

La Grande Evening Observer

Four Outstanding Facts

Judge Stephen A. Lowell Discusses the Political Situation as it Now Appears in Oregon.

PENDELTON, Oregon, May 13.—To the Editor: In response to your invitation I am submitting the following brief discussion of four outstanding factors in the approaching primary election, all of which will be carried forward to the general election in November, and all of which



JUDGE STEPHEN A. LOWELL

touch intimately the welfare of the state, and the happiness and contentment of its people. First—The subject which candidates generally are deliberately ignoring, namely, law enforcement, is the most important; the most far-reaching and most closely interwoven with the future of the commonwealth. It is a notorious fact

are sustaining, either by scoffing or silence, its violation by others. Before the poisoned thrones of their sneaking majesties, the moonshiners and the bootlegger, people deemed respectable are bowing. With one law openly violated, the whole moral code is in danger.

Sees a Gloomy Future. God pity the state when the next generation assumes authority. Standards of morality are low enough now, but the majority of the men and women of middle life were at least reared amid the stern environment of law supremacy. In closing this subdivision permit me to append a quotation from Abraham Lincoln, worthy the candid consideration of all citizens at this crisis.

"As the patriots of '76 did to the support of the Declaration of Independence, so to the support of the Constitution and the Laws let every American pledge his life, his property and his sacred honor; let every man remember that to violate the law is to trample on the blood of his father, and to tear the charter of his own and his children's liberty. Let every American mother to the lips of her babe that prattles on her lap. Let it be taught in schools, in seminaries, and in colleges. Let it be written in primers, spelling books, and in almanacs. Let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice. And, in short, let it become the political religion of the nation."

No One Has Remedy. Second—Taxation in this campaign is the overshadowing topic of discussion. Electors are anxiously looking for a man with a remedy for the economic ills of the state—and apparently they are looking in vain. What candidate anywhere along the line, from the gubernatorial sextette to the humblest tax spender of the counties, has any workable program to reduce the back-breaking burden of taxation under which all are laboring? Not one. The much talked of combination of commissions, the cabinet form of government, the reduction of salaries, the proposed income tax, all possessing some merit, will accomplish little in the grand total of taxation. Yet reduction is possible—indeed as much as fifty

per cent reduction, but such outcome is improbable because it will require the cooperation of the executive and legislative departments, plus the entire corps of county officials.

How to Reduce Taxes. The only way to reduce taxation is to reduce taxation, and that will follow reduction of expenses everywhere. Luxuries must be foregone. The voting of bonds and excessive levies must cease. All millage laws must be repealed or radically modified at once. The craze for paved roads, born of the automobile, must be cured. The old district methods of road care must be restored and the endless chain of engineers dismissed. A third of the public offices must be abolished. The frills of the men in charge of public institutions (automobiles, servants and elegant homes) must be eliminated. The school system must be revised, and the school machine smashed. Half the current curricula may well be abandoned. The counties and municipalities must needs get back to the basis of economy where every appropriation is cut to the bone, and the simple life adopted.

The writer is of the opinion that the State University ought to be converted into a private institution, kindred to Stanford, and the state relieved from its maintenance. There are plenty of wealthy men in Oregon who can endow it. Statisticians tell us that the attendance at both the university and Agricultural College does not represent five per cent of the youth of school age in the state. Surely there is no duty resting upon the public to furnish so-called higher education to that number of pupils. It is probable that we must continue the agricultural college in some form, because it is partially financed by the federal government, and because agriculture is the foundation of all wealth, but its budget should be reduced at least one half, and its work measured by the population and wealth of the state. It is now too heavy and over-ambitious. Third—One hears once more the labored grinding of the long unused political machines. The maddened warhorses of a decadent past are stretching their spavined limbs. They pourish a hope that the hands of time will somehow turn backward

