

## UNITED DEMOCRACY

Move for Nomination of Pike County Man for Governor in 1936, Started by Rural Newspapers, is Endorsed by Large City Organizations

Spreads Throughout State---No Opposition in Primary Expected

## STARK WILL SWEEP STATE

(From La Plata Home-Press.)

Much to the disappointment of the old guard Republicans of Missouri, the Kansas City Democratic organization has endorsed for Governor the man whom nine-tenths of country Democrats in every corner of the state had selected months since. Thus this great organization has fallen in line with the entire rural districts to assure the nomination and election of Lloyd C. Stark, of Louisiana.

Following its usual good Democratic principles this organization, headed by T. J. Pendergast, has taken out of the campaign the Republicans' dearest and only issue, that of striving to create dissention between country and city voters.

Not within the past 40 years has the Democratic party been so near a unit on the man who will be their nominee for Governor. Not in years, if ever, has there been such a general demand among the voters of both parties for a business man for Governor. Seldom, if ever, has there been such a general acclaim of any one prospective candidate and not within the recollection of the oldest voter has there been a candidate so universally known from the Ozarks to the Iowa line. The name of "Stark" has been a household word among the people of agriculture for more than a half century.

Under the present administration the state has been started well on the road to recovery from two past administrative failures. With a man of Lloyd C. Stark's integrity and business management its future is assured.

Press Comments from Democratic, Independent and Even Republican Papers Show Candidacy Most Popular in Missouri Political History

Victory Assured, Leaders Assert

--- G. O. P, Hopes Vanish

MAJOR LLOYD C. STARK

REDUCES G.O.P. HOPES TO ZERO

(By the Jefferson City Staff Correspondent of the Kansas City Journal-Post.)

Selection of Major Stark, the Pike County farmer and widely known nurseryman, to carry the banner of the Democratic party of the State has reduced the Republican party in Missouri to the lowest ebb since the crushing defeat in 1934.

The Republicans were beginning to believe they had a chance in 1936 to elect a state ticket.

That hope vanished with the indorsement of Major Stark by T. J. Pendergast and

other leaders of the Democratic party in Kansas City.

It is not likely that Stark, who is endorsed for the Democratic nomination by the big Democratic organizations of the state and the united rural Democracy of the state, will have any opposition in the primary next August.

Indorsement of Stark by the united Kansas City organization and by both factions in St. Louis would make it most difficult for an independent candidate to muster any strength in the primary. There are too many Stark apple trees rooted in the soil of Missouri for an opponent of the scion of the 119-year-old nursery family to make much headway against him in the rural sections of the state.

Therefore, the primary campaign will be a tame affair and the Democrats will save their fire for the November election. Already the statehouse Democrats have coined a campaign phrase. They are now saying "Stark's delicious" and the slogan has spread over the state.

(The following editorial comments and news items from Missouri newspapers of recent date have been selected from a large number of similar nature. They indicate the universal appeal of Maj. Stark's candidacy to all Missouri voters.)

#### PARTY IS CONGRATULATED

(From Jefferson City Capitol News.)

The next Governor of Missouri will be Major Lloyd Stark. The rural Democracy of Missouri so decreed it and the Democracy of the cities have endorsed the country's choice. He will probably have no opposition for the nomination and very little serious opposition for election next November. Major Stark is an up-standing Missourian, a successful business man, well known well qualified, and well fitted in every way to make the state a great executive and give the people a business administration. The Democracy of Missouri is to be congratulated upon his selection.

#### A WISE SELECTION

(From Lead Belt News, Flat River.)

The indorsement of Major Lloyd C. Stark of Louisiana for the democratic nomination for Governor by the Kansas City organization, headed by Thomas J. Pendergast is one that will meet with universal approval all over the state, in the rural counties as well as in the cities.

It has been known for some time by those in close touch with democratic politics, that Mr. Pendergast would no doubt support Stark because of his personal popularity among rural Missourians and also because of his outstanding ability and fitness for the high position.

There is no doubt about the nomination and election of Major Stark. He will make Missouri a great governor.

## IS PARTY'S BEST BET

(From Editorial in St. Louis Star-Times.)

Major Stark is unquestionably the Democratic party's best bet among all the governorship aspirants who have so far appeared. His record as citizen and business man, and as an artillery officer in the World War, uphold a belief that if he is nominated and elected neither Pendergast nor anyone else can use him to the disadvantage of the state. Men trained in the traditions of Annapolis Naval Academy, as he has been, who have left the service and then recognized their obligation by going to the fighting front in a bloody war, are not likely to be forgetful of their oath as civil officers, or their duty to all the people as against the politicians and bosses. It is conceivable that Major Stark, simply on his qualifications as citizen and business man, might have won the nomination without active Pendergast aid. That Pendergast volunteers to give this aid is no reflection on Major Stark. The Republicans will have to look long and go far to match this candidacy.

