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THE NEBRASKA DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

The platform adopted by the Nebraska democrats assembled in state convention at Omaha, March 5, 1908, is as follows:

We, the representatives of the democracy of Nebraska, in delegate convention assembled, reaffirm our faith in, and pledge our loyalty to, the principles of our party.

We rejoice at the increasing signs of an awakening in the United States. The various investigations have traced graft and political corruption to the representatives of predatory wealth and laid bare the unscrupulous methods by which they have debauched elections and preyed upon a defenseless public through the subservient officials whom they have raised to place and power.

The conscience of the nation is now aroused and will, if honestly appealed to, free the government from the grip of those who have made it a business asset of the favor-seeking corporations; it must become again "a government of the people, by the people and for the people;" and be administered in all its departments according to the Jeffersonian maxim, "equal rights to all and special privileges to none."

This is the overshadowing issue at this time; it manifests itself in all the questions now under discussion and demands immediate consideration.

We heartily approve of the laws prohibiting the pass and the rebate, and insist upon further legislation, state and national, making it unlawful for any corporation to contribute to campaign funds, and providing for publication, before the election, of all individual contributions above a reasonable minimum.

Believing, with Jefferson, in "the support of the state governments in all their rights as the most competent administrations for our domestic concerns and the surest bulwark against anti-republican tendencies;" and in "the preservation of the general government in its whole constitutional vigor, as the sheet anchor of our peace at home and safety abroad," we are opposed to the centralization implied in the suggestions, now frequently made, that the powers of the general government should be extended by judicial construction. While we favor the exercise by the general government of all its constitutional authority for the prevention of monopoly and for the regulation of interstate commerce, we insist that federal remedies shall be added to, and not substituted for, state remedies.

We insist upon the recognition of the distinction between the natural man and the artificial person, called a corporation, and we favor the enactment of such laws as may be necessary

Adopted by the State Convention Held at Omaha, March 5, 1908

to compel foreign corporations to submit their legal disputes to the courts of the states in which they do business, and thus place themselves upon the same footing as domestic corporations.

We favor the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people, and regard this reform as the gateway to all other national reforms.

A private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable. We, therefore, favor the vigorous enforcement of the criminal law against trusts and trust magnates, and demand the enactment of such additional legislation as may be necessary to make it impossible for a private monopoly to exist in the United States. Among the additional remedies we specify three: First, a law preventing the duplication of directors among competing corporations; second, a license system which will, without abridging the right of each state to create corporations, or its right to regulate as it will foreign corporations doing business within its limits, make it necessary for a manufacturing or trading corporation engaged in interstate commerce to take out a federal license before it shall be permitted to control as much as twenty-five per cent of the product in which it deals, the license to protect the public from watered stock and to prohibit the control by such corporation of more than fifty per cent of the total amount of any product consumed in the United States; and, third, a law compelling such licensed corporations to sell to all purchasers in all parts of the country on the same terms, after making due allowance for cost of transportation.

We welcome the belated promise of tariff reform, now offered by a part of the republican party, as a tardy recognition of the righteousness of the democratic position on this question, but the people can not safely entrust the execution of this important work to a party which is so obligated to the highly protected interests that it postpones relief until after the election. And we call attention to the significant fact that the promise now made by those republicans who favor tariff revision is wholly vitiated by the use of the very qualifying words under which the present tariff iniquities have grown up.

We favor an immediate revision of the tariff by the reduction of import duties. Articles entering into competition with articles controlled by trusts should be placed upon the free list; material reductions should be made in the tariff upon the necessities of life, and reductions should be made in such other schedules as may be necessary to restore the tariff to a revenue basis.

We favor an income tax as part of our revenue system, and we urge the submission of a constitutional amendment specifically authorizing congress to levy and collect a tax upon individual and corporate incomes, to the end that wealth may bear its proportionate share of the burdens of the federal government. We favor a national inheritance tax to reach the "swollen fortunes" already in existence, but we believe that it is better to permanently prevent "swollen fortunes" by abolishing the privileges and favoritism upon which they are based.

We assert the right of congress to exercise complete control over interstate commerce, and we assert the right of each state to exercise just as complete control over commerce within its

borders. We demand such an enlargement of the powers of national and state railway commissions as may be necessary to give full protection to persons and places from discrimination and extortion. We believe that both the nation and the various states, should, first, ascertain the present value of the railroads, measured by the cost of reproduction; second, prohibit the issue of any more watered stock or fictitious capitalization; third, prohibit the railroads from engaging in any business which brings them into competition with their shippers; and fourth, reduce transportation rates until they reach a point where they will yield only a reasonable return on the present value of the roads—such reasonable return being defined as a return sufficient to keep the stock of the roads at par when such roads are honestly capitalized.

The injury done by issues of watered stock is more clearly seen and better understood since the shrinkage in the market value of such stock has precipitated a widespread panic and brought enormous loss to the country.

The panic has also emphasized the necessity for legislation protecting the wealth producers from spoliation at the hands of the stock gamblers and the gamblers in farm products.

The present financial stringency furnishes additional proof that the republican leaders are either unwilling or incompetent to protect the interests of the general public. They have so linked us to Wall Street that the sins of the speculators are visited upon the entire country.

We favor the postal savings bank and, in addition thereto, insist upon the passage of laws, state and national, for the better regulation of banks and for the protection of bank deposits. The government demands security when it deposits public money in a bank, and we believe that the security of the individual depositor who intrusts his earnings to a bank should be as perfect as the government's security.

We oppose both the Aldrich bill and the Fowler bill, and believe that, insofar as the needs of commerce require an emergency currency, such currency should be issued and controlled by the federal government, and that it should be loaned upon adequate security and at a rate of interest which will compel its retirement when the emergency is passed.

We demand, further, that favoritism in the deposit of treasury funds shall be abolished and that surplus revenues shall be deposited at competitive rates upon sufficient security and fairly distributed throughout the country.

We favor the eight hour day.

We believe in the conciliation of capital and labor and favor every legitimate means for the adjustment of disputes between corporate employers and their employes, to the end that justice may be done to those who toil and that society may be relieved from the embarrassment occasioned by prolonged strikes and lockouts.

We favor such a modification of the law relating to injunctions as will, first, prevent the issuing of the writ in industrial disputes except after notice to defendants and full hearing; second, permit trial before a judge other than the one who issued the writ, and, third, allow a jury to be summoned in all cases where the alleged contempt is committed outside the presence of the court.

We favor an employer's liability law, applicable to both private and public employers.

We favor full protection, by both national and state governments within their respective spheres, of all foreigners residing in the United States under treaty, but we are opposed to the admission of Asiatic emigrants who can not be amalgamated with our population, or whose presence among us would raise a race issue and involve us in diplomatic controversies with oriental powers, and we demand a stricter enforcement of the immigration laws against any

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