

JONES IN RACE

Register of Land Office Announces Candidacy.

WILL MAKE THE RUN FOR CONGRESS

One of Best Known Men in Oregon
—Has Splendid Legislative Record—Stands for People's Interests.

Roseburg, Oregon, Dec. 27, '13
An open letter to the voters of the first congressional district.
Hundreds of people living in every county in the first congressional district have never written, telegraphed or asked me to become a candidate for congress. However, believing in the principle that if a man wants anything the best way to get it is to go after it, and not wait for it to come to him, and holding to the doctrine that under our form of government it is an disgrace to seek an office at the hands of the people, I therefore desire to say that after due consideration and "without any mental reservation or undue influence," I have decided to become a candidate for congress on the republican ticket at the coming primary election.

Being a stranger to many of you, at the risk of being called an egotist I am going to tell you something about myself in order that you may be able to form an opinion as to whether I am as well qualified for the position as other candidates who are seeking the office.

First, in order not to try to deceive you, must say that I have as many faults as the average man, and when the campaign begins to warm up the other fellows will tell you all about them. From first evidence I have learned that I first opened my

eyes in a modest dwelling on a farm near Lawrence, Douglas county, Kansas, more than a half century ago. My father died when I was eight years old, and I came to Oregon with my mother in 1870, and settled upon a homestead in the Yaquina Bay country. Two years later my mother died and I worked for ranchers and farmers until I was eighteen, going to the public schools during the winter months.

From 1876 to 1893 I worked in the logging camps, on the stock range and at steamboating. From 1893 to 1898 was county clerk of Lincoln county, during which time I studied law and was admitted to practice in 1897, since which time I have been in the active practice.

Represented Polk and Lincoln counties in the legislature three terms. Appointed register of the United States land office at Roseburg by President Taft, December 18, 1909, serving four years.

While a member of the legislature in 1903 I introduced what was known as the car shortage or demurrage bill. It was defeated and in 1907 I again introduced it, and being a member of the committee on railroads, got it incorporated in the railroad commission bill, which became a law. At this same session I introduced and secured the passage of a law providing for the Directors-Parent-Teachers meetings. I also at the same session introduced the Jones Free Locks Bill, which became a law, appropriating \$300,000, contingent upon the government appropriating a like sum for the purpose of building new, or purchasing the old locks at Oregon City, and the operating of the same free to the people by the government. The government having failed to appropriate any money for that purpose, at the 1909 session I again introduced a bill continuing the said appropriation of \$300,000 for another two years, contingent upon the government making a like appropriation to purchase the locks. Since that time the government has appropriated

the same and has taken the locks over, and navigation on the Willamette river is now free to all.

At the 1907 session I introduced a resolution to provide for the amending of the constitution to allow women the right of suffrage. It passed the house, but received only seven votes in the senate. However, since that time the progressive voters of Oregon have voted to allow our mothers, wives, daughters and sisters the right of equal suffrage, and another state has been set along the line of good government.

During the 1909 session I introduced a bill which became a law, repealing a former act of the legislature granting to the Willamette Valley and Coast Railroad Company all the tide and overflowed lands on the Alsea, Siletz and Yaquina bays. At the same session I introduced a bill appropriating \$100,000 to pay the Indian war veteran claims, due for use and loss of horses in the Indian wars of Oregon, a debt contracted by the Oregon territory and standing unpaid for over fifty years. This bill passed the house, but was killed in the senate, but a similar bill became a law in the session of 1913.

In 1908, upon my own motion and at my own cost I commenced suits against the Wells Fargo and Pacific Express companies of Oregon for a reduction of express rates. Both these suits were decided in favor of the shippers, and a reduction of twenty per cent was made in the Oregon rates.

During my term as register of the land office I worked for the revision of the public land laws in the interests of the bona fide homesteaders who were seeking to settle the wild lands of Oregon. I prepared and had introduced in the senate and house of the United States a bill providing for an annual six months leave of absence, for the purpose of giving the homesteader an opportunity to earn money with which to live on while improving his homestead, and to allow those who had children of school age an opportunity to send them to school.

If elected I shall stand squarely and fearlessly for legislation in the interest of the people, for the improvement of our rivers and harbors, for the deepening of the Willamette river that it may be navigable from Portland to Eugene at all seasons of the year, for more and better roads, for the amending or enacting of our public land laws to conform to present conditions, and for the surveying and classifying of the lands in our forest reserves, that the vast area of grazing and agricultural lands may be opened to settlement.

If the government shall finally win the suit now pending against the Oregon and California Railroad company, I shall do all in my power to keep these lands from being placed in the reserves, and work to the end that the grazing and agricultural lands may be open to settlement under the homestead laws.

Having lived forty-three years in Oregon, being acquainted with the conditions in every county of the district and with many of the people, having worked as lumber jack, farmed the rich valley lands, ran an "Armstrong" mowing machine on the fertile bottoms where the timothy, red-top, clover and lea grass grow six feet high; having walked nearly every mile of the west line of seven of our counties that border and stretch along the Pacific ocean for three hundred miles, from Clatsop to Curry, pulled stroke car in a fish-

ing boat on the moonlit waters of the mighty Columbia, when the splash of the Silverado and Chinook was music to the ears of three thousand fishermen; double reefed and scudded before a booming southwester, when the storm king was on and the white caps lit the way from Sand Island to Astoria, worked as deck hand and captain on steam and sailing vessels on our rivers and bays, with this personal knowledge of Oregon I believe that I can be of some service to the state and the people whom I seek to represent.

If I am elected, come and see me. Being of modest means I will not be able to entertain you in the latest style, but you will be as welcome as the flowers in springtime, and if I only have a tent on the Capitol grounds the latch-string will be on the outside, and there will be no sign "keep off the grass."

Sincerely yours,
B. F. JONES.

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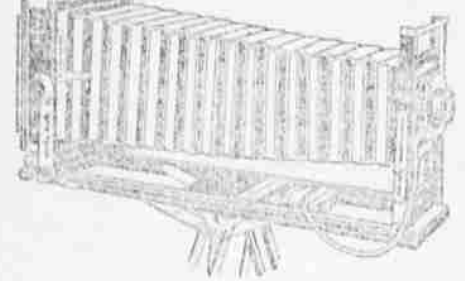
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