## PEOPLE SELECTED STARK

(From Sikeston Standard.)

While in Kansas City it was our privilege and pleasure to pay our respects to Hon. Tom Pendergast, contractor and head of the Jackson Democratic Club of that city; We were accompanied by James T. Bradshaw, publisher of the Missouri Democrat who remarked to Mr. Pendergast that his selection of Mr. Stark, to make the race for Governor on the Democratic ticket was very pleasing to the Democratic editors attending the convention. Listen to Mr. Pendergast's answer: "Jim, I did not select Mr. Stark. The people of the State selected him. He had a greater following throughout the State than all other prospective candidates put together. I am with the voters." After thanking Mr. Pendergast for his time and pledging Southeast Missouri's fifty thousand Democratic votes to Mr. Stark, we made way for others waiting to see him.

## CANDIDATE OF UNUSUAL PROMISE

(From Editorial in St. Louis Post-Dispatch.)

It happens that Maj. Stark is a candidate of unusual promise. Worthy scion of a famous Missouri family, he is the head of one of the world's most celebrated nurseries; he was graduated with honors from the Naval Academy; his war record is one of distinction; he is a man of large affairs who has shown a deep interest in public service.

## OF THE STONE-CLARK SCHOOL

(From Missouri Democrat.)

Major Lloyd C. Stark, who is a colonel on Governor Park's military staff, attended the Stone memorial ceremonies at Nevada, Mo., last Friday. Major Stark is a political protege of the late Champ Clark of Pike County and was a close friend and ardent

supporter of William Joel Stone during his distinguished political career, and is proud to be known as a Democrat of the Stone-Clark school.

#### BY SHEER ABILITY AND MERIT

(From Caruthersville Democrat-Argue.)

Thinking over the situation and putting two and two together in various newspaper versions, we are convinced the endorsement of Major Lloyd Stark as a candidate for Governor on the part of Pendergast is not so much a proposition of a boss picking a future official as of a very astute politician realizing whom to choose.

We do not believe there is any question that Major Stark won the Pendergast endorsement, not through any love of the latter for him, but because he went out and virtually grabbed the nomination in advance of any other potential candidate—and that Mr. Pendergast realized he not only was the logical man but that it would be unwise for him to endorse another who in all probability would come a cropper and thus lose him prestige as a political seer.

There seems to be no question that Stark is far and away the strongest man who has been discussed for the gubernatorial nomination—and that he has forged through to this position on sheer ability and merit—for everywhere over the state from which reports have been available he is mentioned as the logical man and the favorite. This being the case, Mr. Pendergast is far too wise not to fall in with popular sentiment, just as he has done.

#### COMMANDS UNITED PARTY SUPPORT

(From Missouri Review, Jefferson City.)

After all is said and done the Democrats want to win and this can only be possible with a solid front and united action. Above everything else the Democrats must name candidates with proven executive ability and business intellect. Major Stark can command unified party support because he has all of these attributes.

Furthermore Major Stark is free of factional strife and entanglements as shown by the endorsements given him by party leaders in all sections of the state, some of whom have not always been Pendergast supporters.

Major Stark comes from stalwart Democratic stock, born and reared in Pike county, one of the banner Democratic counties of the state. He is in the prime of life having not yet reached his 49th birthday.

His successful business connection with the Stark Nurseries, one of the largest in the country, has made his name known to almost every Missourian.

His training in the schools of Missouri and in the United States Naval Academy has developed in him a business talent coupled with leadership of rare attainment, and the state will indeed be fortunate to have his stewardship and counsel as Governor.

The Missouri Review endorses his candidacy and predicts that Major Stark will be the next Governor of Missouri.

## NO FIGHT IN PRIMARY

(From Fayette Advertiser.)

Major Lloyd Stark is to have the support of the Kansas City Democratic organization for governor. From talking Friday to Missouri editors from all over the state it was easy to believe that Major Stark has rural Missouri strongly behind him and for party harmony it is well that the Kansas City organization decided on Stark, too. In addition to Kansas City, the leading Democrats of St. Louis, including Mayor Dickmann and Hon. Charles M. Hay, have also pledged their support to Major Stark. So with the Democrats of rural Missouri, of Kansas City and of St. Louis back of him, he has a mighty fine chance of winning the Democratic nomination for governor. It is well that the Democratic party be not split by factional fights in the coming primary. In spite of the wonderful record made by President Roosevelt a victory in November of next year is by no means a walk-away. Missouri Democrats should make a united effort to carry their state for Roosevelt and the next Democratic nominee for Governor.

