

OPENING ADDRESS OF
CAMPBELL RUSSELL, PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S POWER LEAGUE.

Delivered at Oklahoma City, Okla.

September 11,

1911.

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Gentlemen of the People's
Power League of Oklahoma:

I have done something today which I seldom do. I appear before you with a written statement to read as my opening address. I believe it my duty to be plain and pointed in what I say.

I have lived in Oklahoma thirty years. Have never been accused of scouting or wearing a mask. I have weighed carefully every statement which I will make here today. I shall not talk at random. If any man feels aggrieved at any statement made, I say for his information that the surveyors who ran the section lines in eastern Oklahoma found my home on the South-west Quarter of Section Twenty, Township Twelve North Range Nineteen East. I am still there.

I am much gratified at meeting such a representative body of Oklahoma farmers here today. This call was made for a committee of fifteen. We seem to be here--and then some. It is more than two years since we last met and organized the People's Power League.

Some people never knew, and others it seems, had almost forgotten, that there was even the nucleus of an organization representing the People's Power in Oklahoma.

The call for this meeting was, by a certain element, first treated with contempt, later with derision and ridicule. As the time for this meeting approached, and it became apparent to the close observer that the latent power of the people of Oklahoma was likely to be aroused to action, then the representatives of this element began to draw nigh and say,-- "We think we are with you this time; we will join your mass meeting and discuss it."

The doors of the People's Power League, like those of the church, are always open, but we have the good old Methodist rule of taking in doubtful characters on probation, and they are required to "Bring forth fruits meet for repentance," before being accepted into full fellowship.

It has been said that each man who met here today would represent only himself. Should we concede that to be true, then each man here represents a farmer who stands for agricultural progress, freed from the blighting influence of dirty, slippery politics; each man here represents a citizen who, while holding party above self, yet holds patriotism above party; each man here represents a citizen who "His duty knows, yet knows his rights, and knowing, dares maintain."

These three in one compose a "constituency" that any man should be proud to represent. The assumption that we represent ourselves alone is, however, far from correct:

Each man here represents one of Oklahoma's good farm homes that has been builded and maintained by industry and economy; and more he represents a faithful Oklahoma wife and mother who has toiled by his side to help build and equip that home and raise and train those child-

ren upon whom the future of our state depends. She may be battered and worn by the inevitable hardships, the buffetings and privations of a frontier life,-- yet she, and those children, compose a "constituency" that it would be inadequate to say that each of us stands ready to die for (if need be) --death is the silent, peaceful retreat sought by many a coward, unwilling longer to face the battle of life. We stand ready to LIVE for them.

Is that all that we represent? If so, then overwhelming defeat and bitter disappointment must be our reward. It seems to me that I hear the rumblings of tens of thousand of "No's" that rise from the farm homes of seventy-seven Oklahoma counties.

Is that all? No! I hear the echo as it comes thundering back to us from the thousands of city homes whose occupants stand for clean government.

The farmers of Oklahoma cannot fail to appreciate the consideration that has been extended to us by all other classes of our citizenship. They share equally with us the burden of taxation to support the agricultural, as well as the other departments of our government, and they have never hesitated to join in providing liberally for its every need; yet, they cheerfully concede to us the right to control this department.

But sirs, they do not fail to realize, and we must not fail to realize the responsibility that goes with that privilege -- the duty of providing a clean, economical business administration for this department.

The thousands of honest, progressive citizens that have builded their homes in the cities and towns of Oklahoma will cheerfully, gladly join us in eliminating as a factor in controlling this department, the street loafers and ward politicians who cannot be voted in our (so called) Farmers County Institute at fifty-cents per, by any man who can round them in and make them believe that they are serving "the party."

They will join us in saying that members of the State Board of Agriculture shall not draw \$6.00 per day traveling expenses for visiting County Institutes in the interest of their own re-election; they will join us in saying that these men shall not squander the tax payers money in salaries to themselves for their services in lobbying the Legislature for the purpose of defeating proposed corrections in the law which they have so grossly abused:

They will join us in saying that the employees of this Board are not eligible as delegates to re-elect its members:

They will join us in saying that the members of this Board shall not employ each other at the State's expense, thus degenerating to a Board of "Hired Hands" -- employing each other and auditing each others accounts; they will join us in saying that the College Committee that directs the education of our boys and girls shall be sober, moral men; they will join us in saying that politicians employed by the State Board of Agriculture and paid out of the tax payers money shall not roam this state for the sole purpose of campaigning for the re-election of the members of the said Board. They will join us in saying that these men who have out "Lorimered" Lorimer (who was elected with a private "Jack Pot") by using the State's money to force themselves back upon the people, shall not continue to disgrace this state by holding their positions for five long years and then naming their successors.

