

OPEN LETTER TO THE NEWSPAPER FRATERNITY



Will M. Maupin and Seven of the Many Reasons why he wants to be nominated and elected Railway Commissioner of Nebraska.

Just two weeks intervene between this date and the date upon which the nominees of the political parties for state office will be named. I seize this occasion to say a few words to my brothers and sisters of the newspaper profession in Nebraska.

I am a candidate on my own motion for the democratic nomination for railway commissioner. There are a dozen reasons why I can not make an active personal and advertising campaign for the nomination. One reason is, being a newspaper man I haven't the money. The other reasons, all good in themselves, are hardly worth mentioning after the first one has been given. I could, possibly, have some boilerplate manufactured showing my face and containing what few facts about myself that I would care to make public, and send them around to you, express prepaid, but that wouldn't help you any. The boilerplate manufacturers would get all the money I had, and you would get nothing. If I appropriated an equal amount of money and prorated it among you, it wouldn't amount to enough to be worth while as payment for your advertising space. Hence, I am just going to take you into my confidence and rely upon that fraternal feeling, trusting that it will impel you to give my candidacy favorable mention.

I have known most of you personally for years. I served the Nebraska Press Association as president for one term, and as its secretary for three terms. At all times I have tried to be of service to you in every way I could. It may be a bit presumptuous, but I believe you know me well enough to believe that I have the ability to make a pretty good railway commissioner. I came to Nebraska in 1886, and with the exception of eight months spent in exile in Iowa during the hard times when it was necessary for a lot of us to absent ourselves from the state in order to eat, I've been here ever since, and every day of it I have been in the newspaper business. True, I served as deputy labor commissioner for two years, but I ran a newspaper just the same—and didn't neglect my public duties to do it, either. Whether or not my services as deputy labor commissioner were satisfactory I leave to you and to the general public. Whatever your verdict on that score, I at least imitated the organist in the mining camp.

I rather pride myself on my knowledge of Nebraska, her people and her problems. I have made them a study for many years. I want to do a man's part in advertising her resources and in helping her people solve the problems confronting them. There may be those who aspire to

public office who ask you to believe that they are actuated by wholly unselfish purposes; that they want to serve the people, and that the emoluments of the office appeal not to them. Perhaps I am a bit different from most men, although I opine not. But I am different from those aspiring candidates who ask you to believe that they are wholly unselfish. Were I a rich man, or even a man with a fixed income that came regardless of my own efforts, I might be willing to serve the people steadily without remuneration. But I am not. While at all times willing and ready to serve the public to the limit of my time without interfering too much with my earning power, I can not give all my time to the state without remuneration. I want to be railway commissioner because it is an office of importance; because it pays a good salary; because the term is six years; because I need the money, and because I believe I can give the people the kind of service they deserve and should have.

I promise, if nominated and elected, to give to the people the best services within my power. I have no axes to grind. My course will be marked by absolute fairness, without abating one jot nor tittle in my demands that the interests of the whole people be conserved. Of course I believe in fighting to the last ditch to maintain the 2-cent passenger fare law. Of course I favor the physical valuation law and extending it to cover every public service corporation. Of course I believe that rates should be so fixed upon the basis of physical valuation as to permit of a reasonable dividend. Of course I favor equal rights to all. Of course I am opposed to discrimination. Of course I favor a proper classification of commodities so as to prevent discrimination by wrongful classification in shipping. Of course I favor a "blue sky law." I favor a lot of other things that are fundamentally democratic, such as tariff for revenue only, currency reform, enforcement of the criminal clause of the anti-trust laws, the initiative and referendum, direct election of senators by the people, tax reform. I am also opposed to the so-called Aldrich plan of reserve associations. But if elected railway commissioner I will be so busy earning my salary that I will have to leave such matters largely in the hands of the statesmen.

I would appreciate more than I can tell the assistance you may see fit to give me in securing the nomination I seek. Some day it may be my good fortune to have the opportunity to reciprocate—and I hope it will. If that time comes, you need but to call on me. If you will help me I pledge

you my word that no official act of mine will ever cause you to regret it. Fraternaly yours,

WILL M. MAUPIN.

THE "HOUN' DAWG" SONG.

It may be that the words of the now famous Ozark "houn' dawg" song were written by a school boy in Indiana; it may be that they are of German or Latin extraction; it may be that they were penned by a tar-heel in the hills of North Carolina, or by a farmer in "Old Missouri"—but the tune of the "houn' dawg" song which will be used with so much effect in the campaign for Mr. Clark after the Baltimore convention, was written by Charles (U. S. A.) Roth, the composer of "My Dream of the U. S. A.," which has become almost a national air.

The Roth score for the Ozark "houn'" song has been officially adopted as the Clark campaign song by Speaker Clark's manager, Senator Fred T. DuBois. When Charles Roth heard the words of the "houn'" song following the state convention at Joplin, Missouri, he went to work to compose a tune that would fit the words. The day after the Joplin convention he wandered into the Clark headquarters humming the catchy air and when Senator DuBois reached the Clark offices, Roth, with a quartet, was singing this song. It caught Senator DuBois' musical ear immediately and the senator joined in. Presently young Bennett Clark strolled in and the quartet became a sextet. Now the Ozark "houn'" song opens and closes the day's work at Clark headquarters. Senator DuBois has developed a contratenor which has made him the envy of all others in the headquarters. So great has been the demand for copies of the Ozark "houn'" song that Clark's managers have been compelled to get out several editions.

