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SECRET OF WILDMAN JOE

U. S. WILL WATCH MAINE

**"Ol' Doc" Kahler, Originator of
Flea Circus, Gives Away Some
Sideshow Fakes**

**Is Earliest Election of Campaign
and Regarded As National
Forecast**

JOE IS A LOCAL PRODUCT

HOT CAMPAIGN FINISHED

By JOHN A. ELLERT

Well, if it ain't ol' Joe, the wildman, back-head all shaved and looking about as ferocious as ever," interestedly remarked Jeremiah Kahler, better known as "Ol' Doc Kahler, ex-circus man and originator of the famous "Kahler Flea Circus," the other day, looking across the back lot of fire headquarters to the figure of a negro picking up rags in the alley.

And sure enough it was ol' Joe the wildman, but not back from exhibiting himself as the "wild man captured off the west coast of the Philippines," but getting ready to exhibit himself as such.

"Yes, let's see," reminiscently said "Doc" Kahler, "ol' Joe was the biggest success I ever traveled with, outside, of course, of the flea circus. But still," he continued, "Wild Rose, the girl who lived on the bites of snakes, was a money getter; and there were the two little Hovies, advertised as captured from the Madagascar islands; the two-headed man; Willie, the cigaret fiend, and the three enchanting dancing girls from the Turkish harem of Ishy Koo La—they all went good, but ol' Joe, he was the best of 'em all.

What Made Him Wild

"Ol' Joe, the man from Evansville, had all the hicks going and, when primed with rot gut whisky, (the only kind we ever fed Joe because it made him actually wild) he grabbed for the soup bone stuck into his cage on a pitchfork you orter seen some of the

"Have you heard the news from Maine? Maine went Hell bent for Governor Kent And Tippecanoe and Tyler, 1908"

PORTLAND, Me., Sept. 4.—Political conditions have created a widespread interest in the general election in Maine, the earliest to be held in the country and always regarded by politicians as a possible forecast of the national vote for president. The voters will go to the polls on Monday next to ballot for two United States senators, four members of congress, governor, state auditor and members of the legislature. In addition they will decide by referendum whether to endorse the bills passed by the legislature to limit the labor of women and children to fifty-four hours a week and to provide for state aid in the building of bridges.

The destination of the progressive party vote, released by the decision of the party leaders not to run on a separate ticket, is the key to the situation. Although the republicans are confident that practically all of the progressives will return to their former affiliation, the democrats dispute the contention and have made vigorous efforts to attract the progressives. In the last presidential year the progressives cast 48,495 votes for Roosevelt, while Taft received 22,527 and Wilson carried the state with 51,118. In the state campaign for 1908 the democrats again were victorious, electing Oakley C. Curtis as governor.

expressions on his audience. "Say," laughed the old ex-circus man, "some of 'em honestly left the tent, fearful he would break the steel shackles which held him a captive and feast on human flesh."

"How was it I came to exhibit Joe? His name is Joe Rettig and many years ago the negro was badly scalded about the face and body by a boiler exploding. The black skin was burned entirely off parts of his body, leaving the surface, when healed, a horrible red-dish-white. Joe, without his wild-man's adornments, is bad enough to look at, but, say boy, with rings in his ears and nose, his head shaved clean save for a small tuft on the top of his head, plentifully besmeared with many colors of paint, that man was a corker."

"Give him a spear, put chains on him and keep him well primed with bad whisky and you can imagine the rest from looking at him now. Joe went good from the start, especially with an advertisement like this:

"Lad-dees and gen-tell-men. We have on exhibition in this tent one of the wildest, most savage, uncivilized creatures ever taken into captivity. He was captured by Colonel Russel and his band of soldiers in the northwestern part of the Philippines. Not knowing what to do with the captive, Colonel Russell sent him to the Smithsonian institute at Washington, from which he was purchased for a fabulous sum of money."

Thirsting for Human Blood

"This creature of the wilds, this untamed savage, eats raw meat and would tear you limb from limb could he lay his hands on you. He is kept chained hand and foot and the chains have not been taken off him since his capture. Hear him roar on the inside of the tent, thirsting for human blood and longing to get back again into the jungles to live with his four-footed friends."

"That's the spiel that always sent the dimes jingling merrily into the cash box," boasted Kahler. "Occasionally we had a tough time with ol' Joe though. Whenever he got to much whisky he would become sleepy and we had to prod him with pitchforks to make him perform. The nigger didn't mind it, though and it used to amuse

a vote of 62,076 to 58,857 for the republican candidate and 18,211 for the progressive nominee. The electors in each year selected three members of congress and the democrats and

State Issues Subordinated

In recognition of the unusual situation state issues were almost entirely subordinated in the campaign this year. National leaders of the democratic and republican parties lionized the state with their highest artillery, mobilized to an extent unequalled in this state since the memorable year when James G. Blaine of Maine was a candidate for president. President Wilson did not come here but campaign addresses were made by several members of his cabinet, democratic senators and members of the house and others prominent in the party.

