

GOVERNOR HENRY M'BRIDE TALKS TO THE FARMERS

AT THEIR ANNUAL PICNIC HELD AT ELBERTON IN WHITMAN
COUNTY—HE TALKS ON RAILROAD LEGISLATION—
PAYS RESPECTS TO PROMISE BREAKERS.

Elberton, Wash.—A distinct and enthusiastic ovation was given Gov. Henry McBride when he appeared on the platform to address thousands of Whitman county farmers at the annual Elberton picnic. The governor was in fine form and his address was one of the best ever delivered by him in eastern Washington.

His appearance on the platform from which the address was delivered was the signal for an enthusiastic outburst from the assembled crowd, and his eloquent address was frequently punctuated with applause. The governor's address was entirely free from politics, though a good portion of it was devoted to the discussion of the many virtues of good citizenship.

The speaker referred several times to President Roosevelt and quoted at length from the speeches delivered by the president in this state. He referred briefly to the question of the legislative control of railroad corporations, all of such references being free from any spirit of rancor, and couched in dignified, though no less emphatic terms. When he expressed the opinion that the railroad corporations should be made to obey the laws of the state, and should bear their share of the just burdens of government, his expressions were roundly cheered.

Gov. McBride said in part: To build a great state, in addition to natural resources and a population sufficiently large to develop these resources, and a high type of citizenship it is essential that the views of that citizenship be correctly reflected in the laws placed upon our statute books and in the enforcement and just administration of these laws.

"People fail short of their duty to the state when they do not see to it that this is the case. The great majority—yes, an overwhelming majority—of the people are honest, upright and fearless, believing in fair and open dealings and despising meanness in all its forms. For the bribe-giver or the bribe-taker, for booting in legislation, or city or town council, or her public place, or for grafting in any of its many forms, or for hypocrisy and double dealing, they have the most wholesome contempt. And yet, notwithstanding all this, the people are occasionally startled and shocked by disclosures of bribery and corruption in city government, as in Minneapolis and St. Louis, for instance, or of booting and grafting in the legislature. When we reflect that these officials are chosen from among the great body of the people themselves, how can we account for their corruption? For the fact that they regard their official position not as a public trust, but as a private graft, and use that position to betray the interests of the city, or of the county, or of the state, as the case may be? In this connection use is sometimes made of the remark that the stream can rise no higher than its source, those using it intending to imply that the mass of the people are no better than these, their unfaithful and corrupt servants. This is a foul slander on the people, for the great majority abhor bribery, booting and grafting as they abhor theft, burglary, highway robbery or homicide. It is true that the stream cannot rise above its source, but it may fall below it; and those using the remark in the sense just pointed out probably belong to those who would fall far below the source—possibly to the level of the booters and grafters whose conduct they seek to excuse by casting aspersions upon the people. The conduct of the public officials, who betray the interests entrusted to them is not to be excused by falsely claiming they are no worse than those who elect them, or by dwelling upon their supposed shrewdness in advancing their interests at the expense of the people. In his speech at Olympia, President Roosevelt said:

"Life Is Not Easy.

"I would preach to no man the doctrines of easy life. I would preach to every man a life of work for a worthy end, a life of decency, of square dealings, of honest behavior in the family, among one's neighbors and to the state; and so I would preach to the nation not the course that is easiest, but the course that is greatest. In 1861 the easy thing to do was to say that the Union was dissolved and could not be put together again. "One of the least admirable qualities of any people is the quality sometimes shown by men who tend to delude more smartness, as they call it, unaccompanied by any sense of moral responsibility. Too often you hear many say of some scoundrel, 'Well, he is smart.' You say, 'Yes, he is a crook,' and the answer is: 'Well, maybe he is, but he is dreadful smart,' and it is meant as praise. That kind of praise is a disgrace as much to the man giving it as to the man receiving it. "More and more we must strive to bring about the day when the successful rascal will be hounded down as the unsuccessful rascal is." "These are the words of the chief executive of this nation, and such ringing words, coming from such a source, should strengthen the hand

and arm of every man in his fight against wrongdoing.

