

LOWELL SPEAKS AS MASON AGAINST SCHOOL MEASURE

McMinnville, Or., Oct. 28—Judge Stephen A. Lowell of Pendleton, one of the best known Masons in Oregon spoke here last night against the enactment of the Compulsory school bill.

Enactment of the measure, declared Judge Lowell, would not only tear God-fearing families of the east away from Oregon, but also would keep capital out of the state.

Judge Lowell said in part: "This is not a compulsory education bill. We already have that on our statutes, and have had it for 17 years. This is a measure to prohibit the maintenance of private schools within the state. No fines or language will disguise that fact.

Most in Public Schools

"Seventy-five per cent of the Catholic children of the state are in the public schools. Over the 25 per cent in the parochial schools the school authorities of the district where any parochial school exists have supervisory power under the existing law, to the extent that the local school boards must be satisfied that the same branches are here taught as are taught in the public schools. This is declared in the first exception of the existing compulsory education statute. It is extremely difficult, therefore, to understand why the proponents of this measure desire to destroy even the Catholic schools.

Background is Vague

"Can it be that the bill is born of hostility to all religion? The Bible is not taught in the public schools. It does have a place in the private schools. There are hosts of people, more perhaps than most of us realize, who repudiate the Biblical claims, who are unfriendly to all churches, and regard all religion as superstition. According to the argument of the sponsors of this bill in the Voters Pamphlet, this movement had its origin in the southern states, in the supreme council of southern jurisdiction of Scottish Rite Masons. The genesis of the resolution there quoted we know not. There may be problems south of the Mason and Dixon's line which do not confront us here.

Bill Hostile to Masonry

"I am a Mason of the Yorkrite, and have been such for a quarter of a century. I am not of the Scottish Rite, and cannot understand the urge which has given the movement vogue. It surely has no place in Oregon. From the standpoint of the York Rite of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masonry, this bill is hostile to every tenet of the brotherhood. The Ancient Blue Lodge is religious in character, and its universal outstanding virtue is intolerance. I am sure that few of the brotherhood will ever vote for this bill.

"I most vigorously protest against Oregon being called upon to utilize its system of legislation to play the experimental game of other states."

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MEDFORD SEES KLAN

(Continued from Page One.)

regard for their standing in the community. In the face of Powell's earlier statement that no man was admitted into the Klan except after he had been thoroughly investigated, he could do nothing but offer to comply with the small lodge desires of the men present.

25 Agree to Join.

At that meeting 25 of the 30 men present signed up for membership and made their \$10 donations. Powell's statement that he would leave the matter of securing more members to these men temporarily, as he was leaving the city the next day, was not borne out by developments. He remained not only through the next day, but for several days thereafter, soliciting new members without consulting with the men he organized the first night and collecting \$10 donations. For at least three nights in succession he initiated classes. His investigations of the character and standing of the applicants was a farce. Throughout the afternoon he would solicit and accept applications; in the evening he would initiate the candidates. It is said that Powell took between \$300 and \$900 out of Jackson county on the occasion of his first visit.

Path Suggested by Bulgin.

During this first spasm of Klan activity the anti-Catholic propaganda played only a minor role. Powell and his converts stressing the alleged law and order ideals of the invisible empire and declaring the Klan to be an organization of law abiding citizens, each one acting in the capacity of a private government agent for the detection of crime and lawlessness. The play was to capitalize a local issue that had grown up out of a series of meetings held by Rev. E. J. Bulgin. Intercast tabernacle evangelist, who had launched the moral reform element of the community into a crusade against alleged wholesale violations of the liquor traffic. In this crusade the law enforcement officers, especially Sheriff C. E. Terrill, were bitterly accused of failure to enforce the liquor laws and the community was sharply split over this issue.

There is considerable significance to be attached to the appearance of Bulgin in Medford immediately before the entry of the Klan, especially in view of like occurrences in other sections of the state and the fact that Bulgin now occupies an editorial position on the staff of the Searchlight, the official Ku Klux Klan propaganda paper published in Atlanta, Ga.

Indicating the pure graft nature of Powell's organizing game; it is to be noted that with his departure the Klan gradually became less and less active and by December, 1921, had become practically a dead issue. Powell, after his first visit, completely ignored the Klan in Jackson county until the time of the state-wide revival movement that marked the Klan's entrance into state politics in January of this year.

(Monday—The Revival of the Klan in Jackson County.)

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MEN WHO ARE INTERESTED IN ENGLISH UPHEAVAL



The resignation of David Lloyd George as British Premier and the calling of Andrew Bonar Law to form a new Cabinet bring these men into prominence. Philip Sassoon is Lloyd George's secretary and political advisor. Lord Curzon and the Earl of Derby, Conservatives, have promised to support Bonar Law. Lord Balfour, Lord Birenhead and Austen Chamberlain, Lord Privy Seal, were members of the George ministry. General Sir George Younger and Sir Eric Geddes, brother of the British minister to Washington, had much to do with the overthrow of Lloyd George.

