

Life Sketch of Jacob F. Jacobson Is Issued as Campaign Material

Biography Compiled by Frank Eddy, Head of the Jacobson Press Bureau, Deals Almost Entirely With Republican Gubernatorial Candidate's Official Activities—Legislative Records Particularly Emphasized.

Frank Eddy, as head of the Jacobson press bureau, has issued the first important document of the Republican state campaign. It is a brief biographical sketch of the Republican nominee for governor, and will be circulated broadcast throughout the state. With it will go biographical sketches of all the different state candidates.

Mr. Eddy has devoted considerable time to the preparation of this pamphlet. He has gone over the legislative records and has consulted with J. F. Jacobson, himself, in order to refresh his memory.

The front page of the pamphlet bears the picture of Mr. Jacobson, and this significant statement from his speech of acceptance: "I have come to the conclusion that a man who earnestly strives to do right all the time cannot go very far wrong."

Mr. Eddy calls attention to the fact that Mr. Jacobson has been a pioneer in the legislation which President Roosevelt has so successfully advocated.

In part, this remarkable campaign document says:

"Jacob F. Jacobson was born in Hjelme-land, Norway, Jan. 13, 1849, and came to Dover, Fayette county, Ia., with his parents in 1857.

HIS EARLY HISTORY.

"He came to Minnesota and located a pre-emption claim in Cerro Gordo township, Lac Qui Parle county, in 1871, and after residing on the same the requisite time to prove up he moved into the village of Lac Qui Parle, and engaged in the business of selling farm implements, which has continued there and at Madison ever since.

"In 1872 he was elected auditor of Lac qui Parle county and held the office for three terms, declining a re-election.

"He was first elected to the legislature in 1888, declining a re-nomination in 1890. He became a candidate for the house in 1892, serving for five continuous terms.

"In 1906, responding to a popular demand, he became a candidate for governor and led all other candidates on the first, second and third ballots at the Duluth convention, but was defeated by a combination of the field against him on the fourth.

CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR.

"In 1908, at the earnest request of his friends in every part of the state, he again became a candidate for governor, and, without effort on his part, establishing any headquarters, perfecting any organization or the expenditure of money, purely on his own merits and the strength of his official record, his candidacy assumed such a commanding supremacy that when the convention assembled all the other candidates withdrew and he was nominated by acclamation.

"Mr. Jacobson has been engaged in the business of selling farm implements in Lac qui Parle county for 37 years. He possesses and enjoys the entire confidence of his customers, his reputation for business integrity is unquestioned and his rating by the commercial houses and the public is of the highest character.

"His home life is ideal. He delights in the society of his friends and neighbors. He is simple in his tastes, strictly temperate in his habits, possesses a keen sense of humor, and is noted for his kind and courteous treatment of all he comes in contact with, regardless of their station in life.

CHAMPION OF RIGHTS.

"During a long public career Mr. Jacobson has always stood as the recognized champion of the people's rights; a pioneer advocate of advanced legislation, a bitter opponent of every form of corporation and a fearless and aggressive leader in all legislation tending toward justice and morality.

"From his first entrance into the legislature he forcibly impressed upon his colleagues his capacity for public affairs and his qualifications for leadership, but it was during his second term that he achieved the greatest triumph of his legislative career in the introduction and passage, in spite of the most bitter and determined opposition, of what is known as the 'open market law.'

THE "OPEN MARKET" LAW.

"Prior to the passage of this law the railroad companies leased the elevator privileges, along their rights of way, to one or more of the large elevator companies and it was impossible for other parties to obtain permits to erect elevators or warehouses thereon. Consequently the grain buying business passed almost entirely into the hands of monopoly, and stupendous fortunes were accumulated at the expense of the grain producers. This bill permits any one to go in upon the right of way and erect an elevator or warehouse, and if the railroad company refuses to grant a site for such purpose the same can be secured by process of condemnation. It also makes all institutions buying grain "public warehouses" and subject to state inspection. Prior to the passage of this law the margin upon which grain was bought averaged from 3 to 8 cents upon oats and barley, 7 to 10 cents upon wheat and corn, and from 17 to 20 cents upon flax, but as a result of the independent competition brought about by its passage this margin dropped to an average of 2 cents per bushel and an annual saving of from \$3,500,000 to \$4,000,000 was secured to the farmers and consumers of this state.

THE "Y" BILL.

"Mr. Jacobson, in 1895, introduced and passed what is known as the 'Jacobson "Y" law.' After the adjournment of the legislature defects were discovered in the same, and no efforts was made to enforce it till 1897, when Mr. Jacobson had secured the passage of amendments curing the defects, and out of the efforts made to enforce the amended law, grew the celebrated case of Jacobson vs. the Great Northern and Minneapolis & St. Louis R. R. companies.

"The principle that a railroad, being a 'public common carrier,' could be compelled to establish connections with other roads at intersecting points and that a joint through rate on freight passing over more than one line of road could be fixed by law, was first established in the Jacobson law, and when congress later amended the Sherman interstate commerce act, not only the Jacobson idea but almost the literal language of the law was embodied in the amendment.

"Mr. Jacobson also introduced and passed a measure making it illegal for railroad companies to advance their freight rates without first notifying and securing the consent of the railroad commissioners.

GROSS EARNINGS TAX.

"In 1897 Mr. Jacobson introduced and passed in the house the first four per cent gross earnings tax bill. It failed to pass the senate at the time of its introduction. However, practically the same bill became a law at a subsequent session of the legislature. The increased revenue accruing to the state under its operation is as follows:

1905	\$715,912.24
1906	817,518.47
1907	888,889.46

"Mr. Jacobson served on the special committee that formulated the law changing the manner of disposing of the timber on state lands from a "standing estimate" to a "bank scale" or actual measurement and providing treble damages for trespass.

OTHER LEGISLATION.

"Space forbids a more extensive review of Mr. Jacobson's remarkable legislative record, suffice it to say that he was an **active participator and an important**

factor in the passage of the following important legislation:

"Providing free text books for the pupils of the public schools.

"Making Labor day a legal holiday.

"Establishing the board of control for state institutions.

"Prohibiting gambling at the state fair.

"Securing the passage of the Tawney vestibule bill, requiring street railway employes to be protected from the inclemency of the weather and other beneficent measures too numerous to mention.

A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT.

"During all of Mr. Jacobson's legislative career he served on the most important general and special committees of house, including the committee of appropriations, the most important of all the committees. During his last four terms he acted as chairman of this committee.

STATE BOARD OF CONTROL.

"Formerly a number of separate state boards presided over some 27 different institutions of our state, and in March of the year named, nearly all of these state boards were abolished by law, and this great work was intrusted to one central body of men sitting as the state board of control of public institutions, who had supervisory jurisdiction over the state university and the various other public educational institutions, and who exercised complete control over all other state institutions.

"Mr. Jacobson's last public service was as chairman of the state board of control, where he served with great credit. He performed his duties with his characteristic energy and thoroughness.

Reprinted by permission of the **Star Tribune** (Minneapolis, MN).