

## Presidential Possibilities FRANK O. LOWDEN

1861—Born at Sunrise, Minn.  
1865—Moved to Hardin county, Iowa.  
1885—Graduated from University of Iowa.  
1887—Graduated from Union Law School, Chicago.  
1896—Married to Miss Florence Pullman.  
1898—Formed law firm of Lowden, Estabrook & Davis.  
1898—Appointed lieutenant-colonel, Illinois National Guard.  
1914—Defeated for Republican nomination for governor.  
1906—Elected to Congress.  
1911—Retired from Congress to engage in farming.  
1916—Elected Governor of Illinois.  
1920—Candidate for President of the United States.

"Who in the Sam Hill ever saw Frank O. Lowden milk a cow?" he asked one of his advisers during a political meeting in a recent gubernatorial campaign in Illinois. "Yet he claims to be a farmer."

Lowden, the candidate, was on the rostrum and the crowd chuckled at his expense. But when he shot back his quick reply, the chuckles were turned into cheers for Lowden.

"I didn't know," said Lowden, "that the constitution required the governor to possess the ability to milk cows, but if the governorship is to be thrust upon those lines I hereby challenge all who aspire to that high office to an open, free-for-all public cow-milking contest down on my farm in Ogle county. And I agree to abide by the results."

Friends and supporters of Lowden, "war governor," like to tell about the ambitious struggle through which the barefoot farmer boy, son of the village blacksmith at Sunrise, Minn., was able to save through his own work enough money to educate himself at the University of Iowa beginning a lawyers career and finally to pass from congressman to governor of Illinois and to candidate for president of the United States.

Lowden's life is the simple life—close to the farm. Shortly after he had entered on his law practice in Chicago, he brought Sinnissippi farm, one of the largest tracts of land in Illinois. It is located on Rock river, near the town of Oregon. Since he acquired the property, Governor Lowden has taken intense interest in its operation and development.

When the Lowden family is not in Springfield at the governor's mansion, it is usually at Sinnissippi. In addition to their own farm, the Lowdens built nearby two cottages on "Hilltop," a pretty eminence on Rock river, where crippled and orphaned boys and girls are brought from crowded tenement districts of

Chicago and kept in care of trained nurses until they regain their health.

Mrs. Lowden, who was Miss Florence Pullman, daughter of the late George M. Pullman, sleeping car builder, is a charming personality, devoted to her home and children and at the same time an interested participant in the social, club and philanthropic life of Chicago and Springfield. The dances, receptions and musicales she has given at the governor's mansion in Springfield have been noteworthy.

In the late sixties Lowden's parents left their Sunrise home and went by prairie schooner to Hardin County, Iowa. Most of the trip Frank covered on foot, driving the cow and horse or two. On the Iowa farm young Lowden assisted his father with crops, but his mind was made up that he was going to get an education. He attended a few terms of the county school near the farm and at 15 he had so far outdistanced his schoolmates, he was made master of the school.

When he was 20 years old he entered the University of Iowa and for four years he had a constant struggle to make both ends meet. He was graduated in 1885, however, at the head of his class. Later Lowden went to Burlington, Iowa, to teach school. While there he spent his odd moments in studying law books he was able to borrow or buy.

"While I was in Burlington," said Lowden, recalling his early days, "I was dead set on becoming a lawyer. One day I ran across a man who said he could get me a job in a law office in Chicago. I went to the city and sure enough I landed a job with Herrick, Dexter & Allen as clerk at \$5 a week.

"That less than I had been earning as a teacher, but as I was determined to learn something while I worked I considered myself lucky to get even that much."

Lowden enrolled in the Union College of Law's night courses with an additional hour in the morning from 8 to 9 o'clock. Working in the law office from 9 to 5, he was able to go to classes in the evenings from 7 to 10. Between 5 and 7, after work hours, he did his studying. By strict application, he completed the two-year course in a year.

At the commencement Lowden was pleased to find he had been picked as one of the six men to make addresses. More surprised than ever, he said, he was told he had been chosen valedictorian. Then on top of all announced, much to Lowden's surprise and delight, that the Iowa had won two 150 prizes, one for oratory and the other for scholarship.

That gave me a chance to clean up some old debts," said Lowden. In the early nineties Lowden started out for himself. He formed the law firm of Lowden, Estabrook & Davis and it was only a matter of months before he had built up a reputation of an astute and successful practitioner, a leading member of the Chicago bar.

In 1896 came Lowden's marriage to Miss Pullman.

When Lowden was firmly established as an attorney he began to take an interest in politics. In addition to his activity in local Republican politics in Chicago, Lowden was elected as a delegate to the Republican convention of 1900 that nominated McKinley and Roosevelt for president and vice president, respectively. During the campaign of that year he was on the stump on various occasions pleading for their election.

In 1904 Lowden appeared as a candidate for the republican nomination for governor. He was defeated by a combination of the Yates and Deneen forces, but when active campaigning against the democrats began Lowden was on the platform speaking for Charles S. Deneen, who was ultimately elected.