Another thing we like about Major Stark's candidacy is his selection of Wm. M. Ledbetter to be in charge of his publicity. We do not believe that he could have made a better choice. Wm. Ledbetter is well liked by the press of Missouri. He is a newspaper man of the highest integrity and one of unusually fine ability. Democrats of Missouri remember him particularly as editor of the grand old St. Louis Republic. In Howard County we hold Mr. Ledbetter with special regard since he is a product of Central College.

## REAL GUBERNATORIAL TIMBER

(From Paris Mercury.)

Honorable Lloyd Stark of Louisiana, Missouri, candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor, was a Paris visitor last Friday afternoon and took dinner with friends at the Dry Restaurant. He also took occasion to meet several business men. Stark, who was a candidate for the nomination after Francis Wilson died in 1932, looks like real gubernatorial timber. He is a handsome man, smooth-faced, keen and intelligent looking. If we are any judge of men, Lloyd Stark is a real chap. He shows his naval training, having graduated from Annapolis as an appointee of the late Champ Clark, and served four years at sea. He possesses that rare thing which men call personality, and we predict that the man who beats him will be governor. He was accompanied by Darney Murphy, son of Andy Murphy, state tax commissioner.

## AVOID A PRIMARY FIGHT

(From Potosi Independent-Journal.)

Although it is nearly ten months until Primary election in Missouri, it is generally conceded that Major Lloyd Stark will be the Democratic nominee for Governor. This fact has been established for several weeks. Everywhere you go the name of only one man is mentioned, and that is Stark. The recent newspaper poll of county newspapers and

county Chairmen made by Lead Belt News of Flat River, reveals the fact that over 90% of the newspapers and County Chairmen are for Stark. In Washington County we have made it our business to inquire of Democratic leaders in the past few days, and found them almost unanimous for this man and from other counties we get the same report. We might go on and cite several other reasons for our conclusion, but do not think it necessary. Major Stark is going to be the Democratic nominee for Governor.

With this an established fact, why wouldn't it be good politics for the Democratic party to avoid a primary squabble? They are always a bad thing for any party. Democrats in Missouri don't want to kid themselves into thinking they have a walkover in 1936. It is going to take organization and hard work to win. The party is going to have to be an united organization, and a primary fight is one of those things that should be avoided. It is useless for any candidate to run against Major Stark, so why attempt it.

The party is fortunate in having a candidate of the calibre of the Major for its leader. He is one of the best known men in the state. There are very few farmers and farmers' wives in Missouri who have not bought fruit trees or shrubbery from the Stark Nursery, of which Major Stark is General Manager and Chairman of the Board.

He is known as a square dealer, and as one of the best business men in the state. We believe he would run the business of the state in the same manner in which he has conducted his own business.

His candidacy will appeal to all classes, business men, farmers, laborers, veterans, and professional men, for he can be classed with all of them. In addition to this his courteous manner and kindly disposition makes a friend of all with whom he comes in contact. This is the kind of a candidate the party needs, so again we say why a party contest in the primary for the Democratic nomination for Governor in 1936? Nominate Stark without opposition.

#### THE SWING TO MAJOR STARK

(From the St. Louis County Leader.)

It now appears to be certain that Major Lloyd Stark of Louisiana will be the next governor of Missouri. He will no doubt win the Democratic nomination without serious opposition and win the election in the fall by a majority of more than a quarter of a million.

The endorsement of the Pendergast organization in Kansas City put Stark over for a certainty. There can be no question about that. The power of that organization in a Democratic state primary was demonstrated in August of last year in impressive fashion when Judge Harry Truman of Jackson County was named for United States Senator over two of the best known, the ablest and the most popular Congressmen Missouri ever sent to Washington.

And Stark already has gained substantial support from many sections of the state in a remarkable campaign that began nine months before ever the powerful pendulum of the Pendergast organization swung his way. Stark, be it known, has been traveling over Missouri for a long time making contacts and seeking promises of support and

endorsement. He also has a number of influential friends in many sections who have been working hard for him ever since last January.

So it was that when he went to Pendergast seeking his endorsement he had plenty of evidence to support his claim for preference.

Pendergast is practical. Hence his power. And Stark won the Kansas City organization to his side nine long months before the date of the primary election.

And it must be said that Pendergast has endorsed the strongest candidate. Stark is an outstanding citizen of his state. He is a successful business man and his family background is illuminated by the red glory of "Stark's Delicious," the apple that made Missouri famous the world over as a premier fruit state. He is a Democrat of standing and acumen, as his campaign this year has already shown. He has personality and character. He also has a war record and stands high in American Legion circles.

