



MRS. HENRY J. KLAER
Daughter of Senator Sproul



SENATOR WILLIAM C. SPROUL
Republican nominee for Governor, delivering his platform



MRS. WILLIAM C. SPROUL
Wife of gubernatorial nominee



FIRST LIEUTENANT JOHN ROACH SPROUL
U. S. Infantry, Regulars. Gassed by the Huns in the great drive on the Marne and back again on the firing line in France



MISS JANE SPROUL KLAER
The granddaughter, who rules the Sproul household.

"Ambitious as I am to be Governor of this great State, and anxious as I am to work out some of the plans I have developed in a long study of the Commonwealth's affairs, I cannot and will not be a factional Governor, nor would I be a candidate on such a platform. The Governorship of Pennsylvania is a great office; the opportunities for real service it offers should be an inspiration to any citizen," declared Senator Sproul.

NOMINEE FOR GOVERNOR HAS VARIED CAREER

As Newspaper Editor, Foundryman, Ship-builder, Lawmaker, Good Roads Champion, Financier and Clubman, Republican Standard Bearer in Pennsylvania Is an Ideal Candidate

"A man of action and of achievement; the man of the hour in the civic life of Pennsylvania," as State Senator William Cameron Sproul has been aptly described, will be chosen Governor of Pennsylvania at the election on Tuesday next.

He is not only the nominee of the Republican Party, named in a popular vote at the uniform primaries and receiving a total of 353,000 ballots to 149,000 for the nearest rival, but his candidacy is receiving the support of many thousands of Democrats who are not in sympathy with the views of the nominee of their party and who believe that Senator Sproul is the logical man to fill the role of chief executive of this Commonwealth and to meet the many important and unusual problems with which the administration will be confronted following the termination of the war.

In Senator Sproul is found a man of affairs, an experienced newspaper editor and publisher, a foundryman and builder of ships, a financier, a lawmaker, a farmer, not a faddist, but a farmer who makes his farm pay, an owner and proprietor of three large and prosperous Pennsylvania orchards, one in Cumberland

county, one in Columbia county and the other in Wyoming county and to top all this off he is a clubman and as the president of the Union League of Philadelphia is in touch with the big men of the State, men who do things and who can be relied upon to support and sustain his administration in every big broad patriotic policy which he shall foster.

Senator Sproul is a native Pennsylvanian. His grandfather, Squire Samuel Slokom, was chairman of the Republican County Executive Committee for twelve years, so that he has the prestige of stalwart Republican ancestry. He was born at Andrews Bridge, Coleport township, Lancaster county, on September 10, 1870, the son of William Hall and Deborah (Slokom) Sproul.

His middle name was given him in honor of General Simon Cameron for years the potential leader of the Republican organization and an important figure in national politics of Pennsylvania. He married when he was twenty-one years old, wedding Miss Eleona Wallace Leach, a daughter of John B. Roach, ship builder, and grand daughter of John Roach, founder of the ship building busi-

ness in Chester and who has been reverently referred to by many conspicuous officers in the service of Uncle Sam as "the father" of the United States Navy.

For four generations the Sprouls have been iron masters and it logically followed that the present candidate for the Governorship of Pennsylvania would be identified with these and kindred interests.

The Senator's father was an officer of the Iron Cliffs Company and eight of the future Governor's early boyhood were spent in the busy little city of Negaunee, where the furnaces and the general offices of the corporation were located. An uncle by marriage, Thomas J. Houston, also lived there and was a commanding figure in the community. His energy and ability set a fine example for the lad, and Senator Sproul has often said that the patience of his father, of his grandfather and his Uncle Thomas in answering questions was beyond belief.

Mrs. Sproul's lineage, as is the case with the Senator, is distinguished. Her great-great-grandfather was John Paulding, who was one of the captors of the unfortunate Major Andre, of the English Army, in the Revolutionary War. On her mother's side she is descended from a prominent Colonial family from Dutchess county, New York. She is a member of the Colonial Dames, the Daughters of the Revolution and other such organizations, but sets more store by what she, her husband and their children do than in the achievements of her ancestors, honorable as they were.

Sproul, after receiving instruction at private schools, part of which time was spent in the schools at Christiana, Lancaster county, entered the High School at Chester in 1883. He could

have been graduated from that institution at sixteen, but preferred to stay with the old class and he qualified as a teacher in 1887.

