

Gubernatorial Candidates - Background and Platforms

(Editors note: In an effort to give readers concise information about the major candidates at the November election, the Mail Tribune presents through the Associated Press, brief sketches of each gubernatorial candidate, followed by his political views.)



Charles A. Sprague
(Republican Candidate)

His ancestors settled in Salem, Mass., in 1628 and spread westward with the great migrations. The candidate was born at Lawrence, Kan., in 1887. The family moved in a few months to Columbus Junction, Iowa. He finished his education at Monmouth, Ill., college by teaching and writing for newspapers. Through his job as correspondent, Sprague formed associations which led him to a publisher's career years later.

At 23, Sprague went to Wallburg, Wash., as school superintendent and in three years was appointed superintendent of public instruction for the state of Washington at Olympia. A banking for newspaper work persuaded him to purchase the Journal-Times, a weekly, at Ritzville, Wash., in 1915.

He placed a larger newspaper field in 1921, buying an interest in the Corvallis Gazette-Times. He sold his share at a substantial profit in 1929 and bought a two-third interest in the Salem Statesman where he is publisher. Sprague has maintained a deep and active devotion to community and educational problems. He is trustee for both Willamette university and Albany college. He has been a steady influence in Republican politics for many years and in 1934 was keynote at the State Republican club convention.

He has two children, a daughter who is a bacteriologist at San Jose, Cal., and a son who is a student at Oberlin. Sprague believes in a stable and orderly government. He believes, too, the people want their highway department, state police department, liquor commission and all other state departments free from political spoils abuses; that the state should have the benefit of the training and experience of competent employees.

The candidate regards the existing liquor laws satisfactory without important change. He asserts the WPA and state relief programs necessary until men now benefitting by such agencies have been re-employed in private enterprises at good wages. He asserts it is a libel on the humanitarian purposes of President Roosevelt to say the election of a Republican would cut off relief.

He says he would take constructive steps to build new sources of agricultural and industrial income. He agrees the state should increase its pension to the aged to the full amount possible under the law. He promises careful compliance with the federal program so Oregon would not be cut off for allowing politics to creep in as they did in some other states.



Henry L. Hess
(Democratic Candidate)

Three decades ago this 47-year old candidate for the highest office in state government wore the caulked boots of the northwest logger.

Born at Rexburg, Idaho, Hess was the second son among eight children. His parents, who moved to Union where his father operated sawmill, recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. The candidate, an inseparable companion of two motherless sons, was educated at Rexburg, Ricks college, Idaho, Union high school and the University of Oregon. He was admitted to the bar in 1914.

Young lawyer Hess was a top sergeant in the United States expedition to France. Upon his return, he opened law offices at La Grande. The nominee went to the state senate from Union and Walla Walla counties in 1932 and served through three regular and two special sessions. He was chairman of the forestry and forest products committee and the committee on counties. He was a member of the committees on irrigation and drainage, revision of laws, and game and vice-chairman of the committees on education and ways and means.

Hess has defined his platform as "liberal, progressive government embodying fundamental American principles adapted to Oregon's changing needs." He advocates individual farm ownership as against corporation farming; long term farm financing at low rates and equitable distribution of taxes between farmers and those "better able" to carry the load.

The candidate believes it is necessary to develop Oregon markets under Oregon labels; to encourage manufacture of lumber and pulp by-products; to work for a sustained forest yield. Labor must have the right to bargain collectively, he says, with wages and hours safeguarded by law. He declares for strict law enforcement, intolerant of violence and racketeering.

His other policies are old age pensions to "properly care for" the aged, full use of the president's power program, encouragement of WPA and PWA projects until private industry takes up the slack, adequate educational facilities, development of recreational resources and the tourist trade.

Could Prove His Age
URBANA, Ill. (AP)—When a 72-year old Urbana man applied for an old age pension he was asked for proof of his age. He referred authorities to his mother, 96, who is in good health except for her sight.

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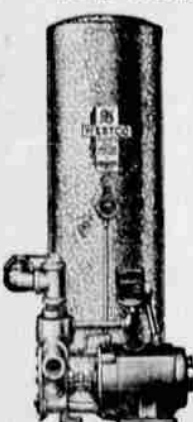
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