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IRA B. CASE, Oct. 24, 1895.

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WATRES FOR GOVERNOR

How His Candidacy is Regarded In His Home Town.

A SCRANTON VIEW OF HIM

He is No Factionist, But An Everyday Republican—Always Has He Stood For Party Unity and Public Service.

Scranton, Pa., Oct. 1.—The brief, but frank and manly letter of Colonel L. A. Watres, of this city, announcing his candidacy for governor of Pennsylvania, has delighted his numerous personal and political friends, not only in Scranton, but throughout northeastern Pennsylvania. The letter is in reality as much an answer to numerous inquiries as it is an announcement of the author's purpose.

As is well known in all parts of the state, there has long been a strong Republican sentiment in favor of the candidacy of Colonel Watres for governor. It began while he was serving in the state senate, and received a strong impetus during his campaign for lieutenant governor, when, despite the defeat of the regular Republican nominee for governor, he carried the day for his party and was elected against most adverse conditions. His



COL. LOUIS A. WATRES.

great strength with the people, on that occasion was shown by the fact that he was elected by a majority of 23,365 votes, while Pattison, who ran as the Democratic candidate for governor, had a majority of 17,000 over the regular Republican gubernatorial nominee.

Then it was that the old-fashioned Republicans, who were no factionists, said: "If Watres were only at the head of the ticket the party would not compromise and no combination of defeat in a state so overwhelmingly Republican."

AN EVERY-DAY REPUBLICAN.

And this was true. The dissatisfaction that spent its wrath on the candidate for governor, in that campaign, did not touch Senator Watres. He passed unscathed through that storm and came out a victor. He made no compromises and no combinations of any sort; content to run his candidacy on his public record, and his party fealty as a broad-gauge, every-day Republican, with no special favorites to reward, and no enemies to punish.

A more popular candidate was never in the field for state office, and despite his youth at the time, the regrets of those who were anxious for the complete success of the party, that he did not head the ticket, were well founded. Ever since then there has been a strong undercurrent in the Republican circles of the commonwealth favorable to the candidacy of Colonel Watres for governor. His clean record; his engaging personality; his broad, progressive ideas, and his excellent views on party, render his candidacy particularly attractive at this time, when the state is rent from end to end with factional appetites, as the result of the iniquitous legislation enacted at Harrisburg during the recent session of the legislature.

Colonel Watres rises above these contentions and might well, were he so inclined, meet every inquiry by paraphrasing David B. Hill's well-known and oft-quoted motto. He can easily and truthfully affirm "I am a Republican," and this in no offensive sense, either, but merely to proclaim the political faith that is in him.

Here, at his home, where he is known as the courtly gentleman, the popular commander of the famous Thirtieth regiment, the substantial and progressive business man, his numbers his friends by the score, but they would as soon doubt the centre of gravity as question his fealty to his party in its broadest sense, and in this light he stands without offense to friend or neighbor.

HIS EARLY ENVIRONMENT.

His beginnings, like those of the nation's best men, were modest; but he owes his name to sterling integrity, and genius rocked his cradle. His father, a direct descendant of the illustrious James Otis, of Massachusetts, the famous revolutionary statesman, of whom John Adams said on the occasion of his great speech before the judges of the supreme court against what was known as writs of assistance, "Otis was a sign of the American independence was then and there born." This was in 1761. It was Otis who fired the first torch for liberty. He was the first opponent of the stamp act; the first vindicator of the rights of the American colonies, and not only wrote and talked, but rendered service for American freedom with a gun in his hands.

Colonel Watres inherits the traits of his famous ancestor as patriot, soldier, scholar and lover of independence. He is in the prime of life, having been born in Mount Vernon, now Winston, Lackawanna county, in 1851.

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His father, the late Alderman Watres, enjoyed the respect of this community for many years, and administered justice wisely, impartially and with calm, unflinching dignity. His mother, Mrs. Watres, was the gifted "Stella of Lackawanna," whose muse ennobled all this region and gave to patriotic literature many a soul-stirring gem in the days when the hearts of the people throbbed in harmony with the war grunts of the Union. Under her pen-name Mrs. Watres enriched the literature of this valley and won the love and esteem of the community. Her poems have been published in a handsome volume, and are frequently quoted and admired for their imaginative power and polish. I refer briefly to these things to show the environment of Colonel Watres' boyhood. He breathed the air of patriotism from his infancy, and it would be difficult to imagine a more delightful home than that of his youth. Not that he was nurtured in affluence by any means. Oh, no! he had to work for his living at a very tender age, for wealth was not among the advantages that contributed to the building of his character. What he possesses he has achieved by his own efforts; for what he is, he is indebted largely to his parents, to the influences of a model American home, in which the rugged virtues were prized more highly than gold.

