

### Governor Lauds Honesty of Lincoln at Annual Banquet

(Following is the formal address delivered by Governor Fred W. Green Thursday evening at the Lincoln club banquet in the First Meth-

odist Church, Pontiac.)

It is a good omen that Republicans of this busy and rushing age should gather to discuss and

meditate upon the virtues of the greatest of all Republicans and upon the foundation principles of our party. Each year as the month of Feb-

ruary comes round we have these meetings that give us these hours of pride in our great leaders, pride in our great men, pride in our country. We appreciate that it is good to live in a land that gives birth to such men as Washington and Lincoln. The love which permeates the memory of these great men steals into our hearts and brings us joy. It is good for us to have their feelings of pride in our country and to be happy with one another.

Hero worship is good for us. The history of what has been done in this world is the history of the great men who have worked here. They are leaders of men, and we cannot do without them—neither can we do without reverence for them. They are our pillars of cloud by day and our pillar of fire by night. Like the Israelites of old, if we keep our eyes on these beacon lights we will come into the land of promise.

Points to Lincoln  
You know that seldom has any man who started so low mounted so high. He was not a genius; he was not a flash of gun powder like Napoleon, who for an hour seemed to wrap up the whole universe in smoke and flame, but it was only for an hour. He built his edifice on clouds of iniquity and injustice, and with frightful compound interest. Only the things that nature sanctions with her law.

The greatness of Lincoln is of that kind, which all can share; we all may possess his virtues to a degree at least. Any man who succeeds in a legitimate business works with the same tools that Lincoln used. There were no tricks, no secrets in his methods. His only advantage was his justice. Lincoln was the one great American who never lost touch with the common run of humanity.

He has been given credit for statesmanship, for political wisdom, for brilliant legal ability, for mastery upon the public platform and for surpassing understanding of that magic yet very real thing called Americanism. These qualities and abilities he did possess, but they came to him in a different way from that in which they come to studious and logical minds like that of Hamilton. They were a by-product of his understanding of men, his sympathy for every human joy and sorrow.

Faith in Common Men  
The haze of historic fact and legend that has surrounded the name of Lincoln keeps from our eyes the true picture of the conditions under which the great Emancipator worked and the criticisms that were leveled against him in his own time. One of the most common of those criticisms was that he was never serious. This criticism became so sharp at times that he was characterized in speech and cartoon as a mount-bank.

The reason was that when the deep thinkers sought to present long-winded arguments he inclined to answer with an incident from the homeliest sort of human experience. He was not and never could be a theorist. That was the basis for the charge, in his own time, that he was inconsistent.

That is one reason why, in this age of theorizing and of worshiping consistency, it is wise to have a day set apart to reflection upon humanity. The man we meet here to honor was one of only two or three in all recorded history who had true faith in his fellow men. There was Christ and Lincoln and—who else? Consider all the other great names you can remember and you seem to find that each of them showed supreme faith in himself but very little belief in the ultimate rightness of common men and women.

Despite the fact that our government is founded upon the ordinary man and woman, very few of the heads of that government have ever shown true belief in the governmental ability of the people. It is interesting to note, however, that, even from the standpoint of very, very practical politics the theory of the Superior Mind has never been a great success in this country.

Honesty is Demanded  
The average citizen has always managed to discover in the long run the secret thoughts of the superior minds and to encourage their engagement in private affairs. The people do not insist upon unusual ability in their public servants, but they do insist upon unusual humanity, sympathy and understanding.

The other quality that made Lincoln so great was as simple as his humanity. It was common, homely, every day honesty. It was not the thing that is called "scrupulous honesty." It did not need to be scrupulous, because it was natural.

Some of you may not have thought much upon the subject, but if you reflect you will realize that honesty in public affairs is fairly new. The world has not yet reached the point where it expects common honesty in international affairs. It is only lately that it has expected it in any governmental affairs whatever.

The most promising thing in government is this development of honesty. To one who has studied the early history of this country, corruption in office is a commonplace. People more or less expected it. Lincoln set an example during the Civil War that marked the beginning of a new honesty in government.

That tendency toward greater honesty in public affairs has grown stronger until today dishonesty is relatively unusual and is held up to popular contempt in a way that would be surprising even to some of our puritan ancestors.

Honesty is Gaining  
There are forces in present day business and social ethics that are tending to undo some of the good that has been done during the past half century, but I believe those forces are short-lived. It may sound like an attempt at

### Boy Acquitted



Central Press Photo

A jury in Gettysburg, Pa., has acquitted Charles J. Nall Jr., 16, above, on a charge of murdering his father. In a confession to state police the youth said that he killed his father with a shotgun because of cruel treatment. Constantly fearing punishment, the boy declared that he often slept in barns and several times in a dog kennel because he was afraid to go home.

humor, but I should not be surprised to live to see the day when it will be an honor to any man to have it said of him that he is as honest as a public official.

That is what the public is demanding. It is what the public must have if the constantly in-

creasing complexity of life is not to swamp civilization and destroy it. Life has become so complex that extension of the state's power, however reluctantly made, are constantly demanded. Unless those extended powers can be honestly administered not merely government but civilization itself fails.

As humanity and honesty made Lincoln and the Republican party great, so those qualities will hereafter serve us and our party to usefulness to our state and country.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland. At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County on the 21st day of January, A. D. 1927.

Present: Hon. Ross Stockwell, Judge of Probate, presiding.  
To the Matter of the Estate of Hannah E. Beach, Deceased.  
Martin C. Beach having filed in said Court a petition praying that the administration of said estate be granted to the petitioner, or to some other suitable person.

It is Ordered: That the 7th day of March, A. D. 1927, at eight o'clock in the forenoon, at said probate office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing and decision.

Further Ordered: That public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order once each week for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing in the Birmingham Ecce-ncric, a newspaper printed and published in said county.

ROSS STOCKWELL,  
Judge of Probate.  
A true copy.  
RUTH LEMICK,  
Deputy Register of Probate, 1927-28

Federal Judge Gibson of Pennsylvania does not attach fictitious value to old souvenirs. C. G. Rotheder sought \$5,000 from Rotheder, the pianist, for which an old concert program, for which Rotheder said he had been offered \$3,500. Judge Gibson dismissed the case, declaring that the pianist "ought to have his head examined" because he didn't take the \$3,500.

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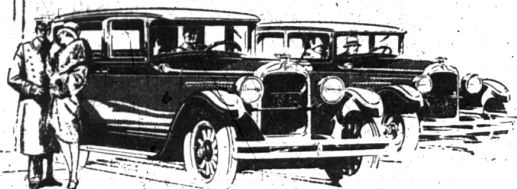
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