Never fear but that the good people of our cities will aid in our relief. Have we all of this support? We have. Then will we float to victory "on flowery beds of ease?" Alas, no! We will be fought and fought men by every grafter in the state who holds, or who hopes to hold, any public position regardless of his politics -- it might be his turn next.

This is not saying that any member of the State Board of Agriculture is a grafter. The grafter is one who steals without violating the law; their peculations have not yet been passed on by the courts to determine whether they are entitled to be placed in the list of grafters, or whether they should be placed elsewhere.

Gentlemen, we do know that the element of graft surrounds them. We have seen it's ear-marks and foot-prints; we have heard it's hungry growl. We do know that the climatic conditions surrounding them are favorable to the production of graft.

The prurient anxiety to continue to hold an apparently unprofitable position would indicate that some of them have scented the opportunities -- "we'll have to hurry" if we are in time to save them!

I have here on the table a copy of the bid of a reliable firm, Tatum & Strain, offering to drill and case the "should be" deep wells in the Pan Handle, 1,200 feet deep each. "The bidder to pay all expense and furnish casing," for the total sum of \$40,535.00 for the nine wells. This figures \$3.75 per foot. I have here also a copy of the contract made by the said Board with Hamlin & Chaffee to drill and case said wells for \$5.25 per foot, and the state to advance the freight money to get Hamlin & Chaffee's outfit to the Pan Handle. \$40,535.00 will pay for drilling nine wells an average of 858 feet deep at \$5.25 per foot. I repeat - "we'll have to hurry" if we get the boys recalled in time to save them all. These are bright men who would, no doubt, discover these opportunities in the course of time.

Gentlemen, these men have been almost without exception, good personal and political friends of mine. They located a very desirable State School in less than a mile of my home; they gave me, unsolicited, the best position they had to offer, and when I stated to them that I could not accept an office job, they employed an assistant for the office and turned me loose at my own discretion.

I was shown, in the hands of one of the members, a paper, which he said contained a Resolution, already drawn, increasing my salary. When compelled to accept my resignation, they tendered me a vote of thanks for efficient service.

Gentlemen, I would indeed be an ingrate if I failed to appreciate the friendship of those upon this Board who are still my friends regardless of my opposition to its methods and I am sure this includes a goodly number of that Board.

The members of the State Board of Agriculture are not devils, neither are they angels. They are just average citizens, some below, some above the average.

I feel sure that if they be promptly removed from the temptations which now surround them, most of them can yet be saved as good useful citizens of Oklahoma. I believe the people of Oklahoma will help me save them. In my boyish enthusiasm and inexperience, I was largely responsible for the wide range of power which they have so sadly abused and for the long rope of opportunity, which, if not promptly shortened will tighten its coils around them and strangle every honest aspiration, every decent impulse in their nature.

The part which I took in making possible the present conditions makes it doubly my duty to fight for their correction.

I have called you here today to join me in drafting a

suitable provision to remove these men from office and from temptation; and to provide such safeguards as will protect the next State Board of Agriculture and the public whom they are to serve, by reducing temptation to a minimum.

Gentlemen, it cannot be done otherwise, the Legislature has no power to remove them. The people's power can do it - the people's power must do it, -- no man buyeth new hogs and putteth them into a cholera pen, lest they become infected and likewise perish; but he first removeth all infected or exposed hogs, he then thoroughly cleanseth the pen before he putteth the new hogs therein, and the family doth prosper.

The cry of "Party," "Protect the party" -- Oh Mamma, it makes me tired.

