

POINTS IN POLITICS

Many counties have been dilatory in holding their conventions this year, and it has been difficult on that account to make anything like a satisfactory estimate of the work of the republican state convention. A number of important counties will not hold their conventions till next week, and in some instances the county convention will be held only two or three days before the state convention. But this week there has been a decided lining up of the ranks, and it is possible to look ahead to the proceedings of the state convention with some intelligence.

At the outset "Jack" MacColl will be one of three leading candidates, but he will lack considerable of a sufficient number of votes to nominate, and he will be the kind of a candidate who will lose instead of gain when the balloting begins. The only increase he can hope to get will be the few votes that Eugene Moore will be able to turn over to him. These will be very few and they will be more than offset by desertions from the "Jack" candidate. MacColl will be forced to get out of the way and the battle will then be fought between Melklejohn and Hayward, with Adams an interesting factor. Nearly everybody thinks Hayward would make a good governor, but the most of the delegates to whom Hayward will look for support, will be instructed for Melklejohn, and there will be behind the congressman a quality and quantity of enthusiasm that will be disheartening to the other candidates. Mr. J. H. Ager and other well known representatives of the well known influence in Nebraska politics who, but a few weeks ago, were going up and down the state whooping it up for the man who is making his canvass upon a platform of whiskers and affability, are now singing the praises of Hayward, a fact that is not calculated to inspire "Jack" with any feeling of fondness or consideration for Hayward, and it is only natural to expect that a great deal of MacColl's strength will go to Melklejohn. And Melklejohn will get nearly all of the votes that will be cast for Moore at the outset. The people in Captain Adams' district want Adams for governor, but if they cannot get Adams, a majority of them want Melklejohn, and it will be found that the candidate from Fullerton will receive substantial support from this locality. But not counting the accessions Melklejohn will receive as the balloting progresses, he will have a positive, out and out support from the first that will make him the most formidable candidate. He will have a greater number of counties than any other candidate, and at this writing his nomination seems fairly well assured. "Jack" cannot and will not be nominated. A few people are saying that MacColl is still in the race, but they have nothing substantial on which to base their claims. The MacColl strength is chiefly holler and whiskers.

There is going to be a big fight for the nomination for treasurer, and the man who is to be successful must go into the convention prepared to down Joe's combination of Macks and Jacks, the syndicate that includes the powerful influence of the present state treasurer, used to perpetuate the Bartley regime, the candidacies of McNish and Balch, and the more or less extensive pull of the Omaha National bank. All of these influences are pulling together, and the director of the syndicate, Joe Bartley, is one of the coolest, shrewdest, boldest political manipulators in the state. But with all its power the syndicate seems predestined to defeat. The combination is rendered weak by the fact that the people understand fully the purpose of the men who are making such a frantic effort to retain the control of the state treasury. Suspicion and distrust are stalking about the state, and the people everywhere are demanding the nomination for treasurer of a man who is altogether clear of the syndicate's influence, and that demand will be represented by a commanding number of votes in the state convention. Of the candidates for treasurer who may be regarded as possibilities there are two, Casey and Jewett, who are under no obligations to Joe's syndicate, and it is the opinion of thinking republicans that the welfare of the party demands the nomination of one of these two men. Both are strong candidates, and either would safely guard the interests of the people.

There will be some excitement when it comes to the nomination of a candidate for attorney-general. Republicans

have not forgotten the theft in the state convention of '92, and retributive justice is very likely to assert itself. The convention may expect a spontaneous demand for the nomination of Summers as an act of simple justice, and if anybody starts a movement of this kind it will surely result in Summers' nomination.

Mr. McCaly continues to look after his interests and he and his friends are hopeful.

Here is a ticket that has many of the earmarks of probability upon it. It is given, not as what the writer would like to see, but as what he thinks may be the ticket:

- Governor, George D. Melklejohn.
- Lieutenant-Governor, R. E. Moore or Orlando Tefft.
- Secretary of state, J. A. Piper.
- Treasurer, Charles E. Casey or L. H. Jewett.
- Commissioner of public lands and buildings, H. C. Russell.
- Attorney-general, W. S. Summers.
- Superintendent, H. R. Corbett.
- Auditor, P. O. Hedlund or W. M. Geddes.
- Supreme judge, Ryan and Bartow.
- Regent of the university, "Some good Omaha man."

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