

The Ontario Argus

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A STRANGE APPEAL.

Perhaps the most unique political document produced so far in the campaign is that which Hon. C. M. Crandall issued last week as a basis upon which he seeks re-election to the legislature. Unlike most men who have held office, Mr. Crandall seeks the continuance of the people's suffrage on a negative platform. He has nothing constructive to offer.

Mr. Crandall's circular is a flagrant example of the use of words to conceal the facts. He attempts by the recitation of the bills he introduced to bring about the impression that he accomplished wonders during the 1917 session, when in fact only two of the measures he introduced were passed, and neither of these is of material importance. The astonishing thing is that in his statement he did not tell what became of the bills for which he seeks so much credit. That is what the voters should want to know, and if the record was so edifying that it would entitle him to re-election it is certain that Mr. Crandall would not have omitted that important information.

The Argus believes Mr. Crandall to be blessed with high ideals, and to be a man of many fine parts, but cannot, from his record believe that among those parts is one that qualifies him to serve in the state law-making body as representative of Malheur and Harney counties.

In fact even his friends admit that due to that lack of personality that counts in the every day affairs of men; that inability to get along with his associates, Mr. Crandall is entirely unfitted for the position he seeks. This is no fault in some men, but in a legislator or in a member of any public body should almost disbar any man for membership.

The people of Harney and Malheur counties want results. They do not care how many bills a man introduces. They know that it is easy to introduce a measure thrown over the transom, as many bills are thrown at legislators.

They also know that when a man takes a position or an attitude of "I am holier than thou" he soon becomes so unpopular that his usefulness to his constituents is gone. That in effect is the position in which Mr. Crandall placed himself; unconsciously, perhaps, but just as effectively as tho it was his purpose.

His principal claim for consideration, however is based on the introduction of a bill appropriating

money for the prosecution of the suit against the Pacific Livestock company, seeking return of land which is alleged to have been secured by fraud. The object to be obtained was a worthy one and every honest citizen of course believes that if the P. L. S. company has in its possession land so obtained it should be forced to relinquish it and pay for the use it has made of it to the school funds. But the introduction of the bill does redound to Mr. Crandall's credit only indirectly; for the emergency commission at a hearing held that the Attorney General had sufficient power to proceed with the suit from his regular appropriation and if in the prosecution of the suit a deficit was caused in his fund an emergency appropriation would be made to cover it.

Thus if the entire record is examined it will be found that Mr. Crandall is not entitled to the credit he attempts to claim. All he can rightfully demand is the manifestation of "good intentions." But then there is a popular summer resort paved with that material. Good intentions are all right but fall far short of the mark. The Argus is convinced that so far as his record shows there is no reason for Mr. Crandall's re-election.

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FORMER PROGRESSIVES ENDORSE WILLIAMS

Present Chairman of State Republican Committee Seeks Re-election.

PORTLAND, Or., April 23, 1918.—To the Republican Voters of Oregon: We, the undersigned, all formerly Progressives and now registered Republicans, wish to add our endorsement to the candidacy of Ralph E. Williams, of Portland, for re-election on May 17 to the position of Republican National Committeeman. We endorse his candidacy for the following definite reasons:

In the first place, if Mr. Williams had not invited and encouraged the Progressives to join with the Republicans of this State in 1915, there would have been no active co-operation between the two forces and Oregon would undoubtedly have been lost to the Republican cause. Mr. Williams advocated the adoption by the Republican national committee of a similar program of amalgamation and co-operative action in the other states. If his suggestions concerning California and Washington had been followed, those two states would have been found in the Republican column after the national election. Mr. Williams' action of friendliness

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OVER THE TOP

AND WIN, is our motto. Every American must do not merely his "bit" but do his best; the people of the freest and greatest nation of the world must with their money, food and fighters, confer freedom on the balance of the nations by giving them liberty.

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