The day is passed when any political party can live in Oklahoma with such a cancer under its wing -- I say, CLEAN THE PARTY, then protect it. Can the "pot call the kettle black?" Did not Tucker, the republican delegate from Custer County, deliver his vote to Brewer and Elliott in return for the promise that at the next State Institute he would be elected to the place on the Board now filled by Dan Diehl, the honest democrat from Kiowa?

Did not Whitten, the republican delegate from Pawnee County deliver his vote for what the ordinarily ambitious citizen would deem a less consideration?

My information convinces me that "yes" correctly answers both questions. Did they not make a futile effort to "land" the delegate from Mayes County, (a democrat) by offering to place him in the position now held by A. C. Cobb, the honest republican from Wagoner?

I can prove that they did -- I wanted to prove it at Stillwater, before the election, but they set the Sheriff on me.

They were probably not able to trade on the position of any other Board member, as no one could be expected to trust them for two years.

Did they not make a futile effort to buy the vote of the republican delegate from Major County? He so stated upon the campus at Stillwater in the presence of one hundred men, and they have not offered to deny it. Did not Jim Harris, the republican State Chairman write the republican delegates to vote for Brewer and Elliott? He did.

Did not the republican Senator from Alfalfa County work "tooth and nail" for Brewer, in return for Brewer's knifing the democratic nominee and placing him (McCully) in the Senate? The case was plain upon its face.

Did not, would be, leading democrats from over the state rush to Stillwater and hover like vultures around the scene of this election? It is notoriously known that they did.

Did they not say to the delegate from Choctaw County, as early as last April, "I write to give you the promise"? Here is a copy of this letter.-----

He now holds a \$1500.00 job at the head of the Institute Department of this state -- I sincerely believe Ansley is personally a good man. Many of the delegates that cheered as I was escorted away by the Sheriff are good men, -- not good citizens, mind you --

It is only by the help of good men, blinded by political prejudice, or otherwise, that corrupt government is maintained in any state.

I say, and I say it reverently, damn the rotten element in all the political parties; and may God hasten the day when the good people of this state and nation will arouse from their lethargy and, permitting the scales to fall from their eyes, demand and secure an honest, economical administration of all departments of government.

Lurhka Kauma
Dec 25th 1911

Mr Geo Scott

Dear Sir

Well this is Christmas morning almost
one year has passed since Geo McQuinn
died the only true friend that the
Choctaw people did have left to them
and now the people seem to be scattered
with no leader and dont seem to care
what the consequences are going to be
I see by newspaper reports that they
are vining hard to sell surface of
the segregated lands I suppose we
have to take just whatever the Interior
Dept seem fit to give us.

I will acknowledge receipt of \$9.⁹⁰/₁₀₀
sent on Cleo's cotton it was very welcome
as times is hard with me and

I hope the renters will eventually
get the rest of cotton picked out
as even a little is better than none
at all. Good many of the boys
are disappointed in not getting
any booze for their Christmas
fun - but I think its the best
for them all - This leaves us well
at present Cleo is highly elated
this morning as she says Santa Claus
did come last night and left her
lots of toys and a small present
from her aunt Ida. I expect your
children and all the rest of the
children are having great times
so with best wishes a merry Christmas
and a happy new year I will close
Oely Family
Mrs. J. H. McCurtain

Patsy (Freeman) Folsom.

TO

George W. Scott.

Warranty Deed.

Know All Men by These Presents:

That Patsy (Freeman) Folsom and her husband, Lem Folsom. of Kinta Oklahoma

part ies of the first part, in consideration of the sum of Three hundred Fifty & No/100 DOLLARS,

in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby Grant, Bargain, Sell and Convey unto

George W. Scott.

part y of the second part, the following described real property and premises, situate in Haskell County, State of Oklahoma, to-wit:

The North West Quarter (1/4) of the South East Quarter (1/4) of Section One (1) Township Eight (8) North, and Range Nineteen (19) East of the Indian Meridian and Containg Forty (40) acres more or less as the case may be according to the United States Survey thereof.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD THE SAME together with all the improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any-wise appertaining unto the said part y of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever, especially releasing and relinquishing all right, claim or possibility of dower or homestead therein

First part ies hereby covenants that they are the lawful owner s of the said described premises; that the same are free, clear and discharged of and from all former grants, charges, taxes, judgments, mortgages and other liens and incumbrances of whatsoever nature and kind;

and that they will and their heirs, executors and administrators shall forever warrant and defend the same to the said part y of the second part his heirs and assigns; especially covenanting and agreeing to protect the said title and defend the same in the offices of the General Government or in any Court having jurisdiction.