Why Are Officials Lax?

"But to return to the question. Why is it that the official stream, in point of honesty, straightforwardness, fair and open dealings and manliness of action, sometimes falls so far below the source—that is, below the people, the fountain head of the stream? Are the people themselves entirely free from blame in this matter? I think not. President Roosevelt, in his speech at Everett, said:

"We are not to be excused as a people if we do not have the right type of legislation, and if we do not see to it that the public servants of the nation and the state fearlessly, honestly and sanely execute the law without regard to the person affected."

"But why are we not to be excused as a people if we do not have the right type of legislation—if promises solemnly made do not crystallize into legislation—if our public servants prove dishonest and unfaithful, betraying our interests at the behest of the forces of cunning and greed? We are not to be excused for this as a people because if we, as a people, exercised greater care in the selection of our public servants this would not happen. People sometimes become so immersed in their own private affairs that they fail to devote the time and attention to public matters that good citizenship requires. It is then that abuses creep in—abuses that fatten upon what they feed, until the explosion comes and the masses are startled by the exposures of the utter unworthiness of some of those they have trusted. No man performs his full duty to the state who puts off all interests in public affairs until election day, simply contenting himself with going to the polls and voting for the candidate in whose selection he has had no voice. Party caucuses, party primaries and party conventions—these are the real source of power, and every good citizen owes it to himself and to the state to take part in these so far as possible and to use his influence to see that none but honest and capable men are placed on guard. In his Everett speech, the president said:

To Judge a Man. "I ask that in civil life we judge men exactly on the principle by which you judged your comrades in the great war, by which any man, when he gets down into the stress of things, has got to judge the man on his right, or his left hand; in that war in time of trial, when the battle was hard, when the battle was sore, what you cared about the man on the right hand or the left hand was not in the least whether he was wealthy or not, what creed he worshipped his Maker by, whether he came from one state or another, what his birthplace was, whether he was a banker or a bricklayer, lawyer, merchant or farmer. What you wanted to know was whether he would stay put."

Choice of Public Officials. "So, for instance, in nominating and electing a member of the legislature you should not care from what state he hails, nor by what creed he worships his Maker, nor whether he is a farmer, a lawyer, or a doctor; a banker or a bricklayer or a carpenter. But what you want to know is, will he stay put? Will he be faithful to the interests of the people, living up to the promises made and pledges given before election day; or will he betray these interests, taking his orders from the infamous and corrupt railroad lobby that has been a stench in the nostrils of every right-thinking man, woman and child in the state of Washington? The forces of cunning and greed, those selfish interests desiring to block legislation favorable to the people, or to secure legislation in their own interests, are always on the alert, seeking to manipulate party caucuses, primaries and conventions for the purpose of nominating for office, not representatives of the people, but their own creatures. In this attempt, in which, owing to the carelessness of the people, they are too often successful, they care nothing for political parties—all parties looking alike to them. The only way to prevent these attempts from being successful is on the part of the citizens; by guarding party caucuses; party primaries and party conventions and seeing to it that the sentiments of the people are reflected in these proceedings. This performance of civic duties is the price of good government. In no other way can this government be, in the true meaning of the phrase, 'A government of the people, by the people and for the people.'"

False Pretense.

"If a man obtains money or other property from you under false pretenses what do you do? You have him arrested and sent to the penitentiary. And you owe it to yourself and to the state to do this—to make an example of him, to the end that others may be deterred from falling into like evil courses and society is protected. But is not the man equally culpable, from a moral standpoint, who obtains your confidence and your votes under false pretenses? And yet you cannot bear him prosecuted and sent to the penitentiary, except in those rare instances where the evidence is forth-

