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**Former Bandit For Governor**

Leader of Notorious Band of Outlaws To Run For High Executive Office.

Oklahoma City, March 14.—Announcing his platform in a statement that takes up barely ten lines of single column printed matter, Al J. Jennings who served ten years in the Ohio Penitentiary and former leader of the famous Jennings gang of Indian Territory outlaws, is taking first place among the seven men who have already formally entered the race for the democratic nomination for governor of Oklahoma. Jennings is being bitterly fought by the so called Democratic machine. His race barely begun promises to be one of the most spectacular ever seen, even in the politics ridden state of Oklahoma.

Jennings says he is certain to win. He believes as firmly as is possible for any man to believe anything that he will be the next governor of the state where thirty years ago there was a price on his body, dead or alive. In the last election of Oklahoma county he ran for prosecuting attorney. He secured the nomination on the democratic ticket and lost the election by only 500 votes with 14,000 cast. Jennings says the high up criminals and the election judges stole the office from him. However that may be, it is evident that the other candidates fear him above any other man. On returning from the penitentiary, he reviewed his studies in law, was given back his citizenship by President Roosevelt and he has made good in the profession in a big way. His enemies have been unable to produce evidence that he has not lived a straight life since he was pardoned from the penitentiary.

A year ago he had a suit of rooms in the State National Bank building at Oklahoma City. He had an income of \$5,000 a year. He was one of the leading criminal lawyers of the state with all the business he could attend to. Clients came to him from all parts of Oklahoma. Today he has two little dark rooms in the back of an obscure brick building on North Broadway. All his neighbors are second rate dentists and dress-makers. A creaky old stairway leads the way from the street to his office door on which in small letters is the sign, "Al J. Jennings. He has quit his law practice. He says a man can't be exactly on the square and practice law. Then it will take all his time to attend the coming campaign.

"I'm going to visit every county in Oklahoma and as many of the towns as possible. The newspapers won't give me a square deal. The largest daily in the state and a quarter of the smaller ones have been subsidized by the men who break the law by spending more than \$2,000 allowed them to pay the expenses of the race. If I should walk into the office of the

most of them and offer them \$25.00, they would support me just as zealously as they are now supporting some one else.

"But there are two reasons why I do not do this. In the first place I haven't got the money, and in the second I won't place myself on the low plane of the men who get office by buying themselves in. The old outlaw days that I have been trying so hard for the past fifteen years to forget were uncouth, they were sometimes savage and sometimes even murderous. But those men were men. They never lied. There was no comparison between the outlaws who openly broke the law and the public official who perjures himself by swearing falsely to the amount of his election expenses. These men are criminals just the same as the admitted criminals who are in jail now. They are rarely worse for they parade in sheep's clothing.

The question of raising the \$3,000 right now for the expense money is not an easy one. True, Jennings will soon have a good income from stories and books but he has debts to meet and he says he never expects to be more than comfortably well off. He is already announcing his platform which is said to be the shortest one on which a candidate ever ran for a high office. He promises: "First, fidelity to the people. Second, real honesty in office. Third, that the law shall be no respecter of persons. When these principals are truthfully and honestly carried out all interests will be subserved and taxes will be greatly reduced. In all my life, I have never betrayed a confidence. If the people confide in me, God may be my judge. I'll not betray them."

**The Open Forum**

Signed communications on topics of general interest, will be given space in this column.

**"Much Ado About Nothing."**

The editor of the Western World having refused to publish the accompanying communication I hereby respectfully ask The Recorder for space to publish same.

It is always regrettable when a community is wrought up on a question about which the people are radically divided. The "social squabble" caused by the so-called High School entertainment is in point. So many misstatements appear in the Western World of last week, that I ask in all fairness an equally prominent place in your paper to make a correct statement to the people of Ban-

don, whose best interests alone I am trying to serve as a director of our schools.

In the first place I wish to object to the unfair and subtle way in which an attempt is made to play upon the religious prejudices of others than Presbyterians, by the way my name and religious connection is brought out. While I am proud of both, they have no connection with the matter under discussion. Moreover I have never allowed the matter of religious preference or connection to be even mentioned in board meetings, and it has never influenced me in the least as a school director. That not a single teacher in the High School is a member of the Presbyterian church, except Mrs. Hopkins, who teaches music in all the grades also, is sufficient proof that I have not swerved from the usual intelligence and broad-mindedness for which Presbyterians are everywhere known.

In the next place I wish to say I did not even know that a so-called entertainment was planned, until the protest, made in behalf of a number of parents, had been made by Mrs. Haberly to Prof. Hopkins. These parents had learned that the chief attraction at the so-called entertainment was to be dancing, tho the invitation gave no intimation of that feature. The point of the objection was, that no one had any right to use our public school or its name in connection with a dance. Had I known I should certainly have taken measures at once to put a stop to any dance in the name of the school, or under the auspices of any portion of its faculty as such.

