

him by a few hundred votes after 10 days of counting.

So Bone stayed home, and carried on the fight. He helped draw up the grange power bill, once again he opened up. He was ill but he made another fight of his life.

#### **Victory at Last**

This time it was the power trust which was flattened out. For in this fight, every grange, liberal, progressive and labor organization fought with him, shoulder to shoulder.

According to his friends he succeeded because he stayed hitched; according to his enemies, because they couldn't get anything on him. He never altered a fact to make a point, never made a promise he couldn't fulfill. Never left an opening for a knockout punch.

To understand Bone you have to understand that he's a natural rebel. He hates injustice, oppression, cant and hypocrisy. Hates it sincerely, wholeheartedly, spontaneously. And that hate has been the motivating force behind his long-fought campaigning for progressive causes.

#### **Political Poison**

When you find him at home he will take you into a study with a view of the Sound. The desk groans under a mass of papers, clips and books. The shelves burst with files. Congressional records, confidential financial reports, printed speeches and broadsides of economic opinions of all colors.

Bone pores over them patiently, energetically. The study is sort of his political poison factory. Too intellectually honest to make a mistake. Bone pours over his records, distilling from them that peculiar Bonesque dynamite he always has used in his campaigning.

As he works you will notice on his walls a few pictures, pictures of those forebears of his bearing the arms of his country, in past wars; you find there is an element of patriotism in Bone's rigorous study. You find he feels he is carrying on the battle left unwon on the battlefields. The battle for those without banners, without shoes for that matter.

#### **Romantic Figure**

There is something romantic about this small slender man with thoughtful eyes and a quick smile. He personally doesn't consider himself the leader of any liberal cause. In his own eyes he's modestly just another of the veterans, one who happens to be running for the senate.

Despite himself he's sort of a Robin Hood fighting a bitter, undaunted fight against feudal lords of money, those upstart aristocrats believing in service to self rather than service to humanity.



# **HOMER T. BONE**

**Candidate for**

## **U. S. SENATOR**

**Democratic Primaries**

### **THE VETERAN LIBERAL**

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Paid for by Mason County "Bone for Senate Club." Printed by The Shelton Independent, all Union Printers



# HOMER T. BONE

## The Modern Robin Hood

By HOWARD MacGOWAN,

In Spokane Press, Seattle Star, Tacoma Times

The veteran of Liberals—Homer T. Bone.

A slight man, slender and dynamic, he stands alone, apart on the political stage, the war-scarred colonel of the people's Black Watch—the old warrior found resourceful, true and dependable in a quarter century's relentless campaigning.

### He's Robin Hood

And, like an old warrior, Bone to thousands is sort of a mythological character. They first heard his name along with Jack the Giant Killer and Robin Hood as children, and always heard it associated with some fight against a knavish, corporate "sheriff of Nottingham."

The real Homer Bone is actually a sort of modern Robin Hood. Like the champion of the Saxon against the Norman, Bone comes upon the political stage with the very essence of American tradition behind him, and with the untainted love of liberty and hatred of oppression in his heart.

### Real Democrat

There was a great-grandfather Bone in the war of 1812. There was a grandfather Bone in the Mexican war. There was a father Bone in the civil war. You might say he comes by his democratic American tradition naturally, but you can't because in most cases Americanism has wilted to a mere mumble of words—the fire's gone out.

And there are a lot of other famous Bones. There is cousin Scott C. Bone, former governor of Alaska and editor of the Post-Intelligencer; cousin United States Senator LaFayette Young from Iowa; cousin Jesse Overstreet, congressman from Indiana.

### Father Was Vet

Bone was born back in Franklin, Indiana, January 25, 1883, son of James M. Bone, who fought from one end of the civil war to the other, and was left permanently shattered.

In 1899 with his father and mother he moved to Tacoma. He was 16. It was his job to support the family, his first fighting job. He did. He worked as credit man from 7 a. m. until 6 p. m. and in time he decided to study law. Every night for four years he read from 7 p. m. until he fell asleep over his books.

He was admitted to the bar in 1910 and thereupon opened the active career of Homer T. Bone, rebel and undaunted fighter.

He was deputy prosecutor in Pierce county in 1912, but his friends were always showing him some fight to be fought, and to see a fight was to be in it, so Homer found private practice the best all around.

In 1918 he was appointed general counsel for the port of Tacoma and has held that job ever since.

To list all the battles Bone has been in would be to write the progressive history of the state of Washington. He was engaged in minor campaigns and skirmishes for over 10 years before the major engagements over public ownership and the prying away of the vested interests from the resources of the state broke out.

### Wanted Increase

Better to fight the battle, Homer got elected to the state legislature in 1923. It was the most reactionary session in the state's history. During that session child labor was brought up for the first time, and defeated. Bone was thrown out of committee for championing an increase in compensation for widows and orphans of industrial accidents.

Bone made the speech of his career for the release of political prisoners, locked up during the war for protesting war profiteering, or expressing opinions, but not guilty of overt acts. Every seat was filled. Everyone cheered. When it was all over he was voted down, 81 to 16.

### Real Battle

The session was completely under the thumb of the power company lobbyists and party bosses. Ever so often one of the boys would be swept off his feet and vote for Bone, but he would always get up and change his vote when he got the signals. It was all a part of the great law-making football game.

Bone introduced his famous Bone free power bill. The bosses cracked the whip. The lobbyists almost fell out of the gallery signalling. It was defeated. They told Bone "they had flattened him."

And Bone, he crawled out from under the steam-roller, dusted his hands and started the famous Bone power bill fight of 1924. Eighty-thousand people signed the petition to make his bill a law. He climbed into his car and campaigned the state from one corner to the other. The power trust opened its treasure chest and poured out a million dollars. Washington became the battle ground of the nation's fight against the power trust.

### One More Fight

They defeated the bill. Again they told him he had been "flattened out." Once again Bone dusted off his hands. He ran for congress. On election day they shut off the power and halted