In fact, a cold and calm analysis of Major Stark as citizen, business man, soldier, and Democrat, results in a most favorable conclusion. In Stark the party will have a strong candidate in 1936, and the state will have a strong and outstanding executive for the next four years.

#### PLEASES OUT-STATE DEMOCRATS

(From Brookfield Budget-Gazette.)

Brookfield Democrats were jubilant when the news came over the radio that T. J. Pendergast, Democratic leader of Kansas City, had endorsed Major Lloyd C. Stark of Louisiana for Governor.

Since it became known in Linn County early this year that Major Stark would be a candidate many Democrats here have favored his candidacy.

The support of Pendergast will carry with it the following of Joseph B. Shannon and Casimir J. Welch, assuring Stark of the united Jackson County Democracy's support, which will mean more than 100,000 Democratic votes. This support, along with the St. Louis organization, which is functioning in harmony with the Kansas City organization, will give to Stark a lead at the beginning of at least 200,000 votes, which readily indicates why any candidate for state office should be complimented with the endorsement that Stark has won. However, it now appears that Stark will sweep rural Missouri as did U. S. Senator Harry S. Truman in the primary of 1934, and secure enough votes to nominate him without the votes he will receive in Kansas City. Stark is now the preferential candidate in almost every county in Missouri. His nomination is certain.

#### COMES OF WELL KNOWN FAMILY

(From Webster Groves News-Times.)

Much talk is being heard in regard to the candidacy of Major Lloyd C. Stark for the office of Governor of Missouri. Major Stark is said to be the candidate of T. J. Pendergast of Kansas City.

If this is a fact we wish to congratulate so-called Boss Pendergast in making a wise

selection as this time the public will have an opportunity of voting for a man who is not a member of a political ring and we do not think he has ever taken an active interest in politics.

Maj. Stark comes from a family well-known throughout the state as being one of the best in the state. Maj. Stark certainly can not be accused of being an office seeker or a man, who, if he is elected will be dictated to by any man or set of men.

#### ANOTHER LANDSLIDE VICTORY

(By the Kansas City Star's Missouri Correspondent.)

The possibility of William Hirth of Columbia or anybody else entering against Maj. Lloyd C. Stark for the Democratic nomination for governor holds no fears for Kansas City's Pendergast organization, which has chosen to support Stark. Bring them on is the attitude reflected in organization circles.

Pledges to line up behind Stark continued to be received by telephone and telegraph from various out-state leaders.

#### Solid Party Wall for Stark.

Not in the memory of veteran political leaders in Missouri has there been such a formidable and quickly built wall of support behind any candidate in preparation for a primary campaign. It formed almost overnight following the announcement Stark would have the backing of Kansas City's organization.

Virtually every organized element of the party of any proportions already has "joined up" for Stark. In other years the Pendergast organization has gone out almost single-handed and made the fight for its candidates.

But now, at the crest of its power, St. Louis and other highly organized groups, which in the past have opposed the Kansas City organization, have walked right up and enlisted with the Pendergast organization.

Certainly it is going to require a giant to shake that sort of a party line-up.

#### Party United for Stark.

The move by the Kansas City organization in declaring for Stark at this early date, ten months before the primary election, caused wide comment. The political strategy of it is answered in this way. The field was rocking with many ambitious to be governor. Some part-way alignments were being suggested, together with some feeling entering into the situation.

To clear the decks and send the word out early, much as an invitation to the party, the Kansas City organization spoke out its choice without further delay so the lines could form, and the line for Stark has since been rapidly forming and the nomination of Stark is now generally conceded.

It is not likely that he will have any opposition in the primary, assuring another landslide victory in Missouri for the entire Democratic ticket in November, 1936.

#### MAJOR STARK MEETS EDITORS (From Missouri Democrat.)

The Missouri Press Association is nonpartisan in politics, but Major Lloyd C. Stark, who will no doubt be the Democratic nominee for Governor, was a guest of the Association during its meeting last week in Kansas City. He mingled among them and was welcomed and congratulated by all the members irrespective of their political affiliation.

Most of the Democratic editors of the state were his early supporters for the Democratic nomination for Governor and they especially were pleased over his bright prospects for the nomination and heartily congratulated him.

Some of the independent newspapers of the state already indicate a preference for Stark for Governor and the liberal Republican editors may support him if their party does not nominate a mighty good man. Major Stark is popular with all the newspaper men of the state and it was this strong country newspaper support that gave Major Stark an early lead in the country for the Democratic nomination.