

Platforms of Candidates Amuse Ex-Governor

T. T. Geer, Former Chief Executive, Favors Income Tax—Holds Poll Tax Impractical.

PORTLAND, May 13.—Editor of Observer:—There can be no such thing as a political platform under our system of direct primaries, though the law creating it specifically declares that its purpose is to strengthen political parties. All we have or can expect is a lot of personal platforms and the critic cannot determine whether any specific declaration is given out by a republican or democratic candidate. And, with a few exceptions, the platforms issued in 1914 would answer all requirements of any candidate in 1922.

We will say that Bill Jones wants to go to the legislature, though why he does would puzzle all his acquaintances, as well as those who are not. But he has the bee and he proceeds to inform a hurried public that he is "unalterably opposed" to high taxes and that if the people will but gratify his ambition he will see that "H. B. 1" provides for a 50 percent reduction of general taxation, and, not only that, but he will vote "first, last and all the time" for "the elimination of all useless commissions" right off the bat. Bill is also incensed over the increase of salaries—with the possible exception of that of the treasurer of his own county—though this exception appears in the subsequent roll call and not in his platform. And he is also decidedly pronounced in his opposition to a lot of other things which will appeal to the average voter, who, for that reason, would probably vote for Bill were it not for the fact that John Smith, "way back in 1912, perhaps, was as much up in arms against high taxes and "useless commissions" as Bill is now but taxes are twice as high now as then, and if the roads have been put under a single commission in these ten years the public has never been informed of it.

Platforms Are Amusing.
"It is to laugh." During the past six weeks this writer has carefully read fully one hundred platforms, each issued by an aspiring candidate who doubtless sincerely feels that not only something should be done for the relief of the people but that if given a chance his influence will always be cast with those who are in favor of a "general uplift," though the only uplift so far appreciably realized has been applied to the annual tax statement. And I do not mean to say that nothing has been accomplished, for much has been done, unfortunately for the general public. Having had considerable experience in legislative matters in Oregon, as a legislator and otherwise, though not for the past 20 years, I have quite naturally watched the trend of events and during the life of the direct primary system have seen the tax rate increased more than 300 per cent, not merely in the aggregate but per capita, when in fact, the rate should be less per capita with a larger population than with a smaller.

Blames Direct Primary.
All this began with the installation of the direct primary law, as the records show, and the plea that it is attributable to the war is mere piffle, for the "uplift" had been noticeable for eight years before the war began and is still "making the grade" in beautiful form. And, it may be said to those who insist still that the direct primary system came straight from the hand of God, and must, therefore, not be tampered with by mere man, that if they like its results, then that is the class of results they like. Nothing more to them is to be said, except to remind them that when they retort by saying that other states are groaning under the same burden that afflicts Oregon, that practically all other states have direct primaries for the selection of their candidates and that a state convention anywhere is an anomaly.

To say that a candidate favors a reduction of taxes is a somewhat startling declaration—it so fully associates him with all other candidates. The unanimity of sentiment that finds lodgment in the breasts of all aspirants looks good to the hopeful voter and if all candidates who have made honest-to-goodness promises for a much desired improvement are successful at the polls the next legislature will be composed of at least 100 representatives and 75 senators.

Holds Poll Tax Impractical.
Aside from the good time coming to the people of Oregon after the adjournment of the next legislature in the way of reduced cost of government the question presents itself as to some of the methods offered as a panacea. A proposed poll tax would in all probability be rejected by both the legislature and the people if submitted to them. A poll tax is not a successful means of raising revenue in any case, both through its unpopularity and the difficulty of collecting it. The basis of all taxes is property, for, as a rule, any property is not difficult of location, while a considerable portion of our population is transient—men without property and as to them a poll tax is non-enforceable.

Favors Income Tax.
In spite of the objections that may be urged against an income tax law, the points in support of it as a means of equalizing the burdens of the tax problem seem to easily decide the question in its favor. Its

tendency to place the greater burden where the ability to pay is the greater will appeal strongly to those who sincerely want to see the expense of government equitably borne by all the people. The plea that an income tax law would "keep capital out of the state" is to say that we are willing to submit the decision of our economic policy to those not now living here, and to further postpone a step to being a much-needed relief. That year has been urged against other splendid proposals for the past twenty years, and without effect.

The educational institutions of the state should not be hampered by the withdrawing of such support as they now have. The University of Oregon and the State Agricultural College are daily contributors to the upbuilding of our young manhood and womanhood and should be supported in an unaltered manner. We have several "fills," undoubtedly, in our many departments of state government which should be removed, but our higher institutions of learning are helpful to our citizenry in a way that radiates beneficially to every section of the commonwealth. Their liberal support is an expense that we cannot afford to not incur.

