

# SOME FACTS ABOUT THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES



J. T. HIGHLEY.

In the recent primary election held to nominate candidates for mayor and the four commissionerships to serve under the charter form of government, the democrats had a vast array of material from which to choose its standard bearers.

It is admitted on all democratic sides that the task was not an easy one. There was so much good material offered for the positions that it was difficult in the extreme when the voters found himself in the booth with ticket in one hand and marker in the other to decide which should receive his suffrage. If it hadn't been a case of choose five and set aside the rest it is probable that nearly every one on the ticket would have been nominated. But the law said there should be five and no more.

If the democratic ticket is elected Whit M. Grant will be the commissioner of public affairs—mayor. Mr. Grant came to Oklahoma City eighteen years ago, in plenty of time to get in on the ground floor and late enough not to be dubbed a "sooner." He was born in Alabama in 1851. At the age of 17 he went to live with James Grant, a relative, at Davenport, Iowa. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1873 and was elected a member of the Davenport city council in 1883. Before the term was finished the mayor died, and he was elected mayor to fill out the unexpired term. In 1884 he was elected to the Iowa legislature, and in 1887 was appointed United States attorney for the territory of Alaska by President Grover Cleveland. He assisted in the preparation of the papers in the litigation with Canada over the seal fisheries and vessels. This gave Mr. Grant an extensive and valuable experience in the handling of big affairs.

During the eighteen years he has lived in Oklahoma Mr. Grant has never sought office until this year, and he did not do so then until he was urged by friends. He is regarded as a safe and sound business man of unquestioned honor.

James T. Highley.

Then "Tom" Highley, as his thousands of friends are at liberty to address him, there is probably not another man in Oklahoma City, unless it be Elmer C. Trueblood, who has the "speaking acquaintance" he has. It's "Judge Highley," "Tom Highley" and "yer honor" everywhere as he goes up or down a street. He is the nominee for commissioner of public safety, and is often referred to as a "diamond in the rough." He received his education "at the case" in a country print shop. He has stood up day after day picking up the "silent messengers of thought," placing them in a position to mold public opinion. Tom Highley made a success of a democratic paper in Kansas before he came to Oklahoma City. This is considered a great achievement. So successful was he as the editor of a democratic paper in Kansas that he was appointed postmaster at Garnett, Kan., by President Grover Cleveland in 1894. He filled the position with honor to himself and credit to the department until he came to Oklahoma in 1900. He is the present police judge, and it is probable that less criticism has been hurled at his official conduct of the office than any other public official in the history of the city.

W. H. Hampton.

The subject of this sketch is the democratic nominee for commissioner of public property. He is a plain, unassuming, successful business man, and this as he says, "is his first offense in politics." Mr. Hampton was born in 1859 on a farm in "Sunny Tennessee." In 1896 he came to Oklahoma City to engage in business and has lived here since. He was chosen by the citizens of the first ward several years ago to represent them on the city school board. He has been a faithful member of the board, and has helped to bring about the splendid school facilities Oklahoma City so justly lays claim to. He is president of the Oklahoma Commerce company, a brokerage business he founded. He is a very reticent man, an ardent democrat, a far-seeing business man, and if elected he is sure to come up to the expectations of those who know him best.

John S. Alexander.

Everybody knows John S. Alexander, democratic nominee for commissioner of public works, and he, like the rest of the ticket is regarded as honest and capable. John Alexander belongs to the "sooner class." He helped pull tufts of grass on West Main street and Broadway "away back yonder" when he and others who had cast their lot here were planning to "clear off" a place big enough to erect a "shack" or "pitch a tent." He has been a successful school teacher, farmer, county official and real estate dealer. In all of his public career no one has ever heard of his being accused of unfairness or dishonesty. He has handled millions of dollars of public money, and his books were always balanced to the cent. He is a native of North Carolina, has felt "tar" on his heels and is a hale fellow well met.

Elmer C. Trueblood.

It's a "toss up" between Elmer C. Trueblood, democratic nominee for commissioner of accounting and finance, and Tom Highley, nominee for commissioner of public safety as to "who is who" when the question of the number of personal acquaintances each has is mooted. Elmer C. Trueblood was born July 13, 1869, in northwestern Missouri in the town of Maryville, where he lived with his parents until 1898. The first political stunt he ever pulled off was a "hummer," and since it is permissible to tell everything a person knows about a candidate, now is a good time to tell this.

During the administration of Grover Cleveland as president, when Mr. Trueblood was quite a young man, he became imbued with the idea that he'd like to be postmaster at Maryville. He had been at work as a clerk in the Maryville postoffice and knew everybody there the same as he does in Oklahoma county. The postmaster, under whom he had worked, was a republican. Elmer's mother begged him not to be an applicant for the postmastership, but the



W. H. HAMPTON.

bee in his bonnet was stinging him so persistently that he overruled his mother's objections and got into the game. He was appointed.

When the former postmaster got over the defeat Elmer Trueblood began paying compliments to his daughter and subsequently the two were married. That was Elmer Trueblood's first political success, and although he has been a candidate for public honors several times since he has never as yet met his Waterloo, and says he is going to win in the May 9 election for commissioner of accounting and finance.

He came to Oklahoma City April 15, 1898 to engage in the grocery business. He was a groceryman four years, after which he went with the Oklahoma Bank & Trust company, and when this was absorbed by the Commercial National bank he went with the new concern, and remained with it the two years of its existence, and is now teller at the State National bank, which is really the monument to the two other concerns.