

Political Announcements, Candidates, Take Notice.

Announcements under this head will be run until the date of the Spring primary for \$500. Additional matter will be inserted for 5 cents per line, each insertion, except for candidates who carry no standing announcement in this paper, who will be charged 10 cents per line, each insertion. Portrait cuts will be inserted at the rate of 25 cents per inch, each insertion.

FOR ASSEMBLY, P. L. LIVENGOOD, OF SALISBURY BOROUGH.

I solicit the votes and influence of the Republican voters at the Primary Election to be held April 11th, 1908. I am for local option legislation and against the licensing of saloons, and I don't care who knows it.

P. L. LIVENGOOD.

FOR THE ASSEMBLY.

To the Republican voters:
I am a candidate for the Legislature, and solicit your support and influence at the primary election on April 11. If nominated and elected I will act and vote conscientiously for what I believe is for the best interests of Somerset county. I will be grateful for your support. I have been a working Republican ever since I became of age, and have never held a remunerative office.

FRANK M. FORNEY,
Somerset, Pa.

TO THE VOTERS OF SOMERSET COUNTY.

At the request of a large number of patrons of the Prothonotary's Office, I have consented to be a candidate for re-election to said office. Thanking my many friends throughout the county for their kindness in the past, I again most respectfully solicit your support and influence at the Republican Primary Election to be held April 11, 1908. Very respectfully,

CHARLES C. SHAFER.

TO THE REPUBLICAN VOTERS OF SOMERSET COUNTY.

I hereby announce myself as a Republican candidate for the nomination of County Commissioner at the primary election to be held Saturday, April 11th, 1908. Your support is respectfully solicited.

RUSH S. MCMILLEN.

FOR COMMISSIONER, P. K. MOORE, OF MIDDLEBREEK TOWNSHIP.

Subject to the decision of the Republican Primary Election to be held April 11, 1908, I kindly solicit the support of the Republican voters.

FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER, C. C. HECKLE, OF SUMMIT TOWNSHIP.

The support and influence of the Republicans of Somerset county is respectfully solicited at the Primary Election to be held Saturday, April 11, 1908.

FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER, JOSIAH SPECHT, OF QUEMADING TOWNSHIP.

To the voters of Somerset county:
At the request of a large number of patrons of the Commissioners' office, I have consented to be a candidate for re-election to said office. Thanking my many friends throughout the county for their kindness in the past, I again most respectfully solicit their support and influence at the coming Republican Primary Election to be held April 11, 1908. Very respectfully,

JOSIAH SPECHT.

FOR SHERIFF, J. W. HANNA, OF NEW CENTREVILLE.

I solicit your support for nomination on the Republican Ticket, at the Primary Election to be held on Saturday, April 11, 1908.

FOR SHERIFF, C. A. HUMBERT, OF MEYERSDALE BORO.

I respectfully solicit your support, at the Primary Election to be held on Saturday, April 11th, 1908, for nomination on the Republican ticket.

FOR COUNTY TREASURER, U. F. RAYMAN, OF BROTHERSVALLEY TOWNSHIP.

Subject to the decision of the Republican Primary Election, to be held Saturday, April 11, 1908. YOUR VOTE AND INFLUENCE SOLICITED.

FOR RECORDER OF DEEDS.

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for Recorder of Deeds, and solicit the support of Republicans at the Primary Election to be held on Saturday, April 11, 1908.

D. W. WELLES,
Somerset, Pa.

FOR COUNTY TREASURER, JACOB KREGER, OF KINGWOOD, PA.

I am a candidate for nomination on the Republican ticket for County Treasurer, and solicit support at the Primary Election on April 11th, 1908. I am an old soldier and lost a leg in the service.

JACOB KREGER.

FOR CLERK OF COURTS, F. A. HARAH, PRINCIPAL OF THE ROCKWOOD SCHOOLS.

solicits your support at the primary election on Saturday, April 11, 1908, for nomination on the Republican Ticket.

FOR SHERIFF, N. B. MCGRIFF, OF SOMERSET BOROUGH.