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Freedom and Liberty

Can Only Be Preserved by Defeating the Compulsory Public School Bill, for Which Neither of the Two Great Political Parties Nor Their Candidates Are Responsible.

We are opposed to the so-called Compulsory Public School bill because: It is hostile to true Americanism.

It is contrary to those principles of liberty and justice upon which our cherished institutions rest.

It is an appeal to religious and racial intolerance.

It is fraught with consequences fatal to the fundamental principles of the Constitution.

It is a repudiation of the ideas represented by Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, Hamilton and Lincoln, and by the hosts of men and women who have made our country tolerant, free and united.

It arouses bitter hatreds and establishes intolerant bigotry.

What possible justification can there be for suppressing schools maintained by any portion of our citizenry which acts in accordance with its conscientious convictions?

What right has a majority to impose its views upon any minority, however inconsiderable?

It is a measure as oppressive to mankind as any promulgated by czaristic tyranny when at its worst.

It is an attempt to destroy America's proudest achievement.

At a time when the whole world is lifting up its voice for peace, why introduce a new motive for the renewal of hatreds and intolerances?

Our present school laws amply provide for the proper education of our children.

It is the highest duty of every true American to vote against any attempt to so change these laws that they stir up new discords and hatreds among us.

Honor, patriotism and freedom demand that you vote NO on the Compulsory Public School Bill.

This advertisement inserted and paid for by

JESSE WINBURN

Resident of Oregon; Member B'nai B'rith, Mt. Sinai Lodge No. 1, New York City; Member Temple Emanuel, New York City; one of the organizers, contributor and director of the Jewish Federation, New York City; Member of Consistory No. 1, Scottish Rite and Shrine, Portland; Member of Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 257, New York City.

The Man and The Issue

How Your Taxes Can Be Reduced

When I am governor I promise to advocate and demand economy in every department of state government so that taxes will be reduced to the lowest possible point consistent with good government. To this end I will use the veto unsparringly.

One great difficulty today is that one-half the property of Oregon is exempt from taxation, the timber in the forest reserves being a conspicuous example. The only income from the reserves is the rentals from stockmen for grazing, of which 55 per cent goes into the federal treasury. I hold that, since no tax is derived from this vast body of timber, all the rentals from grazing privileges in the forest reserves should go into the treasury of Oregon to compensate for the vast body of taxable property held by the federal government out of taxation. As governor I would use the prestige of the office in a movement with other governors and delegations in congress to bring this about. This change would produce about \$350,000 a year new revenue, thereby lessening to that amount the burden on property now taxed.

FOR SEVERANCE TAX

Practically one-third of the standing timber in the state of Oregon is in the forest reserves and pays no tax. Under the present law, this timber will be cut off, leaving blackened stumps of untaxable property, and be shipped out of Oregon without paying a dollar of tax to the state. Not only is Oregon being made poorer by the removal of this timber, but the natural beauty and scenery of the state is being marred. A severance tax collected as this timber is cut and shipped would be a large source of revenue. A big body of such timber is now contracted by the federal government to people from distant states, and it will be removed without paying any tax unless a severance tax is at once imposed. As governor I would do all in my power to levy such a tax on all timber taken from the forest reserves.

While one-half of the property of Oregon is exempt from taxation, much of the other half is paying little or no tax, because it is invested in shares of stock, bonds and property hidden away from the assessor. This leaves but a part of the taxable property to bear the entire cost of government. This property which bears the terrific burden consists of farms, cattle, horses, city buildings and homes.

DIRECT TAX HIGH

In 1921 there was raised by direct taxation in this state \$9,493,105, an average of almost 9 1/2 mills on the property taxed. This is the highest direct property tax levied in the United States for state purposes. It constitutes nearly one-half of most of the farmers' taxes, and in the city it often means one-fourth of the entire tax.

In Minnesota in 1920, the direct property tax for state purposes was \$1,667,428, which is about one-sixth of what Oregon property owners were called upon to pay for state purposes, and yet the assessed value of taxable property in Minnesota is two and a half times that of Oregon. Minnesota raised this balance of her state revenue from indirect sources, viz.: A 5 per cent gross earnings tax from public service corporations and a 25 cent per ton tax upon iron ore mined in the state.

California in 1921 raised \$33,768,884 for state purposes. This money has all raised from indirect sources, viz.: From fees and from a gross earnings tax upon public service corporations. Farmers and property owners in California were not called upon to pay direct any of this \$33,768,884.

Wisconsin in 1921 raised by direct taxation only \$7,801,454 for state purposes, and yet the assessed value of taxable property in Wisconsin is four times that of Oregon. The balance of her state expenses was raised by fees and by taxes on net incomes.

In Oregon we can relieve the property owners by collecting a large part of the cost of state government from similar sources, viz.: (1) a tax on net incomes; (2) a severance tax; (3) a tax on gross earnings of public service corporations. I favor such a program in this state under the guarantee that any tax derived from new sources shall not be used for increased expenditures, but to take some of the burden off those now bearing more than their just share of taxation.

