STATE EXPECTS 150 CANDIDATES

Office-Seekers Must Qualify For Primary Ballot By July 26

LANSING.—About 150 more candidates are expected to secure places on the September primary ballot by filing petitions with the Department of State before the close of business July 26. To date, only 24 candidates have filed for lieutenant governor, Congress and the State Legislature.

When the time for filing initiative petitions expired July 8, seven proposed constitutional changes and one referendum had qualified for submission to the people in November. Under a resolution adopted by the 1932 special session, constitutional amendments are to be numbered. The proposals will appear on the ballot in the following order:

Proposed Amendments

No. 1—Alteration of present constitutional prohibition requirements to permit establishment of a liquor control commission.

No. 2—Limitation of taxes on real estate.

No. 3—Legislative reapportionment.

No. 4—Exemption from taxation of homesteads.

No. 5—Changing election laws in cases where portions of townships are incorporated into villages.

No. 6—Changing method of pardoning first degree murderers.

No. 7—To allow only property owners to vote on bond issues.

No. 8—Whether the oleomargarine tax measure adopted by the 1931 Legislature, shall become effective.

No Signatures Filed

The first four questions, won places on the ballot by the filing of the proper number of signatures with the Department of State. The Legislature ordered the fifth, sixth and seventh questions submitted to the people, while the last question is the result of the filing of referendum petitions preventing the sho law from becoming effective until approved by the people.

All candidates for governor, lieutenant governor and candidates for Congress and Legislature from districts comprising more than one county, must qualify by filing the required number of petitions by July 26. In addition, candidates for vacancies on the bench in Kent, Saginaw and Wayne Counties must file proper petitions by the same date.

FIRE IN BASEMENT DOES SLIGHT DAMAGE

Slight damage was caused by a fire early Friday evening in the basement of the home of A. W. Fuller, 878 Chester street, originating from carbon which dropped from a hot water heater, igniting a piece of paper below and spreading to a basket of clothing. The basement was filled with smoke, but the blaze was extinguished by firemen before it had burned the walls.

CLING TO FAITH, SPEAKER URGES

Dr. Nelson Vance Russell Pleads For Return To Security Of Life's "Broken Pieces"

By clinging to the remnants of broken faith and character, the individual may still fight his way back to security and happiness, even in a world of turmoil and confusion.

This was the substance of an address delivered in the Presbyterian Church Sunday morning by Dr. Nelson Vance Russell, professor of history at Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Ia., and son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Russell of Birmingham. Dr. Russell returned recently from a period of research in Europe.

Draws Biblical Analogy

Drawing the text of his message from the famous Biblical passage wherein Paul describes how the passengers and crew of a shipwrecked vessel attained the shore safely, "some on planks and some on broken pieces," Dr. Russell enumerated four "Broken pieces" of contemporary life which might lead to soundness and peace today—broken or spare time, broken health, broken faith and broken character.

He told how Shakespeare utilized his spare time after days of hard work in the theater to pen his immortal comedies and tragedies, and urged his listeners to take similar advantage of odd moments to prepare themselves for greater service.

Declaring that "some of the greatest contributions have come from those with broken health," he cited especially the work of Robert Louis Stevenson, who suffered nearly all his life with lung disease; and George Matheson, Scotch clergymen who was blind from youth.

Traces Browning's Experience

Describing the majority of German youth and the great mass of Russian peasants as atheists who "lost their way and are groping blindly about," he contrasted their plight with that of Robert Browning, the great English poet who saved enough from the shattered faith of his youth to build in manhood an enduring philosophy of hope, courage and belief.

"If you'll only keep some of these things in mind," Dr. Russell said, "your faith in God, your faith in Christ, your faith in your country will stand the test."

For proof that even broken character may be restored to the benefit of both the individual and mankind in general, he pointed to John Bunyan, the English author who wrote "Pilgrim's Progress" after living the first 40 years of his life as a dissolute never-do-well.

Dr. Russell occupied the pulpit in the absence of Rev. W. Clarence Wright, the pastor, who is spending his vacation with relatives in Los Angeles. Rev. D. S. Carmichael, Presbyterian minister from Detroit, will preach the sermon next Sunday, and Dr. Russell is scheduled for a second appearance on July 31, when he will speak on "Making a Fine Art of Living."

G. O. P. Opens Drive

Everett Sanders, new chairman of the Republican National Committee, is shown at his desk in Chicago where he has opened the G. O. P. campaign headquarters. The Hoover campaign for re-election will be directed by Sanders from his Chicago office.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All communications must be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential upon request. Letters must be limited to 500 words, and must be in the office by Tuesday noon for the following Thursday.

MARTZ ANSWERS CORYELL

(Note: This letter was received too late for publication on the editorial page).

To the Editor:

I thought it needless to reply to a letter by Mr. Roland Coryell which was published in last week's Eccentric. Exception has been taken by a number of people to the untrue inferences suggested by the letter, and the publication of it in your last issue before the school election, and they have insisted upon a reply.

A comprehensive answer to all of these questions lies in the admitted fact that a serious delinquency in tax collections is at the bottom of the school district's financial situation. I shall therefore confine my reply to the inference that a certain refunding operation in connection with bonds which matured in June was neglected, and to the depository situation.

First of all, the Michigan Municipal Advisory Council is organized and exists for the purpose of advising school districts and municipalities on refinancing problems, and assisting in and direct the work in connection therewith.

It was not in February, but on Mar. 29, that the Board was advised by the secretary of the Council to consider refunding the June bonds, amounting to $37,000. On April 1, I called on the secretary in person, and was by him advised against refunding under the 1925 Act, for the reason that the Council, with the assistance of Senator Stevens, had submitted a new and improved refunding law to the Legislature, which he believed would be passed and approved in time to be available for use in connection with our particular issue.

