

community politics and policies. No one can question the fact that at all times he has sought with intense sincerity and downright honesty of purpose to serve his native town to the utmost of his ability, and that he has succeeded in accomplishing a great deal of lasting value is true beyond the shadow of a doubt. In certain phases of city government he has pioneered movements which have eventually become generally recognized as of vital significance in local history. Especially is everlasting credit due him for his part in the establishment and the development of the city electric light and water systems, which will always remain a monument to his civic leadership."

Mayoralty Election of 1908

It was in the early spring of 1908 that the writer was first elected mayor. My opponents were the late ex-Mayor O. F. Price, H. E. V. Porter, then president of the City Council and president of the Jamestown Business College, and the late ex-Alderman John C. Swanson.

In the mayoralty campaign I advocated municipal ownership of all public utilities and stressed especially the necessity of enlarging the city-owned electric plant so that current from the plant could be made available to all householders at low rates. I favored also strict non-partisanship in the administration of public affairs and proportional representation not only in election choices but in the matter of appointments to the various boards and departments of the city government.

After my election to the mayoralty, I was approached by the political leaders of the community, who presented a slate containing the names of persons whom the dominant political faction desired to have appointed to various important positions in the "mayor's cabinet." But when the writer politely informed them that he had been elected upon a platform pledged to nonpartisanship in city affairs, they replied that "that was a good thing to talk about while out of office but a poor thing to practice while in office." One of the delegation, a man of wealth and influence, then arose and assuming an attitude of intimate friendliness said, "Sam, you can't afford to play a lone hand if you are thinking of future political success." "Well, gentlemen," I replied, "I am sorry I cannot entirely endorse the slate you have submitted. There are, however, some whom I shall appoint but most of the names I regard as disqualified for the positions to which you have recommended them."