The practices of public utilities became so intolerable that those utilities have to be regulated. A costly public service commission has to be maintained for that purpose. Since the commission has to be maintained for the regulation of the public service corporations, those corporations should themselves be required to pay the expenses of the commission, without burdening farmers, home owners, business and other enterprise with that expense. Such a plan would save the taxpayers approximately \$100,000 a year, and I favor it.

Oregon is, per capita, the heaviest bonded state in the Union. We are in the midst of a wild orgy of bond issues. The thought seems to be that we can go on issuing bonds regardless of a payday to come later. There is a possibility of having to levy a further property tax to meet accruing interest on these enormous bond issues. A halt should be called in the plastering over our state of these mortgages on the property and toll of ourselves and our children, and the state be returned to a policy of sound and stable finance. I stand pledged to such a policy.

FOR CONSOLIDATION

One of the first things I propose to do as governor will be to employ every power of the office to consolidate the boards, bureaus, commissions and committees that interfere with each other because there are so many of them. Their work overlaps and

duplicates. There are too many ornaments drawing salaries and fees for doing little or no work. Fewer boards, fewer officials and more work by these boards and officials is the crying need of the state of Oregon. I pledge myself to the work of correcting this conspicuous waste of the state's money.

FAVORS SIMPLIFIED GOVERNMENT

Other states have systematized and simplified government by applying to public business the same rules of efficiency and economy used in private business. It has not been done in Oregon because politicians, payroll functionaries and hangers-on have conspired to obstruct the cutting away of salaries and sinecures. I stand pledged to a policy of simplified government economically administered.

We can dispense with many automobiles now operating at state expense. The use of state-owned automobiles by officers and state employees is subject to gross abuses, as every taxpayer knows, and this vicious practice must be abolished.

Every man on the state payroll should actually work, and every man drawing a salary without earning it should be fired.

It is commonly reported and widely believed that too small a percentage of the money provided for highways goes into actual construction of roads. For example, Mr. Jay Bowerman was long on the payroll as adviser for the highway commission, when it is the business and duty of the attorney general to act as counsel for that body. This is waste of highway money. There is general dissatisfaction with the engineering and other overhead cost, which runs into very large amounts. Statements are broadly made that narrower roads in Oregon are costing more per mile than wider roads in some other states. There have been instances in which costly highways have had to be rebuilt within a year or two. Road building in Oregon has been a vast and expensive enterprise, in which there should be no leaks or wastes. I have faith in the gentlemen serving as highway commissioners, but hold that there should be a very thorough investigation of the operations of the men and some of the contractors working under them, to the end that excesses may be lopped off, all leaks stopped and a dollar's worth of road be built for every dollar of public money spent.

Mr. Jay Bowerman is attorney for the state banking department in several cases now pending in the courts of Oregon. It is the business and duty of the attorney general to act in that capacity. As governor and a member of the state banking board I would insist that the attorney general and his deputies attend to the legal business of the state banking department. When governor I shall be governor for everybody. I have promised nothing to anybody, and am free to use the appointing power without dictation. My administration will not be wholly a man's government, but a government of, by and for men and women.

FREE USE OF VETO

As governor I shall demand of the legislature that every appropriation bill shall be itemized, and I shall veto every appropriation bill that is not so itemized. In addition to that, I shall veto every unnecessary, useless or questionable item in every appropriation bill passed by the legislature.

I shall exercise my prerogative to call to the attention of the legislature and suggest to it the enactment of such laws as will reduce the expenses of government to the minimum and equalize the burden of taxation, so that all property shall bear its just burden.

I can and will point the way for relief. I know the majority of the next legislature, coming from the tax-burdened people, will feel as I feel—that THERE MUST BE RELIEF. It is not a question of party politics, but a vital question of property rights, prosperity and the welfare and happiness of the people.

Voters of Oregon, the issue has crystallized around this theme of taxation. High taxes are bad advertising. High taxes are keeping newcomers and new capital out of the state and driving settlers away. Business is being discouraged; progress is being halted. Taxation is the weight that is dragging us down.

TAXATION DOMINANT ISSUE

Our friends who are now in control of the state and legislature confess that they are helpless to supply a remedy. They are trying to confuse voters by injecting personalities and by throwing mud. They are making frantic appeals to party loyalty, thus proposing to leave the people with the same oppressive burdens of taxation piled on their backs. They are garbling my speeches, and putting words in my mouth that I never uttered. They are trying to divert me from my fight for lower taxes. They are in a sad plight because, under their administration, they have created a situation from which every taxpayer is crying aloud for release.

I refuse to budge one inch from this matter of taxation. It is the dominant issue. For more than 20 years I have talked and worked for lower taxes, and this will continue to be the first theme in my thoughts.

Taxes can and must be equalized and reduced, and I have here pointed out some of the ways the thing can be done.

WALTER M. PIERCE

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