

# THE COURIER

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## MAN FROM REPUBLICAN VALLEY

Southwestern Nebraska Presents as a Candidate for Governor  
Before the Next State Republican  
Convention J. P. A. Black of Bloomington, Lawyer and Banker

It is the good fortune of the republican party of Nebraska that within its ranks may be found not only much of the bone and sinew that go so far towards making a democracy great and enduring, but a perceptible preponderance of that brain and business talent that make waste places glad and the prairies to blossom as the rose. This is a poetic way of putting a great truth, but it is none the less true for all that.

With a clear field and excellent prospects ahead, it is not to be wondered at that so many men of such general acceptability have been brought forward this year as candidates for governor. Nebraska is a great state with many interests and unexampled resources. To be a governor of a commonwealth such as this is an ambition worthy of any man. It need not have its root in the lust for power, but in the sense of duty and the feeling of pride that prompts men to offer themselves as candidates for office is found its ample justification.

The chief executive of a state should be, first of all, a man of character so well poised and so sure of himself, that liability to error is minimized. He should be a man sufficiently long within her borders and so intimately acquainted with all her manifold interests as to be able to intelligently grasp and sanely solve those vexatious problems of duty that come to men in high official station. He should be a man capable of keeping in touch with those things which form so large a part of the life of the people, the common people. He should be a man able to represent the state in those functions which the rulers, even of democracies, must indulge in now and then, not as displays of power, but in keeping with the dignity of a sovereign state.

This is not a formidable list of requirements, and there are doubtless many men of standing and ability who would measure up to them. The selection of governor this year is largely a matter of individual choice and availability. Precedent is as powerful in politics as in law, and long ago it was decreed by good sound policy that the make-up of a state ticket should be based in part at least on locality. Thus it has come that we pick a governor from one section, an auditor from another, a treasurer from still another, and so on down the list.

By reason of the great preponderance of population in the eastern portion of Nebraska it has been seldom, indeed, that the convention selected its governor from another section. This year, however, the opportunity will be presented the republicans, at least, of naming for this honor a man who for a score and ten years has been closely identified with the southwestern portion of the state. That man is James P. A. Black of Bloomington.

Mr. Black comes from the historic Republican valley, a section that has contributed much of wealth and power to the state. From this fertile region came the bumper crops of earlier state history. From it have hailed men whose names are indelibly writ in the history of the state. In the good old days before the wave of populism submerged the state, it was in the Republican valley that the handsomest majorities for the republican ticket were cast. For several years these were of the minus quality, but with the revival of prosperity the republicans of the valley are coming again into their own.

No man has been more thoroughly

of Lincoln. This was nearly thirty years ago. He was a young man then, but the foundations he laid in the county of his adoption were strong and enduring. From the law it is an easy gradation in a county largely agricultural to drift into banking, farming and the raising of stock. Mr. Black has been engaged for many years in all three of these pursuits. That he has done them well is a good recommendation for his present aspirations. It is a good enough guarantee for a public career that a man does well the business of his private business.

Mr. Black has not confined his activities to purely business matters. For

As a banker he has been careful and conservative and has acquired for himself an enviable reputation in financial circles in the state, while in farming and stock raising he is practical and progressive. In each of those lines wherein his interests lie Mr. Black is a practical man. If he should be nominated and elected governor he will be a man easy of approach and open to suggestion, but firm in his grasp of the details of administration and strong in his ability to plan and to execute.

Long experience in business and political life has enabled Mr. Black to become a good mixer. He is a jovial, good-natured man, but behind the kindly look and the warm grasp lies the inflexibility of mind and the strength of character so necessary in an executive who must shape, in large part, his own course, and whose patience and poise are subjected to rude buffetings.

A large portion of the Fifth congressional district is already massed behind the candidacy of Mr. Black. The man who stands well with his neighbors, who can pass the muster of daily acquaintance and intercourse and emerge with the solid phalanx of friendship behind him, has in that fact alone the strongest claim upon public confidence. Mr. Black is essentially a man of the people. He came from their ranks, he is still one of them. He is a plain, unassuming man, shrewd yet kindly, strong yet serene.



JAMES P. A. BLACK.  
Of Bloomington, Neb.

identified with the material interests, business, political and social, of the Republican valley for a longer period of years than has Mr. Black. As a lawyer, banker, stock raiser and farmer his time has been and is fairly well occupied. To elect him as governor would involve a financial sacrifice on Mr. Black's part, but he is sufficiently supplied with this world's goods to submit where the reward is such an honor as comes to the chief executive. It is the best index of the man's capability, it is the best tribute to his talents, that in each of these varied lines, any one of which is in itself a life work, Mr. Black has been uniformly successful. As a lawyer he ranks high. He conned his first lessons and received his initiation into the mysteries of Coke and Littleton in the city

many years he has been recognized as one of the strong men of the republican party of his section. For twenty-seven consecutive years he has attended the republican conventions of this state, and has given freely of his time and purse, as a member of state, congressional and county committees to advance the cause of the party. He was one of the delegates to the national republican convention in 1896, yet this is his first entrance into the arena of state politics in the attitude of a candidate.

Mr. Black is a doer of things. He is not merely a director. In every undertaking in which he has launched he has taken an active and energetic part. When he entered the profession of law he put all of his great energy into the task of achieving a place at the bar.

### A New Code

Presidents of the United States are not worn out attending to great affairs. The men the president has to see, the prayers he has to hear and the petitions he has to deny as well as to grant wear him out, decrease his vitality, make him old before his time. Governors, chancellors and various exalted officials spend their time over other men's private and comparatively trifling affairs in much the same way. The large, cool, monumental periods devoted to the meditation and discussion of the nation's affairs stimulate statesmen. A large mind needs exercise of a co-ordinate kind. Continuous attention to unimportant details wearies and confuses the mind of the most temperamentally patient. When a man is sworn in to the presidency of the United States his mind is tense for action; there if anywhere is the opportunity for great and memorable deeds. It is a disappointment to a new president to find out that his daily routine is made up of seeing sordid office-seekers teasing for places either for themselves or their friends. The president's wife may have had dreams  
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