Signed and delivered this 16th day of March 1909

WITNESSES:

Witness the mark of Patsy (Freeman) Folsom, Patsy (Freeman) Folsom (SEAL) who cannot write, and whose name is written to the within instrument at her request. Mark J. Anderson (SEAL) Lem Folsom (SEAL) Mark J. Anderson (SEAL)

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, }
HASKELL COUNTY } SS. BEFORE ME, a Notary Public within and for said County and State, on the 16th day of March 1909 personally appeared Patsy (Freeman) Folsom and her husband Lem Folsom,

to me known to be the identical persons who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that they had executed the same as their free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

WITNESS my hand and official seal, the day and date above written.

Notary Public.

My commission expires February, 16th 1913

QUIT CLAIM DEED.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That C. H. Lewis and Mary Lewis his wife part 1/2 of the first part, in consideration of the sum of One \$2500 (\$100) DOLLARS

the receipt all of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby remise, release, and quit-claim unto Patsy (Kreeman) Holson part 1/2 of the second part, all this right, title and interest, both at law and in equity, of, in, and to the following described real property and premises, situate in Haskell County, State of Oklahoma,

to-wit: The North West Quarter (NW 4) of the South East Quarter (SE 4) of Section One (Sec 1) of Township Eight North (78N) and Range Nineteen East (R19E)

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD THE SAME, together with all the improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining unto the said part 1/2 of the second part, her heirs and assigns forever, especially releasing and relinquishing all right, claim or possibility of dower or homestead therein.

THIS DEED IS EXECUTED FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSE, TO-WIT:

To Cancel Warranty Deed dated October 29, 1904 executed by Patsy Kreeman to C. H. Lewis consideration named \$7500. filed for record October 18, 1905 recorded in Book 5 page 318 - in the office of the Deputy US Clerk and Ex-Officio Recorder, of the 12th Recording District in the Ind. Ter.

Signed, sealed and delivered this 11 day of July 1911

WITNESSES:

C. H. Lewis (SEAL)
Mary Lewis (SEAL)

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, Haskell County, ss.

BEFORE ME, a Notary Public within and for said County and State, on the 11 day of July 1911 personally appeared

C. H. Lewis and Mary Lewis to me known to be the identical person s who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that they had executed the same as their free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

WITNESS my hand and seal the day and date above written.

M. J. Jolley
Notary Public

My Commission expires July 16 1913

Filed for Record July 16 Recorded in Book Page in the office of the Register of Deeds of Haskell County, Oklahoma.

QUIT CLAIM DEED.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That Fred H Fannin

of the sum of One hundred fifty and 100/100 part 4 of the first part, in consideration
(One hundred dollars of which amount is to be paid to Jack Lewis) DOLLARS
the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby hereby remise, release, and quit claim unto
Patsy ~~Frances~~ Tolson (nee Freeman) part 4 of the second
part, all right, title and interest, both at law and in equity, of, in, and to the following de-
scribed real property and premises, situate in Haskell County, State of Oklahoma,

to wit: The NW 1/4 of SE 1 of Sec 1, T 8 N, R 19 E
The same being no part of first party's home-
stead

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD THE SAME, together with all the improvements thereon and the appurtenances
thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining unto the said part 4 of the second part, less
heirs and assigns forever, especially releasing and relinquishing all right, claim or possibility of dower or homestead therein.

THIS DEED IS EXECUTED FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSE, TO-WIT:

To cancel deed from T J Lewis and wife
to Fred H Fannin executed Nov 29
1906 - filed for record December
7, 1907 in the office of Reg. of Deeds
for Haskell County and recorded
in Book one page forty

Signed, sealed and delivered this 3rd day of July 1911

WITNESSES:
Fred H Fannin (SEAL)
(SEAL)
(SEAL)
(SEAL)

STATE OF OKLAHOMA,
Haskell County. } ss

BEFORE ME, a notary Public within and for said County and State, on the
3rd day of July, 1911, personally appeared Fred H Fannin

to me known to be the identical person who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me
that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set
forth.

