

Governor Hunt's Inaugural Address

The inaugural address delivered by Governor W. P. Hunt at Arizona, was as follows:

Mr. Justice, Governor, and Fellow Citizens: In the name of the sovereign people of Arizona, who gave it, and who have at once the right and power to take it away, I accept the responsibility conferred upon me.

I accept it with a clear conception of its immensity, keenly conscious of my own weakness and inadequacy, but with perfect faith that out of a determination to serve faithfully will come compensation for all personal shortcomings, and of an honest desire to reflect the people's will, a successful and beneficial administration.

I accept this responsibility not vain-

gloriously, but in verity humbled by the great honor it conveys, and with mind and heart alive to the realization that in failure that honor will be turned to dishonor and the "well done" which signifies a race well run become a reproach and a disgrace.

There is neither thought nor desire in my mind that my administration as the first governor of the state of Arizona, shall live in history as excelling the administrations to come after. I would rather here express, as I hold the wish, that Arizona and the governors she will hereafter elect may continue to be progressive, and that my administration may simply be so patterned as to encourage the growth of an awakened and continually awakening public spirit and conscience, and

point the way for administrations steadily broadening, enlarging and developing.

I have neither hope nor ambition that it may be said of me in after years that "he was the best governor Arizona ever had," but I have the hope, ambition and determination to so discharge my public trust that it will be said of me that "he started the state off right," and laid true to line and plumb the first bricks placed upon the sure foundation of a people's constitution.

Arizona is progressive and Arizona is democratic. This fact has been clearly and simply demonstrated. I believe that I may without egotism suggest that my selection as the state's first chief executive is in a sense by reason of the views I have held and freely expressed, typical of that progressiveness, of that democracy. Whether this is true or not, it can do no harm if I choose to assume that such is the case and to strive, in turn, to typify by my conduct in office the state's progressiveness and democracy.

The incidents of Arizona's struggle for statehood, and the steadfast devotion to principle displayed by her people, have been of a nature designed to give her and them high rank among the states and people classed as progressive, and it is my hope that her course may be so directed and her affairs so attended as to justify, in the years to come, the faith her beginning has inspired; that she may continue to be the inspiration her first example has kindled; that her progressiveness may be so steady, so consistent and so wise as to silence the carpings of skeptics, discredit the objections of critics, confound the efforts of enemies and light the way of true progress to the people of older, safer, saner and less frequently mentioned commonwealths.

As my administration, so far as my conduct can insure it, will be progressive, so will it be democratic—not in the narrow partisan sense the use of the word too frequently implies, but in the Jeffersonian sense denoting equality, simplicity, unostentation and economy. The office of the governor will be open every working hour, every working day in the year, and I think I may safely say many hours beside. And when I say "open" I mean open to all alike—to the rich and poor, the high and low, the young and old, of either sex, of whatever race, of every religion and political creed. By none of these tokens shall preference be shown to any visitor, nor by any of them shall the rights of one individual be appraised at a higher valuation than the rights of another.

My administration shall be a business administration, in the sense that government is business, and to be successful must be prudently, systematically, energetically and economically conducted. But government is the people's business—all the people's business—and it shall be administered in the interest of all the people, not only for their material and financial benefit, betterment and protection, but for their increased pleasure and happiness.

To my mind it is not sufficient that taxes shall be reduced, that great enterprises shall flourish, that culture shall increase—all worthy objects; it is more important that whatever taxes may be levied shall be wisely expended for the benefit of all alike, and that the burden thereon may fall in just proportion upon the shoulders of the rich and poor. It is important that there shall be exercised at all times a wise economy, but there can be no wiser economy than to make the citizens of our state a happy and contented people, and I shall ask no higher praise, when my tenure of

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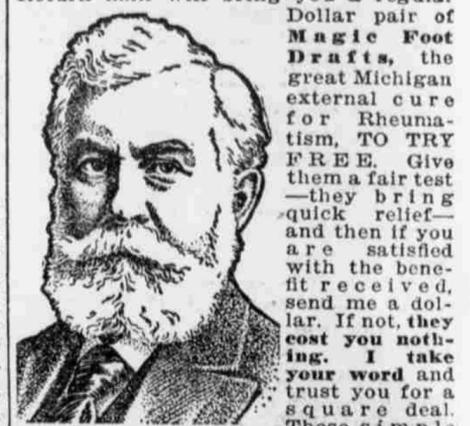
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