These movements mean a renewed attempt to destroy the direct primary and restore the corrupt caucus and convention, with kindred purpose to hamstring the initiative and referendum, and to bring back the day of boss dominated legislatures. These apostles of reaction have a candidate, and they are spending time and money to elect him. They argue that the cause of exorbitant tax rates is rash legislation, made possible by the type of men who go to the legislature under the direct primary system. Pure buncombe. The same type of men have always been members of the legislature. They are no better and no worse now than they were a quarter of a century ago. The trouble with this brood of critics is that they believe in a ruling class. They have no confidence in the plain people. As a rule they are monarchists at heart. They love a boss to whom they willingly bow. The older men who read this will recall the time when no man could be nominated to any office in a republican state convention, except after approval by Joe Simon, Jim Loran, Jack Matthews, or some kindred political magnate of Portland.

It will be well for all the voters to go to the polls this month. Their political privileges are in the balance. It is vastly safer to trust all the people, than to follow the lead of a few men who would select candidates and make laws behind closed doors, in the seclusion of some private office, or around the mahogany table in the directors room of a great corporation.

Secret Organizing. Fourth—This is a time, in Oregon, when religious bigotry and racial prejudice reign supreme in the realm of politics. Since the "Know Nothing" movement of the fifties this is the first time in a northern state that a man is measured by the creed his mother taught him, by his skin. Secret organizations mauling intolerance and the boycott. Nothing could be more un-American than the doctrines which they inculcate or the methods which they invoke. There was something of this in the South during the re-construction period, but the nation assumed that the mental poise of fanatics even would

never be again disturbed by that ghost.

The group now active here seem to have associated with them some members of other organizations. They are making extravagant claims of their political strength. They, also, have a candidate, perhaps two candidates. They claim to be protestants in religion, but the most of them never attend any church. They proclaim superlative integrity in the public schools, yet there is scarcely a man among them who has even visited the schools since the days of his childhood. They are proposing a law compelling every child between the ages of 8 and 16 years to attend the public schools. That is preposterous. The state may well compel education, but it has no right to say to me that I shall educate my children in any particular school. I am a protestant, and just as good an American as any of the gentlemen whose vagaries I am discussing, but if I prefer to educate my family in a Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal or Catholic school, it is nobody's business except my own.

rection of a dead past are as the blind leading the blind. They are arraying citizen against citizen, family against family, friend against friend. They are sowing serpents' teeth. They are plucking dead sea fruit. The electors of the state who love liberty, who are devoted to the exalted principles upon which the republic is founded, who believe in free men, free press, free speech, and the right to worship God according to the dictates of conscience, are summoned to the polls this year, if never before.

I decline to discuss candidates. I do appeal, however, to all voters to inform themselves as to the man who seeks their ballots on the 19th of this month. By their fruits ye shall know them, is an axiom of holy writ. By their associations ye shall know them is an axiom of politics. I have profound faith in the average judgment of all the people. The danger lies in lethargy.

STEPHEN A. LOWELL.

READ THE WANT ADS!

Nerve Exhaustion Following Flu Finds Cure.



Sanitarium and Office.

The depressing after effects from Flu are, in many cases, months and even years in clearing up. Delayed recovery is not necessary. Our Milk and Rest Cure is the perfect treatment for these sufferers. A few weeks works wonders. Inquiry invited.

Health four weeks away

The Moore Sanitarium 522 Hawthorne at 27th PORTLAND - OREGON

Vote For Ralph E. Williams Republican Candidate for Committeeman



Mr. Williams is now Vice Chairman of the Republican National Committee. It is next to the Highest office in the Republican Party in the United States, and he is in line for the Chairmanship, which would mean that the State of Oregon would have the highest rank of any State in the Nation in Party affairs.

Mr. Williams is being opposed by Politicians whose careers are well Known around the lobbies in Salem and they are not Known as workers for the general good of the Republican Party. A vote for Williams means a vote of Republican Organization and Republican Principles.

Committee of Republicans Thos. H. Tongue, Pres. Hillsboro, Ore.

Paid Advertisement