Of course a spirit of fairness will suggest that to the foregoing the statement should be added that the people themselves have sanctioned through their initiative and referendum votes many of the so-called extravagances of which we are complaining, but a thousand and one modern conveniences which we are all enjoying enable the average person to really live more in one year than our forefathers did in a dozen. With this point of the situation in view things are not so bad as they seem,—such as Bill Nye once said of Wagnerian music which he had been criticizing most severely. He added that, "however, there are those who insist that Wagner's music is not half as bad as it sounds."

Largely, we have invited and encouraged that which we are now in arms against.
Opposes Secret Work.
Grievous as our burdens undoubtedly are, and much as most of them call for a speedy remedy, the situation now confronting us which presents the greatest menace to the general welfare of the country is the presence of different secret organizations which the district attorney, of Los Angeles, properly characterizes as "hooded cowards," now undertaking in different sections of the country to both disregard and override the established law. When it becomes necessary to hide behind a mask and to be directed by a "king klesgale" and a "grand goblin" to express one's Americanism in the land of the "Star Spangled Banner" it is not difficult to discern a bolshevik seed that should be nipped in the bud before it becomes imbedded in our national soil. Sprinkling locally it may be safely predicted that any candidate for any office who is known to be drilling with any organization which is moving under cover for political ends will receive no endorsement at the hands of the people of Oregon.

"Open covenants openly arrived at" is a mighty good sentiment to keep in line with.

T. T. GEER.

Latin Words in English Language.
Nearly one-third of the words in the English language are of Latin origin. Anglo-Saxon was spoken in England until the coming of William the Conqueror, in 1066. With the Norman invasion came the introduction of French into the English language. Several thousand of the French words were Latin with a few alterations. Later a still larger number of Latin words were introduced into the English language.

Who Uses Willard Threaded Rubber Batteries?

It would be a good deal quicker to name over the car-builders who don't. For the great majority of builders of cars and trucks have selected Willard Threaded Rubber Batteries. You'll find them now on 173 makes.

The ability of Threaded Rubber Insulation to resist cracking, warping and puncturing, and therefore to give more miles of uninterrupted service per dollar, appeals to the builder as much as the buyer.

When you buy a new battery it is worth your while to look into the battery that has been selected by the best brains of the automotive industry—the Willard Threaded Rubber Battery.

We can fit your car from our complete stock.

LA GRANDE BATTERY STATION
Willard Batteries
A. L. Crossman

Woman Requests Burial at Sea



Mrs. G. Treweek, wife of a St. Astor trader, being buried at sea in Corvick Bay according to her request. Here the mourners watch the small boat set out to sea with the coffin.

Shriners Thrilled By Sousa's Famous Band

Unexpected Arrival of President Harding Was Signal for Tremendous Ovation; Many Congressmen Present.

(By Ned Baldwin, Secretary to Congressman Nick Sinnott.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 9.—(Special to the Observer by mail.)—Recently I experienced one of the great thrills of my life when as one of hundreds of rather thousands of unfeared Nobles of the Mystic Shrine assembled for a ceremonial in Capitol theatre here, I saw John Philip Sousa the "March King" of America drafted from his seat in a box, step upon the stage and take the baton passed up to him by the leader of Almas Temple orchestra and lead this to him unfamiliar orchestra through his own world famous march, "America Forever."

Never have I seen such an exhibition of enthusiasm during any years of residence at the national capital. The whole thing was so sudden, so fitting, so happy, so spontaneous, that the army of high degree Masons there were taken off their feet, emotionally as well as physically. So tumultuous was the demonstration that the great but modestly mannered master of march melody was literally forced to respond to an encore. After an instant of respectful hush, strangely contrasted to the wild enthusiasm of a moment before, the Almas orchestra was following the commands of his magic baton through the chords of another of his famous compositions "The Washington Post March."

Again and again throughout the march the Shriners broke into spirited applause and as the close they sprang to their feet and cheered and threw their fetters in air. At the close of the demonstration, Sousa passed back the baton to the regular orchestra conductor; stepped back to his seat in a box; the curtain went up and the stage was set for the "stunts" of the evening.

President Harding arriving unexpectedly shortly after this, just

as the initiation was well started, was greeted with an ovation. He sat in one of the boxes and seemed to thoroughly enjoy the fun of the evening. Among the other distinguished "nobility" who saw the class of novices "cross the hot sands" were twenty-one Shrine Senators and 134 members of the House of Representatives. During the afternoon President Harding had reviewed the Shrine parade from a window of the White House.

The occasion was a special ceremonial in honor of the Imperial Potentate of North America, Ernest A. Curtis of Georgia, who honored our temple with a visitation yesterday. The Imperial Potentate in his splendid address told story after story of the magnificent work being done by the Shrine Hospitals for crippled children, which are being established over the country and supported by the Shriners of North America.

