

# THE HEPPNER HERALD

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Entered at the Heppner, Oregon, Postoffice as second-class Matter

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One Year .....	\$2.00
Six Months .....	\$1.00
Three Months .....	\$0.50

### THE MEETING OF THE KLAN

It was to be expected that much interest and discussion would be aroused by the public meeting of the Ku Klux Klan at Lexington last week and it is right and proper that such should be the case, since the growth and influence of this order concern our public welfare more than any other political move in recent years. The avowed object of the leaders seems to be to take over the control of the government—municipal, county, state and national—and to make right what is wrong in our body politic, and they are gathering beneath the wings of that organization large numbers of citizens who are dissatisfied with present conditions. Few will deny that a saner, more righteous administration of government is due the people of this country. On that proposition the chief difference of opinion would be about the correct method of procedure.

Perhaps there is no other thing connected with the klan that calls forth more condemnation than the mask. The really true, 100 per cent American believes in and wishes to be governed by law, not by any masked mob. The speaker at Lexington last week challenged any one to prove that klan or klansmen had taken part in violation of constitutional law. There's the point. If there were no masks the lawless could, in many instances, be proven guilty. Why the mask?

When an election is drawing near it is natural that the "ins" desire to hold on to their jobs and the "outs" are equally desirous of getting hold of the jobs for their own benefit. Both camps get busy and endeavor to select men and slogans that will carry the party through to victory and land the political jobs where they will do their particular party the most good. In other words, where the political pie can be passed out to the faithful. Republican orators and newspapers will tell us what a grand and glorious party theirs is and how the country will go to the bow wows if they are not returned to office and the Democratic war horses and their faithful press will tell us what a pack of rascals the Republicans are and what a lily-white lot of patriots the Democrats are and that the only road which leads to national salvation is that which will turn the government over to the followers of Andrew Jackson of blessed memory.

Now comes the klan telling the world that they alone

are able to save the country. They propose to draw strength from the old parties and throw the united vote to the candidates of their choice. It looks like a feasible plan. It has worked in many places. It worked in Oregon two years ago in the election of our present governor.

The slogan is an important tool in election campaigns. The tariff has been pretty well worn out. "He kept us out of war" kept a president in office. "The league of nations" carried a good man to defeat. "Lower taxes" elected our own Governor Pierce, even if the reduction is not yet visible.

The principal slogan of the Ku Klux Klan is "100 per cent Americanism," which seems to mean, when reduced to every day language, that the organization is anti-Catholic, anti-Jew, anti-Negro and anti-foreign born people, and all this under a constitution that guarantees religious freedom. Under our form of government the majority is supposed to rule and in a community that is largely Catholic it is probable that adherents of that faith might hold most of the county and city offices and serve on the school board. The same thing might be said of any community that is largely Christian, Methodist or Mormon. It is a condition that inheres in the nature of things—the law of our land.

For correct reasoning we need to consider both sides of this question and, "lest we forget," let us look back and see what history tells us of this Roman "hierarchy" that is "trying to run this government." It is true that Catholics have had much to do with its past. America was discovered by a Catholic—their missionaries explored its wildernesses, named rivers and lakes, founded missions, etc. Maryland, a Catholic colony, was the first to grant religious freedom and the armies of Catholic France came over in our hour of need and helped us fight our battles for independence from the British yoke. Many of our great generals were Catholics and have helped shape the destiny of this land. We all know that in the late war Catholics, Jews and Negroes took their part, nor did they dream while standing in the mud and filth of the trenches "over there" that within so short a time "100 per cent Americans" would be organizing to deprive them of the privileges enjoyed by other citizens.

Holland's lines are also applicable here:

God give us men! A time like this demands  
 Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands;  
 Men whom the lust of office does not kill;  
 Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;  
 Men who possess opinions and a will;  
 Men who have honor,—men who will not lie.

John Kilkenny, L. V. Gentry, Joe Hayes and Emile Groschen returned from Pendleton Thursday after attending the wool growers' convention. The report a good meeting and a fine time. Much heavy blasting has been the order on the street improvement work on upper Main street the past week or two. It is proving a hard job of grading but will be well worth the cost when completed.

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