I hereby announce my candidacy for the office of Sheriff of Somerset county, and respectfully ask the support of the Republicans at the coming Republican Primary Election to be held on Saturday, April 11, 1908.

FOR ASSEMBLY.

To the Republican voters of Somerset county, Pa.:

I hereby announce my candidacy for re-election to the Pennsylvania legislature. It has been a time honored custom that Somerset county members should be given a second term. I always yielded to this point in regard to my predecessors in that body, and feel that I am deserving of the same honor that was accorded them.

I respectfully solicit your influence and support at the primary election to be held Saturday, April 11, 1908.

AMOS W. KNEPPER.



OPEN LETTER

To the People of Somerset County.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—As a candidate seeking election to the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, I address to you this open letter, defining my position on such issues as I have reason to believe the people of Somerset county are vitally interested in, as well as to state my position on other matters which you may have never given any thought.

THE LOCAL OPTION QUESTION.

I am glad to note that the people are especially aroused on the blighting effects of the legalized liquor traffic in Somerset county. The evils of this traffic are becoming so enormous, and the license privileges so shamefully abused, that the offense to common decency smells to high heaven, and the traffic has gotten to be a festering, rotten sore on the body politic and upon society. It is but natural, therefore, that decent and observing people are demanding to know where the several candidates for legislative honors stand on the Local Option question or other measures that may be looked to for relief from the debasing conditions. I, for one, shall in this letter dispel all doubt as to where I stand on this vital question, (if there ever was any doubt about it) and I would have done so earlier, had I not been stricken down by a severe spell of sickness, some weeks ago, from which I am just now recovering.

When a man stands for a certain issue, I think he should give his reasons for the same, and I shall proceed to give my reasons for being in favor of local option, an issue I have always believed in.

A local option law would give the sovereign people a right to say by their votes whether or not they want liquor sold or manufactured in their respective counties or districts, according as to how the law would be framed. That is a right which the people should have, and the people who are clamoring for that right are not the narrow-minded, ignorant, besotted and rum-soaked minions of the saloon-keepers, but the best and most intelligent people of the commonwealth—the bone and sinew, as well as the brains and law-abiding element thereof. I favor a local option law on a county unit, believing it to be the first step toward State and National prohibition of the liquor traffic, which is coming at a rapid pace, following closely in the footsteps of local option in a number of the states, where prohibition has already become a reality.

I am in favor of any legislation that will tend to the ultimate overthrow of the liquor traffic, for that traffic is a public nuisance, and not one single good argument can be advanced in its favor. Statistics show that the revenue derived therefrom does not begin to support the paupers it makes or maintain the jails and other prisons made necessary by the crime growing directly out of the sale and use of liquors.

I do not wish to pose as a moral saint or one who has always been a total abstainer. Saints do not inhabit this earth, and total abstainers are comparatively rare. I am not a sot or an habitual tippler, but I have sampled just enough booze in my time, and have been around the places where it is sold just enough to know by experience what an infernal nuisance it is. I have even signed some few license petitions in my time. Not, however, that I was ever in sympathy with the traffic for a single moment, but merely because I hated to refuse men who had always been friendly and sociable with me. But I have signed my last liquor license petition, published my last booze advertisement, and from henceforth I desire to be counted as an uncompromising and unrelenting foe of the saloon, no matter whether I am elected to the Legislature or not. And this is not because I love the saloon-keepers the less, but because I love humanity in

general the more. Say, is this plain enough for you?

I am opposed to gigantic trusts and combines whose sole object is to enrich themselves at the expense and impoverishment of the general public, and no other combination on earth is so greedy, so grasping and so grinding as the liquor combine. What other combine gives its patrons so little of real value for their money? What other combine has financial profits so great? And the great bulk of the ill-gotten gain, too, comes from the pockets of the poor, robbing innocent children of bread, of clothes and of education, and supplying them with stripes, kicks and curses instead. And must all this be tolerated in the name of personal liberty, and to sustain the flimsy plea that liquor license is necessary in order that the stranger within our gates and the way-faring man may be cared for? Not as I view it.

