

THE ALLIANCE HERALD

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A NEW CANDIDATE FOR U. S. SENATOR

Funny that it never occurred to us before. And yet, we had just never thought of it in that light—but it has come, and now that it has, nothing seems more natural than to consider that Lieutenant Governor Edgar Howard should be announced as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for United States senator at the primaries in 1918. We had supposed that our eminent and well-known lieutenant governor, brother Howard, would eventually travel to the United States senate but only by way of the governor's chair. The old step was from the office of lieutenant governor to that of governor and then either to congress or the senate.

But Editor Dan Webster of the St. Paul Phonograph, who holds the exacting and difficult job of state printer, spilled the beans when he brought up the candidacy of brother Howard in a recent issue of his newspaper. Brother Howard replies to the editorial, and quotes it, in the following manner in The Columbus Telegram of August 17:

I plead guilty to the charge of being a lover of men. This fact is the sole reason for my failure to grant the request of many friends to announce myself as a candidate for the United States senate. Editor Webster, of the St. Paul Phonograph, has good knowledge of my life, my ambitions, my devotion to principles and to friends. In the strength of that knowledge he wrote for his newspaper last week the following:

"U. S. Senator Edgar Howard would not sound bad, would it? That may be the official title for Lieutenant Governor Howard after the next election. He is planning on making the primary campaign next year, and his friends look for him to win the nomination. If he does not land the nomination he will make the successful candidate hump himself to keep out of his way."

"There is but one thing to keep the Columbus statesman out of the senatorial race, and that one thing is a man. That man is Hon. W. H. Thompson, of Grand Island. Phonograph readers in this section of the state know him better as 'Billy' Thompson, or the 'Little Giant' of Nebraska democracy. Should the Grand Island statesman decide that he desires to go to Washington as the senator from Nebraska, then Edgar Howard will be lined up behind him and will support him in every manner. Mr. Howard is a great admirer of Mr. Thompson, and, as such, he would not enter the field if he had to oppose his lifelong friend. He is of the opinion that the democratic party owes Billy Thompson anything that he may desire, and is in favor of paying that debt at the next primary election if the opportunity presents itself; otherwise Howard will enter the fight and make an active campaign for the nomination. Either Mr. Howard or Mr. Thompson would make a desirable man in the U. S. senate to look after the interests of this state. No man in Nebraska is entitled to any more consideration from the democratic party than 'Billy' Thompson, but we are not advised whether or not he will be a candidate for the office. If he is, the Phonograph will be for him first, last, and all the time until the votes are all counted, and in the event he is not in the race Edgar Howard will look mighty good to this paper."

First, let me thank Dan Webster for his generous treatment of me, and then let me add that he has stated my position to the letter. I indeed appreciate such a tribute from the pen of a writer of such ability and proved devotion to principles which I hold dear. I have been in doubt regarding my duty to my party and my state. Sometimes I feel that duty commands me to remain in the office of lieutenant governor. In that office I was able to give some grief last winter to the corporation lobbyists, and perhaps I ought to remain there another term or two to complete the work I have inaugurated. Sometimes I believe I could accomplish even greater good for the people of Nebraska if I might have a seat in the United States senate, there to promote the welfare of the common herd and resist the demands of the big special interests. But in my devotion to two magnificent men I cannot and shall not announce myself as a candidate for that high office until such time as both of those men shall have definitely decided that they do not desire to become candidates. One of those men is Hon. W. H. Thompson, of Grand Island, and the other is Hon. Ignatius J. Dunn, of Omaha. Both are brothers to me in the holy cause of humanity. Both are more deserving than I of any honors within the power of the democratic party or the State of Nebraska to bestow. As long as there shall remain the hope of inducing either Billy Thompson or Ig. Dunn to file for the democratic nomination for the United States senate I shall not announce my own candidacy. But in the hour when those two men shall say that they will not seek the nomination, in that hour I shall become an active candidate. I trust this statement may be so plain that every real friend may understand it. My desire is to have the privilege of helping to send one of those good men down to Washington to speak the real sentiment of this great agricultural state in the highest legislative body on the earth. If those two men shall say that they cannot enter the contest, then it will remain for me to announce my own candidacy. EDGAR HOWARD.

LAW AND TIPPING

According to a decision of the Supreme Court of New York, tips are nothing less than wages in law. The state industrial commission made an award to the dependents of a taxicab driver (who was killed) on the basis of earnings of \$17.10 a week, although his salary was \$12 a week, the evidence showing that his tips averaged \$5.10 a week. In upholding the award the court held that "both the person paying and receiving" a tip "realize that it is a part payment of the wages which the employer compels the person served to pay," and further: "The custom and the manner in which the payment of tips is enforced and practised leads inevitably to the conclusion that in substance the tips received are a part of the wages of the employee from the employer as a part recompense for services rendered."