He gave me a preliminary draft of the proposed law, and I at once got in touch with his office all of April and the early parts of May and was finally told on May 11 that the new law had been approved, and the Public Debt Commission was to be created. On the same day I wrote to the Public Debt Commission at Lansing, submitted an informal refunding application in letter form, and requested the necessary forms for further amplification of the matter.

I heard nothing from them, and on May 20 I went to see Attorney General Voorheis in Detroit. He is a member of the Commission. He advised me that the Commission had not organized for the transaction of business, had no forms, and would probably not be ready to consider refunding applications for some time. Through his assistance I did secure the forms used under the 1925 Act, and was advised to modify them into conformity with the new Act.

This was done at once, and the application with the necessary resolutions were all filed together. On May 28 the Commission requested a resolution establishing a sinking fund, which was prepared at once and filed with the application. On June 3 the Commission advised me that its representative would call on me in a week or 10 days. I asked the Commission to have the representative call sooner if possible.

On June 11 their investigator, a Mr. Rae, spent several hours with me going over the outstanding bond issues of the school district, and stated that if refunding is granted it would have to be upon a serial basis rather than by the sinking fund method, and he also asked me to find out from the First Detroit Company whether a short term loan might not be obtained for all or a part of the June bonds.

I immediately submitted this suggestion to Mr. Hart of the First Detroit Co., and was advised by him on June 13 to proceed with the refunding program. I at once advised the Commission that a short term loan was not available for this purpose, and amended our application to include a refunding program in serials.

Throughout the next two weeks I was in touch with the Commission several times by correspondence and by telephone urging action, and on June 30 they finally entered an order authorizing the refunding of the bonds in question. The order was received on Saturday, July 2, and on Tuesday, July 5, I delivered it to Mr. Schimmel of the Advisory Council who is to carry on the work from that point.

Under these facts it was not correct for Mr. Coryell to speak of "non-attention to the legal procedure in such cases."

At the Board meeting attended by Mr. Hart late in June, to which The Eccentric gave some publicity in connection with other refinancing matters, we were advised by Mr. Hart that the delay in Lansing could not be charged to the Board. He also informed us that he knew where most of the bonds are held and that the credit of the District could not be seriously affected by reason of conditions over which the Board had no control.

The Board of Education, of which I just completed a one year term, inherited from Mr. Coryell and Mr. Palmer's days a bonded indebtedness of $1,300,000. Those were the spending days and the Boards of Education of those times, presided over by Mr. Coryell, proposed to the voters every dollar of this bonded indebtedness under which my Board struggled, and of which this $37,000 is a part. This includes one of the finest and most expensive swimming pools in the State of Michigan for the Barnum School. Adams School and Quarton School did not ask for swimming pools. Mr. Palmer is the only surviving member of these Boards. On Monday he was returned to office by a vote of 949 of 1200 cast.

My deposit of excess cash in Detroit for which I received 3 percent interest, was in line with good practice. Treasurers of public funds have always kept them in several banks. Further, Mr. Coryell knows, or ought to know, that for the past year depository bonds have not been available the country over. I did, however, make written demand upon all of my depositories for a depository bond, and thereby recorded the performance of all that I could do. Beyond that I had no alternative other than to divide the funds among several banks. For this I am criticized by Mr. Coryell. Had I kept all of my funds in one bank under the conditions above mentioned I would probably have been criticized just the same.

It is hard to understand why it is that so many good and sensible people, and in particular an outstanding citizen like Roland J. Coryell, persist in making public statements about a public official without first getting the actual facts and the reasons therefor. He did not ask me about any of these things but chose instead to resort to printer's ink.

Several good personal friends who had something to do with the printing and distribution of a misleading and unfair dodger throughout the territory south of Maple avenue hastened to explain that such things are only politics. It is not the kind of politics expected of Birmingham people.

I appreciate, Mr. Editor, your very fair publicity concerning the schools during my year in office and things concerning myself, and particularly the use of space in your paper for this communication.

JOHN E. MARTZ
724 Lakeview Ave.

RE-OPENING PLAN PASSES 60% MARK

Moratorium Committee Says New Law Describes Status Of Dissenting Depositors

Harry Allen, Williams C. Harris and Stanley Peabody, members of the committee which is attempting to secure signatures representing 80 percent of the depositors of the closed First State Savings Bank on an agreement for a moratorium plan for re-opening the bank, stated yesterday that more than 60 percent of the required amount has been pledged.

In answer to inquires as to the status of depositors who have not signed the agreement when the plan goes into effect, the committee replied that the situation is fully covered by House Bill 17, enacted at the recent special session of the State Legislature. The bill reads in part as follows:

"In the event any of the depositors of such bank files written objection to the approval of such plan and refuses to consent thereto, the court at such hearing may order set aside assets of such bank, of average value, in proportion that the total deposits of such objectors bear to the total deposit liability of such bank, which such assets so set aside shall be continued in the hands of the custodian appointed as hereinbefore provided, who, on the petition of the state banking commissioner, shall be appointed by the court as receiver of the assets so set aside, for the purpose of liquidating the same and payment of the claims of such objectors from the proceeds thereof, and shall duly qualify as such, and said court, upon such terms as may be just and equitable, shall authorize such receiver to liquidate any of such assets so set aside, for the purpose of discharging the liability of the bank toward such objectors, and said court shall further order that the remaining assets of such bank shall be discharged of the liability of the bank toward any such objectors."

Robert Louis Stevenson when a reporter for the Monterey Californian, received $2 a week as his wages.

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