Lowden was elected to congress

## George Y. Hepler

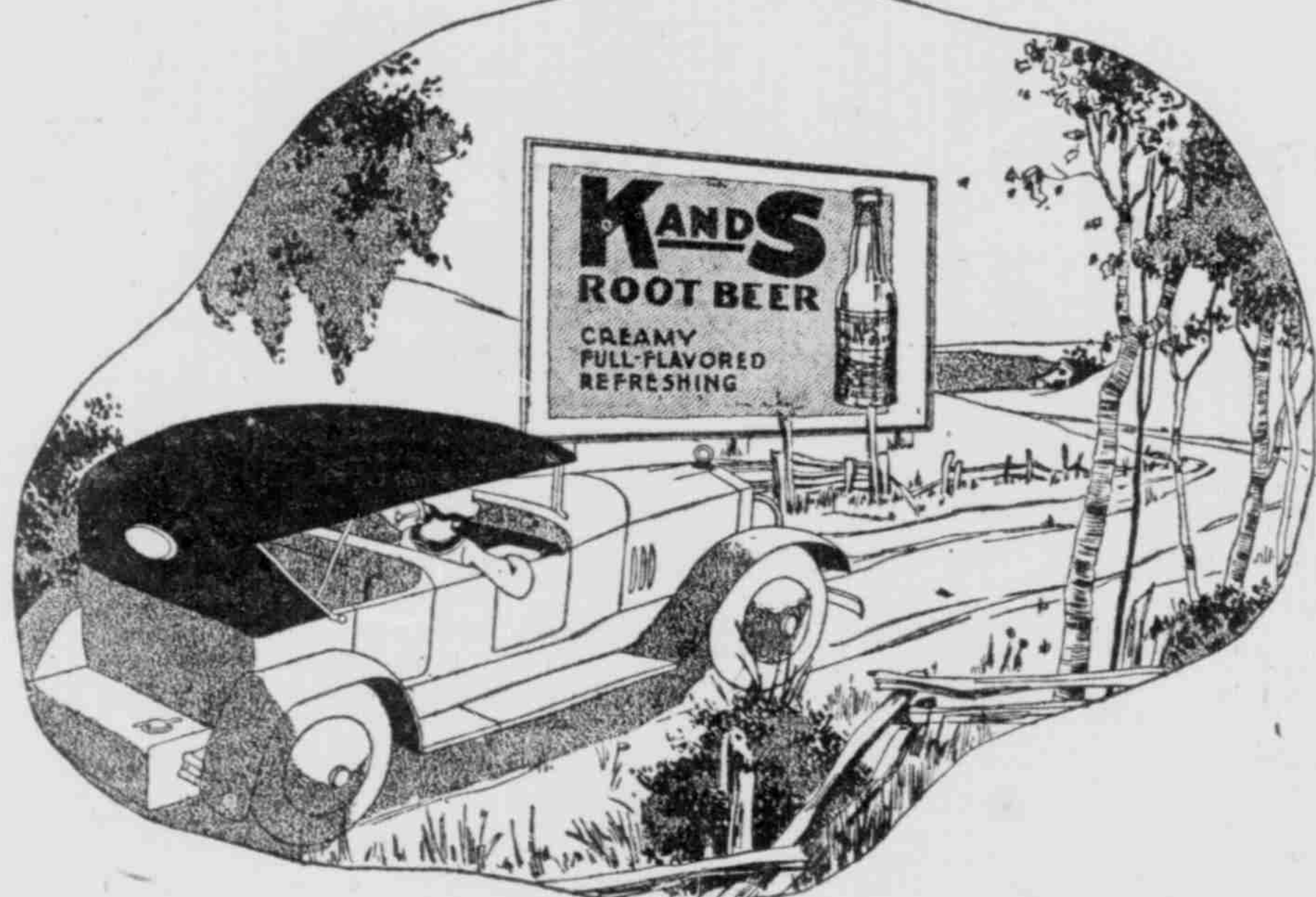
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In 1906 from the 13th Illinois district. He served two terms and half of the third and then retired to personally supervise operation of his newly acquired farm at Oregon, Ill. From 1911 until 1916 Lowden, although taking an interest in politics and national affairs, stuck to his hoe at Sinnissippi. During most of that time he was a member of the republican national committee, but never sought office.

When the 1916 gubernatorial campaign opened, Lowden was again on the battleground. Accepting the republican nomination, he was elected governor by a majority of 149,842 votes and in January, 1917, began his term as "war governor."

In the first legislature convening in the Lowden administration, the governor obtained enactment of the civil administration code, reducing the number of departments, boards and commissions at Springfield from

125 to nine and centralizing duty to such an extent that in spite of the high cost of everything the state had to buy, the state tax was reduced 33 per cent.

Other "war measures" Lowden is credited with in Illinois are the enactment of a law that will result in the connecting of the Great Lakes and Mississippi river waterways, affording an eight-foot channel for through traffic; convening of a state constitutional convention; organization of the state council of defense; reorganization of the state's penal and charitable institutions; initiation of a \$60,000,000 road building plan, and establishment of a budget system in Illinois.

The Lowdens have four children, three daughters and a son. Pullman Lowden saw service in France as a sergeant in the 32d or Prairie division. The daughters are favor-

ites in Springfield and Chicago and younger sets.

Phillip Gibbs, in a new book, says that one day the German soldiers displayed a plank on which was chalked: "We're all fools; let's all go home." Every war writer now seems free to say what he really thinks of it.

D'Annunzio is a Jew from Calabria, his real name being Rapas-nelta, says the Jugo-Slav Economist. He received the name Gabriel D'Annunzio from likening himself to the angel Gabriel announcing liberty to Italy.

American trees are being planted over the American dead in France by the American Forestry association. American seed will be used to reforest much of devastated France.

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