

# GOVERNOR FRANK O. LOWDEN, A LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT

Hon. Frank O. Lowden Would Be a Strong and Popular Candidate: He Rings True—a Forceful Campaigner, a Wonderful Personality, a Remarkable Life Story: He Applies Horse Sense to Business and to Public Affairs: The American People Know that He Has Made Good On Every Trust Placed Upon Him

From the prairies of Minnesota and Iowa to the White House is a long hard journey. It would be a crowning achievement to a lifetime of service to the Republic.

Late in the 60's a seven-year-old boy trudged behind his father's prairie schooner across the unsettled country from Central Minnesota into Iowa. Ten years earlier this boy's father had taken his family on another long journey from Pennsylvania to the Minnesota frontier, where he earned a living as a countryside blacksmith. The father was Lorenzo Lowden, and the boy was Frank Owen Lowden.

The pioneer family found a new home in Hardin county, on the prairies of Central Iowa. The senior Lowden farmed; the son helped and at the same time endeavored to secure an education. His opportunities were limited, as was the case in pioneer communities, but by the time he was 15 he had obtained a teacher's license and then taught in a country school for five years.

An education was his goal. He saved his meager wages as a teacher, and entered the University of Iowa when he was 20. He dropped out for a year to teach school again when his money gave out but he kept up his studies and returned to the University and was graduated at the head of his class. The first goal attained, he turned to another—legal training. He taught school in Burlington and studied law rights and Saturdays and in that way completed the first year's law training. He went to Chicago in 1886 and completed the remaining two years' law work in a year, and at the same time he worked as a law clerk in order to finance his school work. He was graduated in 1887 from the Union College of Law (now Northwestern University) and received first prize for scholarship and first prize for oratory.

While Lowden's ability as a lawyer brought him a wide and varied practice, the business men who employed him soon discovered that he was just as able in the field of business as he was in the law. Thus we find him in his early 30s identified with several large industrial concerns as a director, and still later he served as a director in several large banking houses, as well as in a number of the largest and most successful business enterprises in the United States. Frank O. Lowden had an enviable record as a successful business man before the dawn of the twentieth century.

His first entry into the political arena in a prominent way was in 1896. He was then chairman of the political action committee of the Union League Club of Chicago, and took a prominent part in the sound money campaign of that year in behalf of William McKinley. Four years later his great speaking ability was called into nation-wide use by the Republican party, and he became a national figure. In 1900 President McKinley offered him a high office in Washington, but he declined.

Always in the heart of this farm boy who had become famous there was the soil of the countryside. In 1899 he purchased a large farm in Ogle county, Illinois, in the Rock River valley, and to it he moved his family with a view of making it their permanent home. They were so satisfied with Samsont Farm and with the wholesome life of the country, and he became so interested in farming, that the legal profession was soon abandoned, and for more than a quarter of a century the major energies of Mr. Lowden have been devoted to farming and to the improvement of American agriculture.

His neighbors in northern Illinois wanted an interrupting his farm program. In 1904 they called him for Congress, where he served two and a half terms with distinction. Brilliant and popular in congressional circles, Col. Lowden might easily have found in Washington the route to sure political preferment, but he was more interested in the farm and he refused another nomination. Retiring from Congress, he increased his farm acreage, engaged extensively in planting forest trees, took up dairying and livestock breeding, and at the same time began the production of cotton on a large scale in Arkansas. Still later he acquired farm property in Michigan, Texas and Arizona. Today he is one of the most extensive landowners in the United States and is at once one of the largest cotton planters in the south and one of the prominent dairymen of the north. Not since the days of Zachary Taylor has another southern property owner been proposed for the presidency.

Colonel Lowden's busy life has not been self-centered. He has found time to devote some of his great energies to aiding his fellowmen. He is liberal for deserving causes. He aided largely in the development of a vocational or training school for several educational institutions. The young man struggling for an education found ready sympathy in him, because he remembered his own hardships.

The people of Illinois desired that Colonel Lowden should not remain on the farm. They wanted him for their Governor. They nominated him in 1916 and he was elected by the largest majority given to any Republican candidate in that year. This after-election statement is typical of the man: "I do not wish," he said, "to prophesy an Augustan era for the state during my administration. I do not care to boast of high ideals. But I have definite views regarding certain changes in the administration of state affairs. Many evils have crept into the state government which I believe I shall be able to remedy. I am going to give Illinois an honest, efficient and economical administration. I will hold my appointees to as high a degree of efficiency in the public service as is exacted from men in the employ of the best managed private businesses."