SOME OF HIS QUALIFICATIONS.

In addition to his personal fitness and political standing, Colonel Watres is pre-eminently equipped by experience, education and training for the high office of governor of Pennsylvania. He is a thorough lawyer; he has served with credit in the state senate; he has been lieutenant governor of Pennsylvania; he was chairman of the Republican state committee, and his long connection with the National Guard, and present position as colonel of the Thirtieth regiment, have helped to develop a discipline and strengthen a character of exceptional integrity and worth.

The qualifications which Colonel Watres brings to his candidacy are those which one would naturally look for in a man aspiring to the gubernatorial chair. The office is one requiring experience in public life; knowledge of law; a mind competent to grasp and solve intricate public questions; a complete understanding of the needs of the state; a character strong enough to withstand the blandishments of the designing, and a conscientious regard for the rights of the people.

These qualities are possessed by Colonel Watres, as those who are best acquainted with him can attest. It may be claimed that we who live in Scranton are partial to his candidacy, and therefore inclined to magnify his merits. Possibly this may be so; still I believe there are those in other parts of Pennsylvania who will just as cheerfully bear testimony to his qualities; men who served with him in the senate, or who were senators when he presided over that body, and can testify to his fairness, courtesy and impartiality upon all occasions, and in every stress of circumstances.

VIEW OF PARTY AND PUBLIC SERVICE.

It may be well, at this stage, to refer to some of the views held by Colonel Watres, himself, on the relation of party action to the public service, especially as applied to the state of Pennsylvania. They were expressed by him in an interview some months ago, when his name was mentioned for the governorship, and before he had decided to become a candidate, and it is safe to infer that they reflect his opinions at the present time.

On that occasion he declared his firm belief that the Republican party was big enough in Pennsylvania to assume entire responsibility for "a government of the people, by the people, for the people" in this state. With its great majority, he held, the party could afford to take high ground in behalf of honest primaries, a pure and unadorned ballot that would express the will and wish of the people, and a policy favoring the strictest integrity in administering the affairs of the city and state.

There was no wholesome or desirable reform for the good of the state, that could not, in his opinion, be secured by and through the Republican party, working not in sections, but as a unit for the public good at the primaries, the polls, in the halls of legislation, and through the various departments, executive, legislative and judicial.

THE BEST TRADITIONS OF THE PARTY.

This is the gist of an interview which attracted much attention and caused a great deal of favorable comment at the time of its publication. Colonel Watres believes that the Republican party in Pennsylvania, as in other states, is still the party of Lincoln, of Blaine and of McKinley, and capable of renewing its best traditions, with honesty and fairness in nomination and elections.

If this were a biographical sketch of Colonel Watres, instead of a hurried view of his recently announced candidacy for governor, it would be pleasant to speak more in detail of the man; of his happy and ideal home life; of his kind traits of character; his remarkable business success, and many other matters of interest. But my space has been exhausted, and I have only room to add that Colonel Watres is a Republican from the crown of his head to his heels; one who believes in party unity, rightly directed for good government; a public spirited citizen anxious for the welfare of the grand old commonwealth of Pennsylvania; a man who if nominated for governor next year will unite his party and lead it to certain victory.

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Rev. Dr. Morris Wechsler, Rabbi of the Cong. B'nai Israel, New York, Jan. 3, 1901.

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No. 12, Daily Express	3:24 A. M.
10, Daily Express	5:30 "
16, Daily Except Sunday	6:35 "
22, " " "	7:40 "
022, Sunday Only	7:55 "
38, Daily Except Sunday	10:30 "
4, Daily Way Train	12:35 P. M.
4, Express except Sunday	2:25 "
30, Way Except Sunday	3:22 "
4, Daily Express	4:25 "
602, Sunday Only	4:30 "
8, Daily Express	5:30 "
18, Sunday Only	5:40 "
428, Express Sunday Only	5:55 "
20, Daily Except Sunday	6:50 "
14, Daily	10:00 "
WESTWARD.	
No. 3, Daily Express	12:30 A. M.
17, Daily Milk Train	8:05 "
1, Daily Express	11:38 "
11, For Buffalo 2 1/2 P. M. Sun.	12:10 P. M.
1, Way train except Sunday	12:30 "
23, Deposit exp. Sat. only	4:49 "
5, Daily	5:15 "
27, Daily Except Sunday	5:50 "
7, Daily Express	10:15 "

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