I have traveled in prohibition states quite extensively in my time, and I have found hotels in those states just as numerous, and their accommodations just as good, yea, better than in states where booze is sold in connection with the public hostilities. Too many hotels in this state are conducted merely for the sake of selling booze. The booze department of them is the only department that is given much attention. Such places are merely saloons, nothing more, and usually very tough ones at that. The average citizen who reads this can readily recall a number of such disreputable joints without letting his mind wander over much territory, and where such joints exist, speak-easies also usually flourish better than in prohibition territory, because the licensed law-breaker and the unlicensed law-breaker fear each other, hence nurse their hatred in silence and wisely keep out of the courts.

Let us look for a moment at the greed and impudence of the booze sellers' combine right here in Somerset county. Not content with profits that make the Standard Oil Company's profits look insignificant in comparison, the retail liquor dispensers of Somerset county formed a combine, a year or more ago, to establish a list of trust prices for their goods.

Not content with raking in a large part of the earnings of poor men whose families need all their income, the booze combine next turns its attention to politics. An organization is accordingly formed to devise means and raise funds with which to down any candidate for office not in sympathy with the damnable and dirty liquor traffic. Are solid and substantial people, the decent and law-abiding, the frugal and industrious, and those professing Christianity, or even nothing more than ordinary morals and good horse sense—are all such ready to allow the saloon-keepers of Somerset county to be the masters of the politics thereof? I think not. However, there is but one of two things to do—either take to the woods and cry "God save the commonwealth," or line up like men and fight to the last ditch against such a proposition.

The saloon-keepers' organization formed many months ago in this county can only be construed as a challenge for combat with the anti-saloon forces. It ought not take a good citizen long to decide on which side to line up, and if all church members will vote and work as they pray, all teachers vote and work as they teach, and all others vote and work as their consciences would suggest, the saloon-keepers' organization of Somerset county will be given such a drubbing on the 11th of April as the votes are counted as it is now boastful and arrogant. "Up, guards, and at them!" and remember that this is no time to give quarter or support to dodgers, mollycoddles, nature-fakirs and candidates who are afraid to tell where they stand on this issue.

Any business requiring a petition praying for its continuance, and cannot get at least a majority of the people of its district on its petition, is a business that has no moral right to exist, and the power to license a business of that kind should not be vested in any one man. Our present license system affords too much opportunity for graft and the wrecking of personal spite by the license-granting power. Besides, it looks very absurd for a court to grant liquor licenses on the strength of petitions remarkable only for the scarcity of the signatures of reputable citizens thereon. It also looks absurd and unjust for the courts to place pitfalls in the way of poor, weak, erring humanity, and then punish the victims who fall into them and are thus led to commit crime. It would be just as reasonable and right to breed dogs, permit licensed dog trainers to train them to kill sheep, and then fill the canines full of shot for acquiring a fondness for mutton.

Some time ago I had a confidential conversation with a member of the saloon-keepers' organization of this county. I was very arrogantly informed by the said member that unless I lined up on the saloon side in my candidacy for office, that I might just as well drop all hope of being nominated. I was assured, however, that if I would seek and secure the endorsement of the saloon-keepers' organization, that I would be a sure winner, and that I would have a large campaign fund at my command with which to secure votes. I informed him that the use of money in politics was reduced to actual legitimate expenses of candidates, by the Corrupt Practices Act, whereupon I was assured that a way would be found to get around the law. This, no doubt, sounded very good to the man alluded to, but it did not sound good to me. I could not make myself believe that I should first become a law-breaker in order to become a law-maker.

I was flatteringly told by the man referred to that I would make a good member of the Legislature, if elected on the right side, which, in his judgment, is the saloon-keepers' side. I was then invited to come to Somerset at the time of the next meeting of the saloon-keepers, and was promised I would be given fine treatment and ample proof that it would be to my interest to line up against local option. But I did not go, and neither did I seek the confidential conversation referred to. However, I have thought over it a great deal since, and the more I think over it the more I regard the whole thing as an insult to my manhood. That conversation, more than anything else, has aroused me to take the vigorous stand against saloons that I have decided to maintain from this time forward.