coming to prove that his official action was controlled by a money consideration. Take, for example, and by way of illustration, a member of the legislature; suppose that the convention nominating him declares in favor of a certain policy; suppose that he goes before the people claiming to be in sympathy with that policy, and pledging his utmost efforts towards carrying it out if elected; suppose after his election and before or after reaching Olympia he strays into the headquarters of a lobby skillful in playing upon human weaknesses, and detecting the yellow streak in its victims, and then does the very opposite of what he pledged himself to the people he would do; would he not be doing a greater wrong to the state than the man who should obtain your horse or your ox by means of false pretenses? Yet in the one case the culprit would be sent to the penitentiary, while in the other he could not be reached by the law. But it does not follow that he would escape punishment. He could be haled before the court of public opinion, which, after all, is the court of last resort, and there branded as a political outcast and leper. The tempter, at the time of his fall, whispers in his ear that he is foolish to let the interests of the people stand in his own light, assuring him that the people are so busy with their own private affairs that they will not observe his actions, or if they do observe them they will soon forget them.

Deserves Public Scorn.

"But the culprit should not be forgotten; on the contrary, he should be held up to public scorn and contumely and made an object of public contempt, to the end that others may be deterred from committing like wrongs against the state. As I said before, the opinions of the citizenship of the state should be reflected in the passage and in the administration of our laws; and this will be done if the people exercise due diligence in the selection of their public servants and in the punishment of such of them as may prove unfaithful to their trust. From this point of view we can understand and appreciate the force and the truth of the president's remarks that 'We are not to be excused as a people if we do not have the right type of legislation; and if we do not see to it that the public servants of the nation and the state fearlessly, honestly and sanely execute the law without regard to the person affected.'"

The Corporations.

"Before closing I wish to say a few words in reference to corporations. I have been charged, and the people of eastern Washington generally have been charged, with being hostile to corporations, especially railway corporations. This charge is so foolish that it should fall of its own weight. We all recognize that the railroads have been an important factor in the upbuilding of the state. But they have not been the only factor. They alone have not made the state what it is today. The farmer, the lumberman, the stockgrower, the miner, the manufacturer, the merchant, the mechanic—in short, every one who has assisted in the development of our resources is entitled to a portion of the credit. But, it may be said, the state would not be what it is today without the railroads. True, nor would the railroads be what they are today without the people and their praiseworthy efforts in the upbuilding of the state. The men who build and manage railroads do so primarily for their own benefit; incidentally they benefit the state at large, and for this they are entitled to due meed of praise. The same is true of the man engaged in any other enterprise. He engages in it primarily for his own benefit, and where incidentally he benefits others he, too, is entitled to his full measure of credit for so doing. As no man is sufficient unto himself, so no line of business or no avocation is sufficient unto itself. Each is mutually dependent upon the other. No enterprise can prosper by itself, or suffer by itself. As our mutual efforts have made the state what it is, so our interests are in common. It is foolish, then, to ascribe to any man, or set of men, or to any particular enterprise the entire credit, or undue credit, for the development of our resources and the building of this grand and great commonwealth.

The Railroads.

"I believe that owners of railroads should be treated fairly and justly the same as any other individual. I believe their property should be afforded the full protection of the law the same as any other kind of property. I believe they should not be singled out either for attack or for the granting to them of special privileges; and I believe they should be required to obey the law the same as the humblest citizen in the state of Washington. If, to believe this is to be hostile to the railroads, then I confess to such hostility.

While I believe in according to the railroads perfectly fair treatment, I also believe that the managers of railroads have no right to maintain a lobby for the purpose of attempting through corrupt means to manipulate conventions, influence elections and control legislatures. If entering a vigorous protest against these abuses can be construed as hostility towards the railroads, then again I confess to that hostility.

Protection Is Due.

"I believe that railroad property should be afforded the full protection of the law; and it is afforded such protection in this state; and it is probably true that the protection of this property, in proportion to its value, costs the state more than the protection of any other kind of property. In return for this protection afforded by the law to railroad property I believe that property should bear its full share of the public burden in the matter of taxation. It is not doing so today. If believing rail-

way corporations should not be permitted to shift their share of the public burden to the shoulders of others constitutes hostility towards such corporations, then I must plead guilty to the charge of such hostility.

Should be Controlled.

