national convention, is McKinley feeling the power of bold political manipulators. But through it all he continues to steadily advance, and it seems almost certain that he is marching to an assured triumph. McKinley's nomination at St. Louis will be one of the greatest personal victories ever won in American politics, comparable in some respects to Abraham Lincoln's first nomination for president.

It is altogether fit and proper that there should be no alternate for the illustrious delegate to the national republican convention from the First district. Some men may require substitutes or alternates, but the Honorable Linger Longer Lindsey doesn't need anybody's assistance. The selection of an alternate suggests a doubt of the principal, and it is therefore the highest compliment to Mr. Lindsey that he is sent to St. Louis without an alternate. This delegate is not of the common sort. The others are just delegates. He is Lindsey, and that settles it. When the doors of the convention are thrown open he will be among the first to enter, and when the gavel falls on the last day the Honorable Linger Longer will be in his place. And in the interim he will be there. An alternate for Mr. Lindsey would be superfluous.

Politicians generally unite in the opinion that "Jack" McColl, is, at the present moment, the strongest candidate for the republican nomination for governor of Nebraska. Mr. McColl is a good man and he has beautiful whiskers. Affability beams from his kindly countenance, and when he extends the glad hand his fist is full of cordiality. He is not a professional poker player and scandal doesn't hover about him. Accusation doesn't single him out, and the campaign lie avoids him. Mr. McColl, as I have said, is a good man, and his whiskers are the admiration of the whole state. But can any one give a single reason why this pleasant gentleman should be nominated for governor of Nebraska?

There are plenty of men with beautiful whiskers who would make a sorry figure in the executive office. The state abounds in good men, kindly men, affable men, cordial men, but the mere possession of these admirable qualities of goodness, kindness, and affability doesn't fit a man for the discharge of gubernatorial duties. The office of governor of Nebraska is a big office and it takes a big man to properly fill it. The republican party elected Crouse and Crouse with Garneau and Hilton and the rest humiliated and disgraced the party and the state. The republican party nominated for the high office of governor the poker player Majors, a man without one good respectable quality to recommend him, and with a dozen bad ones to damn him, and the party was defeated, as it deserved to be, and Silas Adipose Holcomb, the mammoth populist, lumbered into office and inaugurated an administration of scandal. And now will it again stultify itself by nominating for governor, on a platform of whiskers and affability, a man of more conspicuous incapacity than Holcomb?

This is a serious matter and deserves to be carefully considered.

The "Tom" and "Jack" brand of poli-

tics may do for county offices, but it is altogether out of place in the selection of candidates for state offices, particularly that of governor. What claim has Mr. McColl on the office of governor? Is he a man versed in public affairs? Has he any pretensions to statesmanship? Has he ever rendered any service to the state or the people of Nebraska? Has he ever made a public utterance that anybody can remember? Has he ever written a letter that anybody ever saw? Has he ever attempted to make the simplest kind of a public speech? Has he a reputation for patriotism? Has anybody ever accused him of being an able man? Who will answer these questions? Is it not a fact that this pleasant man who aspires to be governor of Nebraska is utterly lacking in everything that should give him a claim to the office? Is it not a fact that he is conspicuous only for his mediocrity? And have things reached such a point in this state that the republican party must pass by a thousand-able, worthier men, to take up a man like McColl and heap its highest honors upon him?

The governor of Nebraska has to consider acts of the legislature. Will any one contend that Mr. McColl is in any manner fitted to pass on questions of legislation? The governor of Nebraska has to make important appointments. Will any one contend that Mr. McColl is in any way adapted for this great responsibility? The governor of Nebraska, as the head of the state, is called up to preside over great public ceremonies, etc., etc. Will anyone contend that Mr. McColl is able to properly preside over anything? The Trans-Mississippi exposition to be held in 1898, is practically assured. It will be a great national event. Governors of states and probably the president of the United States, and other prominent people will attend. The governor of Nebraska will be called upon to receive and welcome these visitors and to take a leading part in promoting the success of the exposition. Imagine Governor McColl delivering an address of welcome to President McKinley before an audience of 40,000 people! It would be an inspiring spectacle, wouldn't it? Will any one contend that Mr. McColl would be anything other than a miserable failure at the Trans-Mississippi exposition? Does it not seem that there is an element of impertinence in such men as McColl and Majors forcing themselves as candidates for such an office as governor?

Mr. Sedgewick, the former secretary of the republican state central committee, has used up columns of good space in his newspaper demanding better men

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for public office in this state. Other editors, in off seasons, have taken up the cry. Now that the campaign is on will Mr. Sedgewick prosecute the good work? Will the other editors who talked fearlessly but a few months back have the courage to voice their honest convictions now? Will the republican newspapers of the state say a word now in disapproval of the candidacy of such men as McColl and in advocacy of bigger men for the state's big offices?

THE EDITOR.

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