The republicans sent many of their strongest speakers, and arranged to climax addresses by Theodore Roosevelt last week and by their national standard-bearer, Charles E. Hughes in the final week of the contest.

On both sides the record of the Wilson administration formed the central topic of nearly every speech. The democrats dwelt chiefly on the fact that the country had been kept out of war and on the prevailing prosperity. The republicans directed their heaviest attacks against the democratic tariff policy and the president's conduct in Mexican and European problems.

The Candidates

In opposition to Governor Curt who seeks re-election, the republicans nominated Carl E. Milliken of Islip Falls, former president of the State senate and known as a "Roosevelt republican." For senator the democrats renominated Senator Charles F. Johnson for the full term and named Kenneth C. M. Sills, dean of Bowdoin college, as their candidate to succeed late Senator Edwin C. Burleigh, a republican, for the term expiring in 1911. The republican nominees for senator are Frederick Hale of Portland, son of former Senator Eugene Hale, in opposition to Senator Johnson and former Governor Bert M. Fernald, of Portland, for the short term.

Congressman John A. Peters, a republican, and Daniel J. H. McGillicuddy

him to watch his audience cringe and turn pale at sight of him.

"Joe was a very meek nigger when not filled with rot gut. I remember once down in Uniontown, Ky., we were placed in a devil of a predicament because the town was dry and our supply of whisky ran out. Joe was so meek without it that it was hard for any one to believe he was as bad as we tried to make him out regardless of his horrid and ferocious appearance. You can bet we cut our visit short in Uniontown and hit it up for the wet towns.

"Joe's getting old, though, but he's still good for many more years. When he's not working on the road you can generally find him around the streets of Evansville picking rags for a living, because Joe never got much money for being a wildman and was perfectly contented with getting all the free whisky he could drink and was willing to eat raw meat with plenty of salt on it to make it palatable.

Wild Rose Was Real

"Tell you about Wild Rose? Well, she was the real stuff—no fake about Rose," declared Kahler. "Rose was from Abyssinia and this is the story I heard about her and which I believe is true. In that part of Africa where Rose was born all deformed children are put to death by various methods. Some are thrown into a den of snakes, which was Rose's fate since she was a deformed child.

"She was thrown into a den, bitten by the poisonous reptiles but in some manner managed to survive. Her blood became inoculated with the snakes' venom and she became immune to their bite. Considering this so marvelous the child was rescued and allowed to live, but it was found she craved the venom like a 'Snowbird' his cocaine or a morphine fiend his hypo.

"Rose was finally brought to the states and placed in a side show. Of course there were many who doubted her story and considered the deformed creature a clever fake, but I have every reason for believing that she was the real article.

Little Hovies, the Cannibals

"But say, did I ever tell you about the little Hovies, the fierce man-eating little cannibals captured off the

dr. democrat are candidates for reelection, being opposed respectively by John E. Bunker of Bar Harbor democrat, and Wallace H. White, Jr. of Lewiston. The other nominees for congress are: republican, Louis I. Goodall, of Sanford and Ira G. Hersey of Houlton; democratic, Linnott Stevens of Wells and Leonard J. Pierce of Houlton. State Auditor Edward Sullivan, democrat, is opposed for reelection by Roy L. Wardell of Augusta, republican.

National Guard Takes Part

An interesting feature of the election will be the participation by members of the Maine National Guard now serving on the Mexican border. Fourteen hundred ballots have been sent to Colonel Frank M. Hume, in command of the Second Regiment, who will supervise the voting. Instead of the usual Australian ballot and check list procedure, the law requires that each guardsman must sign his name to his ballot.

In the conduct of the campaign committees of both parties have resorted to long discontinued customs of olden days. Torch-light parades and similar demonstrations have been common. Nothing has been neglected which it was thought would serve to stimulate interest among the voters.

tive size and distorted appearance, was obtained from a cypress swamp near Shreveport, La. We had them rigged out in great style. We announced them as little man-eaters of the fiercest sort who lived mostly on the East and blood of missionaries who fell into the jungles of Madagascar. We billed them. In one day at the Minnesota state fair we took in \$865 on the little Hovies. Pretty fair pickin', eh?

"But the little Hovies grew tired of their job one day and took and leave.

Movies Have Hurt Side Shows

"Ah, but the good old side shows are passing," regretfully said Kahler. "The movies, which are putting the 'legit' out of business, are responsible for the passing of the side shows. I'm getting old and sentimental yet the sight of ol' Joe sure gives me blood a-tingling and I would be bidding for Joe again—to get rid of that old pleasant sawdust smell."

island of Madagascar? They were good. We handed out a long line of history in advertising them and claimed they were the two sons of King Kipold, ruler of the island. They were two inbred negroes of diminutive size — to listen to the barker's voice — see the crowds crane necks to see the flicker of the torches and to find out how many more have come to hear out Barnum's theories. A new one is born every minute.

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