But there are enough other reasons why I should take this firm stand, chief among which I may name the following: I have witnessed the saloons ruin and debase the intellect of some of the brightest and most generous-hearted men I have ever known. I have seen men driven to despondency, desperation and suicidal death by the traffic. I have seen it destroy happy homes, cause good wives and mothers to die of broken hearts, drive innocent children to early graves for want of proper clothing and nourishment, etc., etc. I have even seen it ruin men and their families who were engaged in the traffic, wrecking what might otherwise have been useful and happy lives. Liquor is a curse from the time it leaves the stomachs of men, and it is a blight and a curse to all who come in contact with it, whether sellers or those who drink it as a beverage.

The most careful of saloon-keepers in this county have more than once told me that they violate the Brooks law every day, and more than once have I been told by them, "This is a hell of a business." The very saloon-keeper who tried to induce me to run for office as a saloon candidate, declared to me the same evening that he would not tender bar for \$200 per month, owing to his aversion to having a lot of drunken men around him so much of the time. No wonder the saloon-keepers are glad to spew their crops of "drunks" out upon the public and be rid of them until they get sober and get more money to spend. But say, isn't it tough on the public, the people who have to ride in the same cars with them, etc., and be subjected to their vile talk, their vomit, stinking breath and disgusting appearance?

A saloon-keeper in another state has repeatedly told me that he never allows his young sons to enter his place of business, and that he could not think of doing so, but wants to stick to it long enough to make a fortune, then quit. That kind of a business he should quit at once, and knowing how he loves his own boys and desires them to become useful men, he should spend some time in thinking of the little boys in the families of his patrons, and the mothers of them, whose rightful support is finding its way into the saloon-keeper's till. "Somebody else would sell booze to their dads if I wouldn't," is a poor plea, and one that no right-thinking man will ever put up.

I know that I will be ridiculed by some of the patrons of the saloons for writing this article, and some of the saloon-keepers will doubtless withdraw their patronage from my paper. They and their employes will also ridicule my arguments, but thoughtful people will readily understand that self-interest, the money they are making out of the traffic, and not conscience is back of their far-fetched and flimsy arguments. I know that the saloon-keepers' organization of Somerset county has at least declared political boycott against certain candidates not in sympathy with their traffic, but they had better be very careful not to carry their little

boycotting game too far or meddle into politics too deep. There is great danger of the court punishing them for pernicious political activity, and besides, the danger of remonstrances and wholesale prosecution for violations of the Brooks law will be very great hereafter, if the saloon-keepers get too vindictive against those who are exercising their rights by advocating an issue which the best people in the county are in full sympathy with.

The candidate who decides to be a dodger of vital issues is never to be trusted. He is a coward and a craven, and usually very susceptible to bribes or anything for his personal gain. The mollycoddle has no business in the legislative halls of a great commonwealth. We must have men not afraid to raise a fog, but men strong and sun-crowned—men who can rise above the fog and dust and speak their sentiments in no uncertain sound.

I want to go to the Legislature if I can get there on a respectable platform and by fair means. But I would rather be defeated on righteous issues than to be elected on a platform of error, deception and infamy. I would rather have this open letter stored away in the hearts of my posterity and my countrymen, than to have it engraved on granite or bronze that I was elected to the Legislature as a saloon candidate.

Some months ago a well known saloon-keeper requested me to talk to his son and try to dissuade him from the drink habit. He said: "I can't do anything with him, and he's drinking himself to death." In other words the business conducted by the father was evidently the ruin of the son, and not only his own son, but the sons and fathers of many others. I talked to the saloon-keeper's son as requested, but it occurred to me that the father needed a talking to more than his son. Then, too, this question arose in my mind: Why does he not ask me to talk to the sons of other men who are going to ruin through the traffic he is engaged in? It makes a big lot of difference whose boy is going to the bad through booze, does it not?

