

IN THE REALM OF POLITICS



LLEWELLYN L. LINDSEY,
Recently Appointed Surveyor of the
port of Lincoln.



JUDGE J. B. BARNES, of Norfolk,
Appointed a Member of the Nebraska
Supreme Court Commission.

The next surveyor of the port of Lincoln will be Llewellyn L. Lindsey. The port of Lincoln is a government fiction. There is no actual port here, but there are quite a number of Lincoln merchants who purchase goods from abroad and for their convenience a customs service has been established at Lincoln, with a bonded warehouse, a surveyor and collector.

The office of surveyor and collector pays \$900 a year in salary. In addition a three per cent commission is allowed, which adds an average of about \$900 more. The surveyor is also custodian of the government building, a duty formerly devolving upon the postmaster, but for this he receives no added compensation. The duties of the office are not exacting, and as the government allows a clerk, its occupant can find time to look after his private business, if it is not too exacting in character.

Mr. Lindsey is a native of Frankfort, Kentucky, but he has been a resident of Lincoln since September, 1877. He came to Lincoln from Chicago to take the place of head waiter at the Commercial hotel, then operated by Joseph J. Imhoff. In Chicago Mr. Lindsey was third head waiter at the Tremont house. He remained with Mr. Imhoff for a number of years, afterwards engaging in business for himself. He is at present the proprietor of one of the largest retail cigar and news stores in the city.

"Bud" Lindsey, as he is familiarly known, is a natural born politician. He began taking an interest in the game when a boy of seventeen, and as a reward for participation in a lively municipal contest in Frankfort was appointed street lighter, a contract which he promptly sublet at profit to himself. The only other public office he has ever held was street commissioner under Mayor Frank Graham. Previous to Mr. Lindsey's occupancy of that office its affairs were run in a slipshod manner, leaving open an avenue to fraud in the way of padding the pay roll. He promptly established business methods, cut down the expenses of the department and added greatly to its efficiency.

Mr. Lindsey has long been recognized as one of the ablest political tacticians in the county. He served two years as a member of the state committee, and during half of his residence here has been on either or both the county and city committees. Fidelity to his friends and staunch adherence to a promise once given are the two distinguishing characteristics of his career as a politician. There are many men who pose as politicians who promise everything to all parties and redeem only such promises as seem to them best for their personal inter-

ests. They seldom last long, ignominy and execration being their deserved fate. Bud Lindsey is not one of them, and the best test of his character is found in the fact that the better he is known the more highly is he esteemed. Especially is this the case with those who have known him only as the bogie man created by the reformers but who find him out afterwards for what he is. Mr. Lindsey has brains, honesty, truth and stability.

He has helped many a man in this county and city to high places, but his rewards have been meagre. He has richly earned the place that is soon to be his, and none who know him begrudge him either the honor or the salary.

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Judge John B. Barnes of Norfolk, recently appointed as supreme court commissioner to fill the vacancy caused by the succession of Commissioner Sedgwick to the supreme bench, is one of the best known lawyers in Nebraska.

An index to his character and standing is evidence by the extremely large vote he received in the last republican state convention, when, in competition with such jurists as Judges Keysor, Sedgwick and Davidson, he received a vote rivalling theirs in number. The strong endorsement he received afterwards at the hands of the state bar is only an added testimonial to his ability and character.

Mr. Barnes has been identified with northeastern Nebraska from her earliest days. At Ponca where he formerly resided, and at Norfolk, where he has lived for sixteen years, no man stands higher than Judge Barnes. At Ponca, he served two years as county attorney, and when E. K. Valentine was elected to congress the first time Governor Nance made John B. Barnes a district judge. At the end of that term he was elected for four years more.

Mr. Barnes is a native of Ohio, and as a boy enlisted in the light artillery and served his term as a soldier. Later he studied law, but was not admitted to the bar until he came to Nebraska.

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When Judge Ben Baker heard the news the other day that he had been confirmed as judge of the federal court for New Mexico, he told a correspondent sitting by that if the senate judiciary committee had known him better they would not have acceded so unanimately.

Everybody who knows Ben will cordially agree with him in this sentiment. Few men in Nebraska politics have such sincere friends and such bitter enemies as Ben Baker. His friends have been the more powerful in the

past, but his circle of enemies has never materially diminished. Mr. Baker is a man who has looked out for No. 1, meaning thereby Ben S. Baker, every hour. If he ever coveted an office he was never backward about saying so. He early learned that no matter how good and worthy a man was, he never achieved place and power by calling attention to his noble qualities; that the watchword of success in politics was hustle, and to keep hustling. He discovered before he was long in the arena that the nominations did not always go to the best man, but to the fellow who knew what wires were necessary to be pulled and who could best do the pulling.

Baker is not yet fifty years of age, yet sixteen of the twenty-nine since he reached his majority—possibly more, as the returns are not all in yet—have been spent in the pay of the public. He was barely twenty-one when he ran for his first office, that of county superintendent of schools at Webster City, Iowa. Previous to that he had been a school teacher, studying law between times. Here is his record so far as history has embalmed it:

Four years as county superintendent at Webster City, Ia.

Two years as representative from Jefferson county, Neb.

Four years as United States district attorney for Nebraska.

Six years as district judge of Douglas county, Neb.

Baker is a man of force and energy. As a mixer and as a campaigner he ranks high. He is a glib talker, but not an orator. His speech before the last republican state convention, which he presided over as temporary chairman, was tiresome and inordinately long. His vanity suffered its severest shock when the convention compelled him, by its mark of dissent, to cut it short.

