

St. Croix Avis

76TH YEAR

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A POLITICAL SPEECH.

The candidate for the House of Representatives stepped to the front of the platform, thrust his hands into his pants pockets, and began to speak calmly and distinctly as one does who is trying to sell an article on its merits.

"Men and women", he said, "I am a business man. I have worked hard and made considerable money, and my affairs are so well organized that subordinates can handle them in my absence. I wish to represent this district in Congress.

"My ambition is due in some measure to render service, but my actuating motive is the desire to get glory for myself.

"I cannot appeal to any class for support. I shall appreciate the votes of farmers, but I can offer them nothing in return. It may be that Congress could pass laws to lighten the burdens of the farmer and enable him to get rich without effort, but legislation to enrich one class must inevitably impoverish another. We may shift burdens, but we cannot abolish them. The farmers of my acquaintance drive good cars and have money in the bank. At times I envy them, but I never sympathize with them. They don't need it.

"So also, I shall appreciate the support of craftsmen and laborers, but I cannot promise them anything. When I was a young man I worked twelve hours a day and earned six dollars a week. I worked hard, for I knew that I should be fired if I loafed on the job. I have men building a house for me now, and I pay them an average of eight dollars a day. They are on the job eight hours a day, but they do not strain themselves. Several of them come to work in automobiles.

"If I am elected I shall endeavor to reduce the price of gasoline, but I have no other scheme to make their lot brighter. They get all they earn. When one gets more than he earns he is prone to waste it in riotous living and make a fool of himself.

"I haven't bothered to think up a pretty set of principles and clothe them in polished phrases. I have never stolen money, and I seldom lie. As a decent American citizen I favor honest government, law enforcement and the abolition of waste, but I cannot promise any reform. I shall do my best, but there is little likelihood that I shall be able to change a system that was deep rooted before I was born. My influence in Washington will not be great. I shall have a vote, and nothing more, and many times I shall vote wrong when I think I am voting right.

"I am not possessed of unusual ability. I have talked with many of you, and in my opinion the average man in this district has an intelligence equal to mine. In many instances I have found the judgment of my acquaintances superior to my own. If any one of you should sit in Congress and make a conscientious effort to understand each question brought up for decision, he could handle the job as well as I can hope to handle it. A government is not made great by one who has a place of authority, but by the courage, industry and intelligence of those from whom his authority came.

"In conclusion I wish to say that I am spending no money in this campaign. It is our habit to demand that men shall serve us and then pay them for the privilege. I am not buying votes; neither do I beg for them. I am asking for a public job. You are the power that hires and fires. If you think I am better fitted for the task it is your duty to elect me; if you think my opponent is better fitted it is your duty to elect him. You do not hire a clerk or a cashier or a superintendent on his own recommendation. Neither should you be guided in this matter by what we candidates say of ourselves. We are prejudiced in our own favor, and our evidence is not trustworthy. Look up our records and then use your own common sense in making a selection."

He bowed and sat down. The people were astonished and murmured among themselves, saying: "What do you know about that? This guy must be honest." Then they elected the man and he served a term in the House of Representatives.

He did not set any woods afire, but it is written to his credit that he made no platitudinous and puerile speeches for home consumption, did not once offend his conscience to please his party, took no thought of patronage, and consistently employed the common sense that had prospered his private affairs.—Saturday Evening Post, November 13th 1920.

Publication.

It is hereby brought to public notice that a balance of interest amounting to Fcs. 331.20 will be on hand for distribution on the 25th day of May 1921, from their Majesties King Christian the Ninth and Queen Louise's Golden Wedding Memorial Fund for the benefit of worthy indigent persons in St. Croix.

Applications containing the requisite information and duly certified must be forwarded to the Despatching Secretary's Office, St. Croix, V. I., within the 18th day of May 1921.

Despatching Secretary's Office, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, April 20th, 1921.

C. W. FOX,

Despatching Secretary.

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