Now then, my fellow citizens, I think I have made it thoroughly clear to you where I stand on the Local Option question, and to conclude therewith I have this to say: If you think a majority of men in the Legislature holding my opinion on this question would be apt to pass laws that would take bread away from hungry wives and children, rob them of clothes, wring money from the pockets of poor men who need their earnings worse than the saloon-keepers need them, then don't vote for me. But if you think anti-saloon legislation has a tendency to lessen crime, poverty and want, lessen the number of broken hearts and tear-stained cheeks, then I beg of you to give me your votes and influence.

Of course you can pick flaws with me, for I have my faults, and no man is perfect. In this instance and on this issue I ask your support and co-operation not so much in the interest of the candidate as for the good of our county, state and nation. If you cannot quite make up your mind that the issue I represent is a righteous one, talk the matter over with your wives, sweethearts, children, fathers, mothers, spiritual advisers, if you have any, and above all talk it over with that still, small voice that appeals to you through your conscience. If you do so, you ought have no trouble in arriving at a proper decision. To vote for righteous issues will help you to "so live, that when they summons comes to join the innumerable caravan, that moves to the mysterious realm where each shall take his chamber in the silent halls of death, thou go not like the quarry slave at night, scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed by an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him, and lies down to pleasant dreams."

THE U. S. SENATOR QUESTION.

Some of the voters are demanding to know where the legislative candidates stand on the matter of choosing a United States Senator—whether they are for Senator Penrose for re-election, or against him. As I feel it a man of good judgment cannot feel justified in committing himself positively on this issue, at this time. I am neither a champion nor a traducer of Senator Penrose. I will not pledge myself to support him for re-election, and neither will I pledge myself not to support him. There are better men for the office without a doubt, but it is extremely doubtful whether any better ones will offer for the place at the next Legislature, especially if they are to be set up by corrupt and discredited political bosses and spoilsmen like Bill Flynn, of Pittsburg, who is seeking to trot one of his vest-pocket henchmen into the Senatorial light. I reserve the right to vote for such candidate for U. S. Senator as I shall honestly consider the fittest man offering for the place, regardless of what the political "wire-pullers" may think.

There are other issues upon which I shall also declare myself before the day of the primary, issues which I think are timely and should be mentioned, but I must close for this time, as space is limited. Very sincerely yours,
P. L. LIVENGOOD.



F. A. HARAH.

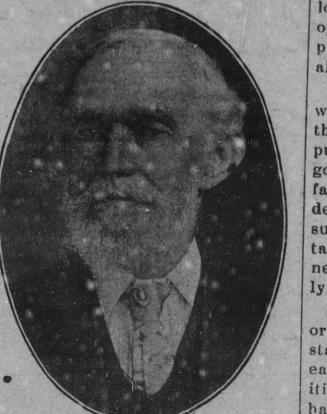
A Prominent Candidate for Clerk of the Courts.

The subject of this sketch is a man of far more than ordinary ability, and those who know him best are his staunchest friends and supporters. Mr. Harah was born in Ursina, about 80 years ago, and is a son of the late Dr. W. S. Harah, a prominent and intelligent physician who resided in that town some years ago, but now deceased.

F. A. Harah is a graduate of the Lock Haven State Normal School, and at present is the efficient principal of the Rockwood schools, which stand well up in the front ranks of the schools of Somerset county. The high standing of the Rockwood schools is largely due to the excellent work of Mr. Harah, who has been principal thereof during the last five years. His long retention in his present position speaks volumes for his ability, which will be none the less in the office he seeks, if elected. Besides, Mr. Harah is a most affable and courteous gentleman, always in a good humor, and on the right side of all questions that concern morality and good government.

During the past few years Mr. Harah has been assisting County Superintendent Seibert in holding the teachers' examinations, and in that capacity has won golden opinions. His many friends claim that he is an ideal candidate for the office he seeks, and their reasons for thinking so cannot well be disputed.

FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER,



WM. M. SCHROCK, OF SOMERSET.

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