It is indeed "realized" pretty generally that the person served is too often "compelled" to pay in tips for tolerable services, but it has not hitherto been recognized that the employer had a legal or even a moral right to force his patrons to pay—in addition to the charge on the bill—any part of the wages of his employees. If tipping is to become legal, the amount should be fixed and appear on the bill.

OUR GREATEST FOOD CROP

A three billion bushel corn crop is said to be assured and an addition of 175,000,000 bushels to this vast yield is probable, yet the proportion of our great annual corn crop that reaches the table has been estimated as ranging hardly above three per cent. The percentage will be higher for 1917 owing to the war-time corn bread campaign inaugurated by Mr. Hoover, but it will be nothing like as high as it ought to be even in ordinary times. Outside of the southern states and limited circles in other sections corn bread in any of its forms, except as an occasional dish, is not in favor and the prospect of a large consumption even in war time—short of stern necessity—does not appear to be very bright. Green corn on the cob is the only table offering that is generally popular.

This is highly undesirable, especially under present conditions, and such hope of improvement with reasonable basis as exists ought to be nurtured for all it is worth. As there are many thousands of persons who genuinely like corn bread in some or all of its various forms and who find it particularly wholesome, why should not a similar taste be cultivated among the millions in the course of time? Let the campaigners take courage and let the campaign go on—for our own permanent good as well as to meet the needs of the hour, with its demanded division of our wheat with our allies.

Meanwhile it is a satisfaction to know that not one grain of our vast corn crop need be wasted. Though we may eat but a small part

of it, all the great remaining bulk can be profitably employed as feed for draft and food animals. The bulk of the great corn crop can and will be made to produce more generally popular food in the form of meat, milk, butter, cheese, poultry and eggs. For where corn is plentiful and is liberally fed to beast and bird, there all these animal foods are produced in the greatest abundance. Cattle, hogs and poultry thrive best on corn feed, and even if we never ate an ounce of Indian corn, except in these derivative forms, it would still remain our greatest food crop.

AN INEXCUSABLE TAX

"Food control" with Mr. Hoover as administrator is now a fact and the people may confidently expect at least a measure of relief from the burdens which private greed has placed upon them. The prospect of reform is a reminder that proper food control in war time—or in peace for that matter—will not be complete until the tax on oleomargarine is taken off, a tax of ten cents a pound for the benefit of the dairy interests which comes out of the pockets of the people in the form of an addition to the price they pay for this innocent and nutritious article of commerce. This tax has no justification in times of peace and is nothing less than a crime under present conditions.

We export millions of pounds of edible oils made from cotton seed and peanuts which foreigners turn into imitation butter "as good as any Elgin brand," according to the experts, and sell it to the people untaxed at a low price. In this country the same excellent imitation butter is taxed ten cents a pound and its manufacturers must pay an annual license fee of \$600 and give bond for \$5000. The dealer also is subject to a heavy license fee, and all these taxes in the interest of the butter trust must be paid indirectly by the public. In consequence Americans consume only one and a half pounds of oleo-

margarine per capita annually, while the Danes, for example, consume forty-four pounds. Will Mr. Hoover as food administrator find it necessary to appeal to the dairy interests to permit congress to take off this tax, or can congress be induced to act freely and of itself?

THE BEST AIR SERVICE WINS

The percentage of aviators lost is said to be smaller than that of men fighting in the trenches. This will appeal to the practical-minded recruit whose desire to serve is accompanied by a perfectly normal disposition to save his neck. But the features of the airplane service likely to attract the red-blooded young patriot are the thrilling adventure and greater opportunity for personal distinction. The names of daring airmen of the fighting front are more widely known than those of many of the war's prominent generals. What war thrill equals that contained in the news that Georges Guynemer, the dashing French aviator, has brought down his fiftieth enemy airplane? Who does not read with enthusiasm of the exploits of Rockwell, Parsons, Willis, Lufberry and Thaw, distinguished members of the Lafayette Escadrille of American air fighters?

And now comes the inspiring account of how a British youth of eighteen flew far and low over enemy territory, repeatedly attacking and routing with his machine gun detachments of German infantry, utterly disregarding and escaping whole from their hail of rifle fire while strutting the ground with their dead. The air warrior secures incomparable opportunities individual prowess and the records of gallantry already made will live throughout time. Moreover, he is of incalculable value in a larger sense to the army he serves, furnishing its far-seeing eyes and guiding its movements and its artillery fire. It becomes more and more clear that the best air service does and must win.

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