Baker achieved some fame as the man who sentenced Bartley to prison. He gave him twenty years, one short of the maximum. At the time and many times since it has been freely charged that Baker was influenced to hit Bartley so hard because he thought he saw in it a chance to make himself governor and possibly United States senator, for there never has been a limit to Baker's ambition. His ex-coriolation of Bartley was in marked contrast with his action as the prosecutor of Charley Mosher. He was United States district attorney then and he used his influence to get Mosher off as light as possible. Mosher was a man of might in those days and Baker was looking to the future. Yet Mosher's crime brought many times the distress to Nebraska people that Bartley's did. To have prosecuted Mosher rigorously would not have enhanced Baker's political fortunes; to sentence Bartley to twenty years, he thought, would make him great in the eyes of his fellow-citizens. He never succeeded in getting close to the goal upon which his eyes were then fixed, and while he has never given up hope, his active ambition sought new fields to conquer. He wanted to be congressman. To sidetrack him Dave Mercer got him named as federal judge for New Mexico.

A carpetbag official is never very popular, but Baker will not mind that in New Mexico. His first care will be to make himself solid with the people down there. This he can do because he is a man of winning personality, a good fellow and a hustler. He will soon find out who make men in that territory, and when the day comes that New Mexico is admitted into the sisterhood of states, watch out for Ben Baker as one of her United States senators. If any doubt of his ability to get there exists, a survey of his career in Omaha will brush it away. When he was named as district attorney he lived in Fairbury. The duties of his office called him to Omaha and there he took up his residence. He was a carpetbagger there, but he wasn't out of office two years before he landed a district judgeship. So my advice to aspiring republicans in New Mexico is to watch Baker.

National Committeeman R. B. Schneider is down at Washington

again. Mr. Schneider is as secretive as ever. He glides into town, moves about in a mysterious way, shuns the reporters and if they corral him he is non-communicative. Mr. Schneider doesn't believe in carrying on his political business with a brass band accompaniment. He is, perhaps, the best representative Nebraska has in the line of gum-shoe statemen—a term used to designate those politicians who work quietly and silently. His present mission is understood to be for the purpose of settling the Grand Island and Fremont postoffice controversy. W. H. H. Harrison, the Nasby of the Hall county capital, was an offensive anti-Thompson partisan during the last senatorial campaign. He came here early and worked late to defeat the Lincoln man's ambition. Harrison is a rough and ready sort of politician but he has a cunning brain and is resourceful. Whether he can succeed in holding on at Grand Island in spite of his record is a question that is of interest, but it is no wise of such importance as would justify its being made a state issue.

It is understood in political circles that the senators have decided on Swanson as postmaster at Fremont, but whether Mr. Schneider can overturn this and get some one else in only the future will prove. Ross Hammond says the whole trouble lies in L. D. Richards' jealousy of Schneider and takes this crack at his old-time ally:

"The trouble was two months ago amicably arranged between the patriots who want the postoffice (that is to say, between two of them, for there are a host of others who would be glad to take it if they saw it coming their way), but this one jealous man would not stand for a kind of harmony that didn't have his brand blown in the bottle, though it fixed his vacillating candidate all right. This sort of evidence of a determination to have a fight almost made me mad. I couldn't help thinking at that time that the jealous man made an exhibition of himself. Since then nearly everybody in Fremont has said so and many letters from outside have been received to the same effect. You will therefore readily see on whose shoulders rests the responsibility for disturbing the peace. And it will be made plainer when I tell you that this man's candidate was slated for another position. He had the promise of those high in authority and would, in due course, have been cared for and greatly relieved. But the man behind the candidate spat on his hands and shoved him into the fray and the man has been having a blamed hard time keeping the candidate under control. The jealous man referred to has said of another man brought into the fray by his endorsement of another candidate, that 'he is getting too d-d big for the town' and so he, the jealous man, is doing his best to prune him down to his own size. Wouldn't that cork you? This is a good town, but it needs five hundred more big men, men too big to get anything 'up their nose' when they see others passing them in the race of life."

Loyalty to his friends has always been one of D. E. Thompson's strong points. Recent appointments in Nebraska demonstrate that he is still hewing along this line. When he was running for senator last winter he had the advice and counsel of a strong array of republicans. Among these were E. B. Stephenson, E. R. Sizer, W. H. Dorgan, A. R. Cruzen, W. A. Green, L. L. Lindsey and Alva E. Kennard. Since then Mr. Stephenson has been made United States revenue collector, Mr. Sizer is to be postmaster, Mr. Dorgan's brother is in the revenue service, Mr. Cruzen has been named as a commissioner to Porto Rico, Mr. Green is to be register of the Lincoln land office, Mr. Lindsey has been named surveyor of the port of Lincoln and Mr. Kennard is to be receiver of public moneys in this city. There were others, but their rewards, if they desire any, will doubtless come later.

Among Mr. Thompson's supporters was Senator VanBoskirk of Alliance. VanBoskirk has had his eye on the land office at Alliance for some time, and he has just returned from Washington, where he went to get the support of the two senators. It is said that Senator Dietrich has not agreed to help VanBoskirk, and if he doesn't there is likely to be an explosion. The office of register is now held by F. M. Dorrington. His term does not expire until next August, and meanwhile the senators refuse to commit themselves for any man.