Sproul entered Swarthmore as a Freshman that fall and was assigned to room with an old friend with whom he had gone to school at Christiana, Maurice J. Brinton, now a leading business man of Lancaster county. Pretty soon, however, Brinton left college and two outstanding figures in Pennsylvania politics of today found themselves sharing the same room—William Cameron Sproul and Alexander Mitchell Palmer.

Palmer, who is Democratic National Committeeman and Alien Property Custodian under the Wilson administration, has repudiated the Democratic nominee for Governor and it is believed that many of his supporters throughout the State will vote for Senator Sproul.

The Sprouls have two children. John Roach Sproul was born January 24, 1896. He followed his father to Chester High School, finished his preparation at Mercersburg and then entered Swarthmore College, where he was a star in baseball and in basketball and was about to start upon his business career when the call of his country took him to the first Fort Niagara Camp, where he won a commission as second lieutenant in October, 1917, and went to France that winter. There he was very active in the early fighting done by American forces, taking part in the second battle of the Marne, where he was signal officer. He was gassed last July and it must not be overlooked that he was cited for bravery. He got back to the front and to his command as soon as possible and he has been actively fighting ever since. He is big, as is his height and he weighs over two hundred pounds.

The daughter, Dorothy, who borrows animation from her mother, now saddened by her sudden widowhood, was married to Henry J. Klaer on October 7, 1914. Klaer, tall, straight as a string, active in athletics, was a son of Judge Jacob Klaer, of Milford, Pike county, where his family is prominent. He prepared at Blairtown Academy and was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, quickly winning distinction as a chemical engineer. Filling positions of a responsible kind in the steel industry he came to the front rapidly and at the time of his death, early in this month, was vice president of the Penn Seaboard Steel Corporation, with every promise of a brilliant future. He was captain of Company F, First Regiment, Pennsylvania Reserve, Militia, which paid him full honors in bringing a salute over his grave. He took an active part in all public movements in Delaware county.

Jane, the first child of the young couple, is now three years old, and is un-

commonly large for her age. By her winsomeness and the general fascination and charm of her baby personality she has bewitched all her relatives, as indeed she does all who come into contact with her. The second child was a boy, named for the Senator, William Sproul Klaer. His death, on November 6, 1917, aged 14 months, brought the first real grief to the family, and the mourning between him and her other "Pop," now, alas! lost to her.

Without any prompting, Jane determined to call Senator Sproul "Big Pop," which she does invariably in addressing him—probably her baby idea of distinguishing between him and her other "Pop," now, alas! lost to her.

The Senator doubtless thinks he is "the boss" about his place in Nether Providence, but a casual observer with half an eye could not fail to notice that the real "boss" is none other than Jane.

Lapidea Manor, the home of the Sprouls, is just outside Chester, in Nether Providence Township, Delaware county. It is one of the most interesting as well as one of the most beautiful homesteads in the county.

Senator Sproul naturally drifted into a practical newspaper life following his boyhood experience in amateur journalism and his activities as a correspondent for metropolitan journals during his later college days.

March of 1922 an opportunity came to acquire a half interest in the Chester Times and thus began his partnership with his old predecessor, John Wallace, who lasted until the latter's death five years ago. At that time a son of the elder Wallace, Frank C. Wallace, and Charles K. Long, who had gone to the Times in the same year Sproul did and had become business manager, became partners with Sproul, the business being incorporated with Senator Sproul as president, Mr. Wallace as secretary and Mr. Long as treasurer.

For several years Sproul gave his undivided attention to the newspaper, becoming familiar with every phase of the business, and devoting to it direct and indirect business care. The Times became very successful and is one of the best-looking and most prosperous dailies in the State. About ten years ago the Morning Republican, an old-established journal which had become a daily, was purchased, and is published as a morning edition with the Times and the evening Sproul. Senator Sproul still being at the head of the publishing company.

About eight years ago, Frederic W. Fleitz, of Scranton, a Berks county farm lad, former Deputy Attorney General, who lived at the Harrisburg Club with Sproul, convinced the Senator that the fruit industry in Pennsylvania should be developed and that not only would a good object be served for the people of the State, but a good business could be built up in raising fruit. Fleitz had given the matter much study and had the plan thoroughly mapped out, so three splendid farms on the shale hills back of Mechanicsburg, Cumberland county, were acquired as a starter. The firm of Fleitz & Sproul, fruit growers, was organized and operations began.