And he did all that. Upon assuming the duties of the office he went to work on the things in the program he had promised the people. Before he had been in office 60 days, both houses of the general assembly had passed his consolidation act, combining 128 commissions, boards and bureaus into nine major departments, with a responsible head over each, devoting his entire time to their business.

The key to the reorganized state government under the Lowden plan was the Department of Finance, which was given the duty of preparing a state budget. The first major budget in the United States was developed the first year of the Lowden administration under the terms of the consolidation act, and as a result the taxing body was able to reduce the state tax rate from 90 to 60 cents. And this was in war-time, with costs mounting skyward.

When Governor Lowden was inaugurated, the state treasury contained \$528.82, and the state owed a host of people. When he left office four years later, the treasury had \$15,132,658.03 and did not owe a cent except for bonds. It was in this period that state taxes were reduced 33-1-3 per cent. There is no parallel in American history to this achievement.

Illinois was blessed with a broad and constructive program under Gov. Lowden's leadership. He was responsible for the development of inland waterways; the abolition of private and unregulated banks; a general revision of the revenue laws; a reduction in the cost of elections; an aliotate corporation code; a compulsory employee's compensation act, a state housing code; reorganization of the state and municipal pension system; encouragement of co-operative marketing, and a program for forestry development. His administration was the high-water mark of state government in America; he was the outstanding state executive of a generation.

Back to Mississippi after his service in Springfield, Governor Lowden has for seven years given his undivided attention to agricultural problems. He has served as president of the Holstein-Friesian Association of America, the largest purebred livestock record body in the world; president of the American Dairy Federation; director in the International Livestock Exposition, and director in the National Co-operative Marketing Council. In this severe farm depression, his voice has been raised from the Atlantic to the Pacific in behalf of the industry of agriculture, and through his efforts the eyes of the nation have been directed on that problem. He has pleaded with America to work out and adopt a sound national policy for agriculture, because all of the great nations of the past have fallen when they permitted agriculture to decline.

Throughout his lifetime Governor Lowden has been a staunch advocate of the cardinal principles of the Republican party. His regularity and his Republicanism have never been questioned, and yet partisanship has never interfered with proper independence in administration. His policies on the protective tariff, on sound and efficient government, on public affairs are in keeping with the time-honored platform of the party.

Frank O. Lowden has never been a candidate for public office except to carry out a definite constructive program of advancement. He declined high office under McKinley. He was twice since offered cabinet positions. His state wanted him for a second term as governor, but his program had been carried out. He refused the most exalted diplomatic post in the world—the ambassadorship to the Court of St. James. He was nominated for vice president over his own protest, and he declined because his field of service to the nation lay elsewhere.

(Political Advertisement)

## MODEL A FORD BRAKES GET TRAFFIC DIRECTOR'S O. K.

"We have received several inquiries recently with reference to articles appearing in the press relative to the brakes on the Model A Ford car," said Mr. Russell H. Hodges, of the Taylor Motor Company, local Ford dealers. "In order that the public may be fully advised in this connection, here is a letter which the Detroit office of the company has received from W. H. Harland, director of traffic, Washington, D. C., whose opinion in the matter should set at rest any question in regard to the brakes on the new car."

Below is Mr. Harland's letter: "In reply to your request for an opinion in regard to the braking system on your new Model A car, we have discussed this matter very carefully with automotive experts from the bureau of standards and after a thorough test find that inasmuch as your car is equipped with adequate brakes with independent foot and hand controls, we are satisfied that it complies with the District of Columbia traffic regulations."

## OBITUARY

GREENE—Joseph Greene died at his home in Eubank, Ky., January 18. He was married to Sarah C. Greene, Sept. 20, 1879, in North Carolina. Eleven children were born to this union, seven living and four dead. He is survived by wife and seven children, three boys and four girls. He joined the Baptist church in North Carolina in 1889, moved to Neva, Tenn., in 1899, thence to Eubank, Ky., in 1919. Has been an active worker all his life. He loved to help his fellow man, a great comfort and help to the sick. The last work of his life was to help build a new church near his home at McKinnay, Ky. He is the first person buried in the cemetery near the church he helped to build and loved so well. He lived a life that when the final call came he was not afraid to answer. Thus ends a useful life of service, but his good acts and works will live on. Peace to his ashes and a blessed home in heaven is the prayer of relatives and friends. R. M. GREENE.

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