"When one faction, representing only a small portion of the people concerned, endeavors to dictate the mode of amusement that shall prevail among all, it usurps the rights of others," is a profound and fundamental principle as you state. But your application is to the wrong side in this case. It is the dancing faction, forcing its ideas and standards upon an entire community in the name of our public schools that caused the protest. Because all taxpayers help support the schools, and because all parents are compelled, by our school laws, to send their children to school, the Oregon school law wisely prohibits dancing in school houses. It would be insane to argue that a school as such, can do what the law prohibits, if done elsewhere than in the school building. Advanced and progressive communities like Albany and Salem expel students for using the name or class pennant in connection with a dance. I do not think the taxpayers of this district will care to pay such a heavy school tax as we are now paying in order to promote dancing among the students. Those who must dance to amuse themselves should in no way use the name, nor their connection with, any public institution.

As to the letters of Mrs. Haberly to the patronesses of the dancing entertainment, I must unreservedly endorse and sustain her in both manner and method for the following reasons: Mrs. Haberly had sent a request,

thru Prof. Hopkins, that our children be not invited, when she learned that these ladies proposed to give said dance. Since your paper states that they got their list from the High School teachers, they cannot very well plead ignorance of the request, for surely Prof. Hopkins informed them of Mrs. Haberly's request. Yet, despite said request, these patronesses of the dancing entertainment sent into our home invitations to those who are still under our protection and discipline. This, Mrs. Haberly justly resented, as she objected to the dance on the ground of moral danger in itself, and because there are in the Bandon High School, even the few in number, some young people, as there are in every other school, with whom we, as parents, do not care to have our children mingle in a social way, and especially not in the intimacy of a dance.

I wish to state also that if any letters were sent to anyone unsigned it was done by someone other than Mrs. Haberly or myself, as we are always ready to accept the consequences of our standing for truth and righteousness. I also hope that hereafter your paper will hear both sides before printing such misstatements as you have done. No man should be compelled to reply to such wild gossip and prejudiced representations as appear in your issue of last week. I do not wish to meddle in the private concerns of any individual, but as a director my responsibility is to the whole community. I have tried to serve all with utmost charity and good will. Unfortunately the "squabble" has broken into an otherwise successful term of school. But those who infringed the rights of others as expressed in our school laws, must take the responsibility for such friction and division. Plainly speaking, those who fostered and promoted the questionable entertainment and dance have caused all this trouble, and they must shoulder the responsibility for it. In this connection and as a part of this communication please print the accompanying clipping from the Oregonian on the expulsion of students at Albany for dancing. I am sorry I have had to make so lengthy a reply, and wish to state that I bear no one any ill will on account of the incident, and hope that this will end the unhappy controversy.

Signed, A. HABERLY,  
Chairman School Board.

Albany, Or., Feb. 25.—As a result of their activities in arranging for the sophomore dance last Monday evening, two prominent students of the Albany High School were expelled yesterday. The dance was held against the wishes of the school authorities. When the event was first announced the officers of the class were told it could not be given so that the affair could be connected officially with the school. Class pennants were used in the decorations and other acts indicated, members of the faculty say, that the instruction had been disregarded. Most of the members of the Sophomore class participated in the dance and its arrangements.—Oregonian.

**The Catlike Fox.**

The fox is an excellent mouse. He will lie and watch for a field mouse in the long grass like a cat, pounce upon it, kill it with a bite and lay it on one side until he has caught another and another, when, picking them all up, as many as he can carry in his mouth, he will cater away with them to serve them out to the cubs.

**Assistance Necessary.**

The first field glasses taken to the New Hebrides sorely puzzled the simple minded natives. A traveler tells how one of the mission clergy was walking along the shore, when a native at his side pointed out a figure in the far distance. "There goes one of my enemies," said he. The white man, drawing out his field glasses and focusing them, handed them to his companion, who, gazing through them in amazement, beheld his foe apparently close at hand. Dropping the glasses, he seized his arrows and looked again. The enemy was as far away as at first. Once more he snatched the magic glasses, once more exchanged them for his arrows and once more was baffled. A bright thought suddenly occurred to him. "You hold the glasses to my eye," said he to the missionary, "and I can shoot him!"

**To the Democratic Voters.**

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for County Judge of Coos County, Oregon, on the Democratic ticket for the coming primary election. I favor permanent highways and the development of the wonderful wealth of Coos County consistent with economical and judicious expenditure of the taxpayers' money.

J. J. STANLEY,  
164E,  
Coquille, Oregon

**For Representative.**

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for state representative from Coos county, before the Republican primaries to be held May 16, 1914. MILES A. SIMPSON.

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