

V. C. L. BANQUET TONIGHT WILL OPEN NEW POLITIC LIFE

Organization, Outgrowth of Citizens Convention, Inaugurates Era Of Political Consciousness; Civic Leaders To Speak

TAKAYOSHI WILL SING

AUBURN, Wash.—The newly organized Valley Civic League, as an outgrowth of the Japanese-American Citizens convention held in Seattle recently, is to get under way with an inaugural banquet this evening at the local Chamber of Commerce from 6:30 p. m., when Sen. Lunn, 30th state senatorial district, and Mayor McKee of this city will participate in the inaugural ceremonies for this organization to stimulate a proper political interest among American voters of Japanese ancestry in this valley.

It is a significant fact that a political consciousness has been awakened among Americans of Japanese ancestry in this valley district, which is being taken as an augury of the day when these young people will take the place of their parents and become a contributing factor in the civic life of their respective communities and sections.

Consciousness Growing

This political consciousness seems to have been aroused since the Seattle convention and has been in the ascendancy with definite and practical turn in the formation of the Valley Civic League nearly three weeks ago at Thomas.

As its first president, the 16 charter members elected John Ari-ma, a University of Washington graduate, to assume the executive office, with George Yasumura as secretary and Fred Okimoto, of Kent, as treasurer.

The two vice-presidents were elected later and have been the first of the women to join the organization. They were Mary Maeda, first vice-president, Kent, and Fumi Yamana-ka, second vice-president, Christopher.

Interest Well Laid

The interest in this citizens' movement has been well laid by these officers and charter members, and the propitious moment taken to sponsor this league is indicated in the figures compiled for three of the main townships in the Valley. It is estimated that there are some 441 Americans of Japanese ancestry in the three towns of O'Brien, Orillia and Kent, of whom 235 are men and 206 women.

Of this number 61 and more are at or above high school age, while 209 and more are of grammar school age. If the Thomas section and this city, together with Algona and other towns, are taken into consideration, the number of American-born Japanese might be placed at more than 600, of which number more than 100 would be of voting age.

The start made by the Valley Civic League is being heralded in all nearby centers as a good one, painting an optimistic picture of second generation activity in the civic life of their respective communities.

Unity Sought

The inaugural banquet this evening is intended to bring the citizens of Japanese ancestry into closer unity in the stimulation of greater political interest that their participation in the political life of their district may be assured.

For this reason Sen. Lunn, who remains unopposed in his district for the state senate, is to be the principal speaker, and it is believed that in his address he will point out the necessity of living up to the rights held by American citizens. Mayor McKee is to open this banquet with an address of welcome, as he will also administer the oath of allegiance and pledge to the members of the League.

The affair is to be a big one and besides the members of the new league, representatives from the various sections are also expected to attend. Among the guests for the evening will be the officers of the Seattle Progressive Citizens League. Clarence T. Arai, president of the Seattle league, will be one of the speakers while Ashley E. Holden, of Seattle, will also be a speaker on the program.

Welly Shibata will be on hand with a surprise up his sleeve, while Tomeu Takayoshi will sing several songs.