Since that time a tract along the north branch of the Susquehanna at Vossburg, in Wyoming county, has been acquired, and the John G. McHenry place, a splendid tract at Benton, Columbia county, has been added to the enterprise. All in all the firm has 2000 acres of the best of Pennsylvania lands and over 150,000 fruit trees have been planted, besides other small fruits and ordinary crops.

Real farmers of the country round about know that Sproul is one of them. He is up and at it, not producer, of his membership in the Brookhaven Grange,

patrons of Husbandry, as he is of his many connections with some of the most important clubs and organizations in the country. Recently the Grange gave him a reception at Media, and it so pleased him that he did not hesitate to say that he considers it one of the greatest honors which it has been his lot to enjoy.

Throughout his legislative career Senator Sproul has shown a consistent sympathy with all movements tending to improve conditions for farmers, with him the idea that the farmer is too heavily taxed amounts almost to an obsession. He has worked long and earnestly to effect what he considers just and proper changes in the way the farmer should be taxed. He has been entirely sound on all farm legislation, and he was largely instrumental in having established the Bureau of Markets in this State, which does such excellent practical work in marketing and more profitable the marketing of farm products.

Senator Sproul was twenty-six years old when he was first elected to the State Senate. He followed in the steps of his father Nicholas Newlin, friend of William Penn, who was a member of the Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly, and in those of the great grandsons of this Newlin, who represented in the State Senate the same district that Sproul does today.

In 1893 Sproul was elected resident pro tem of the Senate, and he presided over that body in the session of 1905. He has ever since been a leader and has helped to shape all of the important legislation that has been enacted during that period.

He is the author of the Sproul good roads bill, and sponsored the proposed constitutional amendment calling for fifty millions of dollars for the improvement of the State highways, but the people then did not realize the necessity for these expenditures and defeated the amendment. He introduced the proposition in 1915 and again in 1917 and the voters will have an opportunity next Tuesday to again pass upon it.

Many endorsements of Senator Sproul's legislative career have come from various organizations, not the least enthusiastic of which was that from the Railroad Men's Political Alliance, which has strongly commended his candidacy.

The Legislative Committee of the Indianapolis Convention of the United Mine Workers of America in January last adopted resolutions commending Senator Sproul for his support of bills providing protection to labor and other humanitarian measures.

Senator Sproul has for years taken a keen interest in politics. He has upon more than one occasion evinced a disinclination to act independently of the wishes of recognized leaders, but the impress of his personality upon the party organization is found not only in his home district but in the State at large.

William I. Schaffer, president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, and one of the most intimate friends of the Senator, has said of Sproul, "His friendships are of the kind which never fail—his fidelity plus."

Former General John Wanamaker, in a personal letter to the candidate, strongly indorsing him for the Governorship, among other things wrote, "The best thing that I know about you is that you know how to keep the faith."

As a member of the Legislature he said he "had kept the faith." The distinguished Pennsylvanian then added: "It will be a pleasure to place you in the Governor's chair at this particular time, when we expect the early return of our soldier and sailor boys who have done so large a part in their brave heroic service in winning the war."

"Pennsylvania likes you and trusts you to see that her wounded

and crippled sons of the battlefield shall not only be honored, but cared for."

Mr. Wanamaker's letter recalls a declaration from Senator Sproul's platform in which he said: "In this connection much remains to be done to lighten the load of responsibility and worry upon the brave hearts of those of our sons who have gone to the front, that those who are left behind and are dependent upon them are decently cared for while our defenders are absent. The State and its communities should see to it that not a dependent wife or child, parent or sister, or other one dear to the heart of a soldier or sailor from Pennsylvania lacks comfortable sustenance while the war is on."

Senator Sproul's activities in the Sun Shipbuilding Company at Chester, the Penn Seaboard Steel Corporation, his coal and lumber interests in West Virginia, the Lebanon Valley Iron and Steel Company, the Laurel Line, the high speed transit system connecting Wilkes-Barre and Scranton, of which he is president, and his many other connections of a similar character, stamp him as one who is exceptionally qualified to take hold of the affairs of the State and to solve the big problems which will inevitably confront the Commonwealth within the next four years.