WITNESS my hand and seal the day and date above written. Wm H Pyle
Notary Public

My Commission Expires March 6, 1913

Filed for record in Book Page in the office of Register of
Deeds of Haskell County, Oklahoma.

INDEXED

QUIT CLAIM DEED.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That *T J Lewis and R A Lewis*
his wife part *is* of the first part, in consideration
of the sum of *One Doce (\$100)* DOLLARS

the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby remise, release, and quit claim unto
Daisy Holom (nee Fireman) part *is* of the second
part, all *their* right, title and interest, both at law and in equity, of, in, and to the following de-
scribed real property and premises, situate in *Haskell* County, State of Oklahoma,

to-wit: *nw 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Sec 1 of T 8 N R*
19 E containing forty acres

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD THE SAME, together with all the improvements thereon and the appurtenances
thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining unto the said part *is* of the second part, *her*
heirs and assigns forever, especially releasing and relinquishing all right, claim or possibility of dower or homestead therein.

THIS DEED IS EXECUTED FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSE , TO-WIT:

To Cancel Warranty Deeds dated Nov-
ember 1, 1907 filed for record October 18-
1905 and Recorded in Book 5 page 213
in the office of Deputy U.S. Clerk and Ex-officio
Recorder of the 12th Recording District in
the Indian Territory executed by T J Lewis
to T J Lewis

Signed, sealed and delivered this *8* day of *July* 19*11*

WITNESSES:

T J Lewis (SEAL)
R A Lewis (SEAL)
..... (SEAL)
..... (SEAL)

STATE OF OKLAHOMA,
Pittsburg County, } ss

BEFORE ME, a *notary Public* within and for said County and State, on the
8th day of *July* 19*11* personally appeared
T J Lewis and R A Lewis his wife
to me known to be the identical person *A* who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me
that *they* executed the same as *their* free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set
forth.

WITNESS my hand and seal the day and date above written.

Will T Walker
Notary Public

My Commission Expires *October 28, 1911*

Filed for record Recorded in Book Page in the office of Register of
Deeds of Haskell County, Oklahoma.

QUIT CLAIM DEED.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That George W. Scott and Alice Scott, his wife... part 1cs of the first part, in consideration of the sum of One 7 No/100 (\$1.00) DOLLARS the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby remise, release, and quit claim unto Patsy Folsom (nee Freeman) party of the second part, all their right, title and interest, both at law and in equity, of, in, and to the following described real property and premises, situate in Haskell County, State of Oklahoma, to-wit: NW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Sec 1 of T 8 N & R 19 E

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD THE SAME, together with all the improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining unto the said party of the second part, her heirs and assigns forever, especially releasing and relinquishing all right, claim or possibility of dower or homestead therein.

THIS DEED IS EXECUTED FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSE, TO-WIT:

To cancel deed given by Patsy (Freeman) Folsom and Lem Folsom to George W. Scott dated 8/31/08, consideration \$350.00, filed for record 9/3/08, recorded in Book 9 at page 55, in the office of the Register of Deeds of Haskell County Okla. And to cancel deed given by Patsy (Freeman) Folsom to George W. Scott dated 6/3/09, consideration \$350.00, filed for record 6/16/09, recorded in Book 5 at page 186, in the office of the Register of Deeds of Haskell County Okla. And to cancel deed given by Patsy (Freeman) Folsom and Lem Folsom to George W. Scott dated 3/16/09, consideration \$350.00, filed for record 6/18/09, recorded in Book 9 at page 449, in the office of the Register of Deeds of Haskell County Oklahoma.

Signed, sealed and delivered this 12th day of July 19 11.

WITNESSES:

Witness signatures: Wm. M. Seavey (SEAL), Alice Scott (SEAL)

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, Haskell County } ss

BEFORE ME, a notary public within and for said County and State, on the 12th day of July 19 11 personally appeared George W. Scott and Alice Scott

to me known to be the identical person s who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that they executed the same as their free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

WITNESS my hand and seal the day and date above written.

Notary Public signature: M. H. Seavey

My Commission Expires July 16 19 13

Filed for record Recorded in Book Page in the office of Register of Deeds of Haskell County, Oklahoma.