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THOMSON, GA., MARCH 16, 1916.

Hon. Clark Howell Asks Questions of the Gubernatorial Candidates.

A RECENT issue of The Atlanta Constitution contained the following:

"The Constitution regrets, for the people's sake, as well as for that of the candidates themselves, that the campaign has begun some three months ahead of time, but since it is begun we propose to propound some questions to present and prospective candidates, which would raise for discussion the real and more vital issues before the people of this State today. The questions we would offer to the candidates for Governor, and to any who may be candidates, are these:

1. What remedy do you propose for the elimination of lynching and mob law in this State?

2. What remedy do you propose for the betterment of conditions as to illiteracy in Georgia, and for its ultimate abolition from this State?

3. What remedy do you propose for the overthrow of usury and extortion in small-town banks and the fixing of interest charges within the bounds allowed by law?

4. Will you urge and demand the application of these remedies, by proper legislative enactment, and, in your executive capacity, enforce them to the best of your ability?

The candidates who can make fitting and satisfactory answer to these questions will have begun something substantial in the direction of real Georgia progress; the man who can command the enactment, through popular voice, of the laws needed in the solution of these problems, will have done a splendid service for the State.

What do you say, gentlemen? Georgia asks you.

Generalities, a little blarney and a few personalities all have their part in any political campaign. But let's lay them aside long enough and often enough to discuss," and so forth.

Not being a candidate for anything, I won't hurt my chances by trying my hand at answering Brother Howell's questions.

(1) Replying in Yankee fashion, I will first inquire of Brother Howell, *What is YOUR remedy for mob law and lynchings?*

In 1915, a systematic campaign was launched from Atlanta, *against Law and Order.*

The Haas Finance Committee acted as Treasurer of the Reptile fund, William J. Burns acted as its noisy, rampant organ of publicity; the Governor of the State colluded with it, and the Atlanta papers connived by their silence.

The most criminal methods were adopted to destroy the State's case against a most guilty man, duly convicted of a most heinous crime, against a fatherless little working girl.

The detectives—as shown by the sworn court records of Fulton County—made criminal efforts to frame up testimony, buy off witnesses, run off others, and bring the Law and the Courts into universal contempt.

I charge and can prove, that the then Governor of the State attended his law office during that very time; that he received the reports of these lawless detectives; and that he kept in close personal touch with their efforts TO DEFEAT THE LAW.

Where was the Hon. Clark Howell, all that time?

What did he suppose the Haas Finance Committee was trying to do?

What did he suppose W. J. Burns, and C. W. Burke, and Dan Lehon were trying to do?

The Burns gang were not put on the case, until after the Supreme Court had affirmed the court, below, and had pronounced the evidence sufficient.

What lawful work could a Haas Finance Committee then do?

When Jews all over the Union were held up for contributions, "to save Frank," how did Mr. Howell suppose the money was going to be spent?

When Burns, Lehon, and Burke were working with Rosser and Slaton, after the Supreme Court had finally adjudged the case, what could the detectives and Frank's lawyers legally do?

When Slaton, the Governor, went to his law office to work in conjunction with Burke, on the Frank case, what did Mr. Howell think of it?

He may say that he did not know it, then; but he knows it, now, for he knows the statement would not be made in *The Jeffersonian*, if I were not able to prove it.

When a Governor prostitutes his office, to re-try and to virtually acquit his own client of a hideous crime, committed by a married man of middle age, whose wife is robust, and whose victim lost her life because she would not surrender her virtue, what does Mr. Howell think of that?

Suppose it had been his little 14-year-old daughter!

Or suppose the convicted monster had been a Jew peddler, whose riches consisted of the pack on his back; or a Gentile, who had to drive a dray for a living!

For what reason, and to be used how, did the Jews of San Francisco and Los Angeles send \$65,000 to Atlanta, "to save Frank?"

For what reason, and to be used how, did the Jews of Chicago, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans and every other great city, send so many hundreds of thousands of dollars "to save Frank?"

Who got all that money?

How could such prodigious sums be legitimately used in the case, AFTER the Supreme Court had finally disposed of it?