Almas Temple will be represented in force at the coming Imperial Conclave at San Francisco. An auto caravan left here for the Golden Gate City a day or two ago, but the main caravan will start in a special train on June 3. I had the privilege of going with the jolly Almas bunch on their "special caravan" to Portland in 1920 and wish I might go to San Francisco this year but shall have to be content with joining in the welcome which I know will be given by hospitable Portland as the shrine caravan tarry there en route, coming and going. A large part of the Eastern visitors are planning to go back through Oregon and see the wonderful scenery which some of us from the West have been telling them about for so long. About mid-June in Oregon there will be so many red fetters bubbling about from Ashland to Baker that the state will look

I HAVE TWICE SERVED THE PEOPLE OF UNION COUNTY IN THE LEGISLATURE. MY RECORD IS OPEN TO ALL AND UPON IT I STAND AND ASK YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE COMING SESSION.

A. R. HUNTER

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR THE LEGISLATURE FROM UNION COUNTY.
PAID ADV.



Wm. A. Dalziel

LABOR COMMISSIONER
Republican Candidate for
Primaries May 19, 1922

- A PRACTICAL MAN FOR A PRACTICAL JOB
- Thirty-one Years in Oregon.
 - Ten Years Experience as Deputy Labor Commissioner.
 - Machinist of Eighteen Years' Experience, and Card Paid up to Date.
 - Constructive Ideas. Progressive Tendencies.
 - Conservative Action.

Paid Adv.

like an animated field of mammoth poppies.

SPRING HOUSE CLEANING SALE

House cleaning sale is now on at the Art & Gift Shop, Richardson, "The Art Man," is offering some exceptional values in lines of dinnerware, glassware, baskets and many other useful and ornamental things for the home. Tomorrow is the last day.

I-C-E.

Hot weather about here. Phone 413-J for Jack Frost Ice.
5-11-6t YOUNG ICE CO.

O. P. HOFF

For State Treasurer
Second Term

—Saved the taxpayers \$258,000.00.

—Refused a salary increase for himself.

—Honest, efficient.

—His opponent is a banker and while Deputy Treasurer started a bank of his own depositing \$100,000 of state funds therein.

(Paid Adv.)

La Grande
MATTRESS SHOP and WEAVING WORKS
Mattresses of all kinds cleaned and rebuilt. Feather Renovating, Rag Rugs and Pluff Rugs for sale.
Carpet and Rug Cleaning
9x12, \$1.50 and up
Chas. Edwards, Prop.
Phone 253-W

Love's Itinerary.
J. R. thinks a novel idea for some novelist would be to begin a story with its hero and heroine meeting in Friendship, N. Y.; then have them journey successively to Love, Va.; Kissimmee, Fla.; Ring, Ark.; Parson, Ky., and finally settle down in Home, Pa.—Boston Transcript.

When Birds Go Courting.
Many birds assume fine raiment during their courtship. In springtime this plumage of birds—especially the males—becomes very noticeable. Colors flash out, evident in the green wing, the blue cap and the russet breast.



For Joint Senator from
Union, Umatilla and
Morrow Counties

J. T. HINKLE

of Hermiston
Republican Candidate

TO THE REPUBLICAN VOTERS OF UMATILLA, UNION AND MORROW COUNTIES:
I respectfully solicit your support at the primary election on May 19th for the nomination on the republican ticket for Joint Senator of the 19th Senatorial District.

I have lived in Umatilla county for the past thirty years and am a property owner and taxpayer in each of the counties comprising this district.

I have been a faithful worker in the republican party for the past twenty-five years and an active and consistent supporter at all times of the nominees of my party.

If returned to the legislature I will stand for the same loyal service to my constituents that I rendered in 1912 and 1915, and will devote my entire time and attention to the interests and wishes of the people in Umatilla, Union and Morrow counties and will give exactly the same service and attention to Union and Morrow that I would to Umatilla.

By way of platform and public policy I am for a line of retrenchment and tax reduction in both county and state budgets in proportion to the lower prices of labor and farm products. I favor our present plan of highway and market road construction and think it should continue until a good and sufficient system is provided for all parts of the state.

Thanking you in advance for any assistance you can give me in the primaries and with a promise to return my gratitude in service, I am

Respectfully yours,
J. T. HINKLE.

Chas. A. Hunter

Of Wallowa, Oregon

Candidate for Republican Nomination

For Joint Representative

From Union and Wallowa Counties

He was born in Union county and has lived in Wallowa county for the past 25 years where he has been engaged in mercantile business, farming and livestock. He is one of Eastern Oregon's heavy taxpayers and his work in the Legislature will be a constant effort to lessen the public burden.

Mr Hunter has been a Republican ever since he cast his first vote although his family was a prominent Democratic family of the Grande Ronde Valley.

One of Largest Taxpayers in Wallowa County,
He is a Farmer and Stock Holder

Paid Advertisement.