RAY J. ABBOTT.

When the democrats of Lancaster county looked about for a candidate for county attorney they very naturally set eyes upon Ray J. Abbott, a member of the law firm of Price & Abbott. This was due to the fact that they saw in Mr. Abbott just the right kind of material for an able and successful county attorney. And the county attorneyship of a county like Lancaster demands much more than the average legal ability. It demands the services of a man who is tireless, who is well versed in law, who is capable of coping with difficult situations, and who can not be swerved from the line of duty. All these qualities Mr. Abbott admittedly possesses. As a lawyer his stand-

ing at the bar is beyond question, and his record is one of gratifying success. He read law in the office of his father, the late Judge Abbott, at Crete. Judge Abbott was one of the pioneer attorneys of Nebraska and was long one of the big men of the bar. Under such tutelage the son received a splendid education in the law, together with that mental discipline so necessary in successful practice. Mr. Abbott removed to Lincoln soon after his admission to the bar, and soon won his way to the front rank. His record is sufficient warranty for the statement that he would give to Lancaster county just the service the county should have.

Mr. Abbott has no opposition for the democratic nomination, but it is well that democrats should acquaint themselves with his character and his ability to the end that when the campaign opens up they may be able to point with pride to their candidate for county attorney and work enthusiastically for his election. Mr. Abbott, if nominated and elected, will give to the office his entire time and the fullest measure of his ability.

THE HOUSEHOLD ART.

Painting and paperhanging is a modern art, appealing peculiarly to the lovers of home life. It requires something more than skill to carry it out in its perfection—it requires an artist in love with his work and constantly studying to secure the best effects in colors and combinations. To this art C. P. Sherrill devotes his entire attention, with the result is that his work is attracting the favorable comment and commendation of lovers of the artistic. Mr. Sherrill, whose place of business is at 1139 M street, gives his personal supervision to all the work entrusted to him, and there is nothing in the line of painting and paperhanging he does not do in the most approved style. He employs only skilled workers who, like him, are in love with their work. Mr. Sherrill filled the contract for the decorations in the new Chapin building at Fourteenth and O streets, and is prepared to take any contract in that line, be it large or small. At his store he has a wonderfully complete stock of wallpaper, paints, oils, glass, etc., artistically arranged for your inspection. You will make no mistake by consulting with Mr. Sherrill about any work you may have in his line. Both phones at store and residence. Store at 1139 M; residence at 3110 Kleckner Court.

THE CITY STREETS.

If the present condition of the city's streets are due to the inability of the street commissioner to employ the proper amount of help, it is an indictment of the council or the charter. If due to the street commissioner, which we do not believe, then a change is needed. The streets are certainly in a deplorable condition. And the system of cleaning, such as it is, ought to be changed. It is the custom to start the dust swirling sweepers early in the evening, often before the stores are closed, and always before the streets begin to present a deserted appearance. The result is disagreeable, un-

healthy and damaging to merchandise. N, O and P streets should be the last ones swept at night, thus giving the people a chance to escape the swirling clouds of dirt—and worse. Of course, the street commissioner is working under serious handicaps, but that should not prevent him from doing the work he is able to do with some regard for the convenience of the merchants and the general public.

HAGUE OF MINDEN.

Lewis W. Hague of Minden is one of the republican candidates for the nomination for lieutenant governor. We've known Mr. Hague ever since the Mindenites snuck over to Lowell and swiped the county seat. We've played baseball together, swore at the same umpires, and rejoiced over the same victories and mourned over the same defeats. He is a lawyer of ability, a four-square republican, one of the oldest residents of central Nebraska and well qualified for the position to which he aspires. Although he has been a working republican ever since we first knew him—and that seems like a hundred years ago—so far as we recall this is the first time he ever took a notion to be a candidate for office.

THIS FROM THE OLD HOME.

The following, copied from a Nebraska exchange, concerns a former Oregon school boy, and one of the Sentinel's typos, who removed to Nebraska some years ago, and has been more or less mixed up in matters political, social and religious in that state ever since:

"Will M. Maupin, of Lincoln, announces that he is a candidate for railroad commissioner, and in doing so comes nearer telling the truth about it than most candidates do. He says that he is a candidate of his own volition; that he has not been urged by his friends; that the salary of \$3,000 a year looks good to him; that he is making no personal sacrifice in going after the job; he claims to have no exceptional qualifications for the office, only a modicum of common sense, and the firm conviction that any man should expect to work hard and give his undivided effort to earn \$250 a month. His announcement will strike the average voter as being nearer the truth than the usual grandstand-proclamation of those seeking an office."

We ain't no scratcher—but, if he was over in the good, old land of the "Missouri banana" and wanted to be railroad commissioner, secretary of state, or what not, darned if we wouldn't give him a boost, and we are of the opinion there are many down this way that would follow suit. The Sentinel sincerely hopes that Will will get there by a handsome majority. He is every way deserving and thoroughly competent for the job.—Oregon, Mo., Sentinel, Rep.

WE STILL INSIST.

Will Maupin insists that "it is tough to be poor and try to win a state office under our present primary law." Yet this primary law is held up as the means of getting rid of the bosses.—Omaha Examiner.

LIBERTY FLOUR

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Oven's
Test



A
Nebraska
Product
Worthy of
Nebraska

H. O. Barber & Sons, Lincoln