"Railway corporations derive their existence from the law. They live, move and have their being by, through and under the law; and as creatures of the law I believe they should submit to regulation by the law. The supreme court of the United States has held that the people have a right to regulate railroad corporations through the agency of a commission; our state constitution authorizes the establishment of such an agency; and a majority of the states of the Union have resorted to such an agency. And in no instance has harm resulted to the railroads, while in most instances great good has resulted to the people. As these railway corporations live, move and have their being by, through and under the law, so, I believe, they should be regulated by, through and under the agency of a commission established by the people through their legislature, subject always, to an appeal to the courts.

"Such, fellow citizens, are my views in reference to railway corporations; and if these views can be interpreted as being hostile to such corporations, then, once again, must I confess to such hostility.

"In closing, permit me to say, I hope to see these views crystallized into legislative enactment, and that I shall do everything in my power to that end."

There is plenty of opportunity for every one in the Statesman coupon contest.

EMORY SMITH TO BLAME

For Irregularities in
Postal Department

HE SUPPRESSED INVESTIGATION

Perry Heath, Former Fourth Assistant, Used Position to Reward

Hanna's Favorites.

The Washington correspondent of the Oregonian says:

Much of the responsibility for postal irregularities that is thrown on the shoulders of Perry Heath, fourth assistant postmaster-general, by the report of General Bristow, would, if all the facts were known, be distributed among a number of prominent men in the republican party, but no one would bear a greater share than Charles Emory Smith. It is a fact no longer disputed that when Smith was postmaster-general he was advised by General Bristow and by reports of his inspectors of gross irregularities, particularly in the Washington post-office, and Smith himself admits having received these reports, but he explains away irregularities behind the now familiar expression, "exigencies of the Spanish war."

Knew the Rolls Were Padded. Smith knew the postal rolls were padded; in fact, it is known that he himself appointed to office a number of women clerks who rendered little or no service for the salary drawn, yet he sanctioned their conduct.

That Smith had knowledge of the graver frauds in the free delivery division is not believed, but he was advised by his inspectors that the affairs of that office would bear close scrutiny. He ordered an examination, which was far from thorough, and gave the bureau a clean bill, without having seriously undertaken to get at the facts. To this extent he is culpable, but it is not believed he was aware of the money-making practices in vogue in that direction. In a word, Smith was lenient, and allowed much to be done in the department "for the sake of the party," such as the appointment of "heelers" and other reprobates of persons supposed to have rendered the party a service. He had a very full knowledge of the actions of First Assistant Heath and gave them his moral if not written approval.

McKinley Would Shield No Grafters.

Attempts have been made from time to time to bring President McKinley into the conspiracy, but there is apparently no good authority for assuming that he knew of the corruption that was being practiced in the postal service. It is known that during the investigation of the Cuban postal frauds President McKinley stood firmly by General Bristow, and insisted upon a thorough investigation. Great influence was brought to bear on him at the time to drop the case against Neely and others, but he declined to yield, even "for the good of the party."

He would in no way sanction the misappropriation of postal funds, and was never once swayed from his purpose of unearthing the wrongdoers, and bringing them to justice. There is the best of reasons for believing that this was his attitude at all times towards the postal service generally.

Abner McKinley Mixed Up In Case. Not so much can be said of his brother, Abner. At every turn connected with every new corruption



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brought to light in the department at this time is heard the name of Abner McKinley. While there has been no proof so far of his complicity, he is under suspicion, but Abner McKinley's shrewdness is well known in Washington, and there are many who believe that even though he may have profited immensely by "irregularities in the postal service," he has covered his tracks so effectively that he can never be caught.

Get in early on the Statesman coupon contest.

Site of the Battle of Queenston. Buffalo, N. Y., June 26.—At Lewiston today there was unveiled with interesting ceremonies a tablet erected to mark the site where General Winfield Scott planted a battery at the opening of the battle of Queenston, October 13, 1812. The tablet was erected by the Niagara Frontier Landmarks' association and the unveiling was performed by descendants of Major Benjamin Barton, who owned the land on which the battle was fought.

The Statesman contest is just now. Work for the prize now.