Mr. Howell's brother is a partner of Hugh Dorsey; and it is strange indeed, if Albert and Clark Howell do not know anything of the heroic work done by Hugh Dorsey, in following every crooked move of the Burns-Burke gang, and checkmating those criminals at every turn.

I have read many a legal record, but none has ever made such a profound impression upon me, as the Extraordinary Motion for new trial, filed by Frank's lawyers, shattered by Dorsey, and rejected by the Supreme Court, UNANIMOUSLY.

The impression—profound, painful, yet in a way exhilarating—was caused by reading the strenuous criminal efforts of Burns, Burke & Company to defeat the Law; the indefatigable energy of Dorsey, in following them and exposing them; and the simple, indomitable, and most admirable HONESTY of the work people who were witnesses in the case, and who spurned every effort to buy them off.

All over the South, monuments to brave soldiers rise toward the sun and stars, gleam in tempest and radiant calm, reminding us of heroic souls that found it "sweet to die for one's country;" but, from the Potomac to the

Sea, there isn't a Confederate soldier who was braver and truer than those little Georgia girls, Mary Phagan and Monteen Stover.

Nor should the splendid manhood of John Barrett ever be forgotten, for had he been corruptible, and willing to suppress what he knew about Mary Phagan's hair and blood, he could today have been in possession of—riches and infamy, just as some others are.

It's an honor to human nature, that we have such people yet—people who are poor in pocket, but rich in the pure gold of character.

Let us see what answers Mr. Clark Howell will make to the following questions:

(1) What do you say is the cause of mob law?

(2) Do you believe it was legal for Governor Slaton to re-try his client on the same old evidence, reverse the courts and jury, and put Frank where his escape was only a question of a few weeks?

(3) Are you engaged in the "come back" propaganda of John M. Slaton?

These are fair questions: answer them!

Is it mob law in Pennsylvania when the Roman Catholics attack a Baptist Church, smash its windows, break in upon its congregation, and by vile curses and brutal blows disperse the worshippers?

Is it mob law when the Roman Catholics of New Jersey mob the Rev. Augustus Barnett, because he delivered a lecture on Martin Luther?

Is it mob law when the Knights of Columbus storm a hotel in Denver, drag forth one of its guests, kidnap him to a remote spot, beat him like a dog, and leave him in the ditch, senseless by the roadside?

Is it mob law when a Knight of Columbus in Jacksonville brutally curses a Methodist preacher, and slap his face publicly, because the minister had preached against Romanism to his own congregation, from his own pulpit?

Is it mob law when a band of Knights of Columbus arm themselves with concealed weapons, gain entrance to the hotel-room of a Protestant lecturer, and shoot him to death, because he refuses to surrender his constitutional right to lecture on Romanism at the Court House?

Is it mob law, when the Chicago Romanists take possession of a hall which has been hired for a Protestant lecturer, and raise such a riot that the Catholic police refuse to allow the lecturer to speak?

Let Mr. Clark Howell beware how far he goes, in sanctioning the outside crusade against the good name of the State of Georgia.

However willing he may be to foul his own nest, he will discover that he is in a pitifully small minority, composed chiefly of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, the L. & N. Railroad lawyers, the Straus magazine, the Slaton-Hearst Georgian, and a handful of rich Hebrews.

Mr. Howell has been Democratic national committee-man a long time, but it does not necessarily follow that the place belongs to him.

The second question propounded to gubernatorial candidates by Mr. Howell is, "What remedy do you propose for the abolition of illiteracy?"

If I were a candidate for Governor, and such an editor as Clark Howell were to ask me such a question, I fear my replies would take the form of cross-questions.

Mr. Howell, what have you and your paper ever done to abolish illiteracy?

To what cause do you attribute the failure of parents to send their children to school?

You have not helped us to fight the greedy and corrupting School-book Trust, which has robbed this State of hundreds of thousands of dollars, and which has kept thousands of boys and girls out of the school-house.

You have stood in with M. L. Brittain, the asiduous ape of the Trust.