

MINNESOTA DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

We declare our allegiance to the principles of democracy, as set forth in our national declaration of independence; as especially taught by that great exponent of democracy, Thomas Jefferson; and as reaffirmed in the latest national convention of the democratic party.

We further express our admiration for and grateful appreciation of the great ability, singular disinterestedness and untiring zeal in the service of humanity of that great leader of the democracy and most fearless and eloquent champion of the rights of man, William J. Bryan.

We congratulate the people of the United States that their latest democratic spirit and sense of fairness have been sufficiently aroused to compel the present administration to so far keep faith, however reluctantly, with the people of Cuba as to withdraw our troops from their island and allow them a measure of self-government, and we condemn the republican party for its failure to fully comply with the congressional resolutions passed before the declaration of war with Spain.

It is with deepest shame and regret that through the apostasy of the republican party, the people of the United States are, by our imperialistic policy in the Philippines, placed before the world in the false position of repudiating the most cherished fundamental principles of our government, and our brave citizen soldiers are forced to disgrace our flag and army in obedience to orders from their superiors.

We indorse and commend our democratic congressmen for the position taken by them on the Philippine question, and demand that our government declare its intentions and purpose in regard to the Filipino people and grant to them their independence.

The power of the modern trusts is an appalling evil and a monstrous menace. We would revoke the tariff benefits they enjoy; we would refuse the subsidy they seek; we would pass appropriate legislation for the control of their affairs and to secure publicity, and we would enforce the laws against them, sparing none.

The republican party openly advocate the policy of class legislation, conferring special privileges, benefits, subsidies, bounties, tariffs. Excessive riches and abject poverty that corrupt and debase character are results of the same social disease—special privilege. And we emphatically reaffirm our belief that the application of the democratic principles of equal rights to all and special privileges to none is the only remedy for existing inequalities and wrongs.

We deplore the existence of a spirit of lawlessness which finds expression even in murderous attacks upon the chief magistrate of the republic, and has brought about the death of a recent incumbent of that exalted office.

We favor the postal savings bank and the income tax; we oppose government by injunction.

We would correct the imbecile and unbusinesslike policy that throttles our trade with Canada and Cuba at the behest of special interests.

We take this opportunity to pay heartfelt tribute to that statesman and popular leader, the heroic standard-bearer of our cause during three hard fought campaigns, John Lind. His place in the history of the northwest and in the hearts of the people of all classes is secure and the impress of his character upon the political life of this state will endure for all time. His term as governor will be known in the history of our commonwealth as that in which every executive department—railroad and warehouse commission, public examiner, labor commission, insurance commission, dairy

and food commission, adjutant general, superintendent of public instruction, board of equalization and grain inspection—was brought to the highest standard of efficiency and in every respect represented the people.

It will be known as the administration which reduced the state tax levy while securing large increase of revenue from tax-dodging corporations; that cut down the freight bill of Minnesota farmers \$400,000 per annum by reducing railway rates on grain; that reduced both the state cost and trust price of binding twine; that raised the standard of Minnesota wheat through just and efficient inspection an average of one grade on this entire crop; that ordered a 25 per cent reduction in railroad rates on iron ore and for the first time in ten years exacted of corporate power in Minnesota the same obedience to public laws as is required of the humblest citizen.

We pledge a continuance of this enlightened policy, efficient administration and fidelity to the people when the candidates of the democratic party are again summoned to serve the state.

The state's law forbidding merger of competing railroads should be enforced, and that in every case; and the state's neglected power to regulate rates should be exercised as the prime remedy for discrimination and extortion.

The readjustment of our tax laws is an absolute necessity with which the present administration has proved its incompetency to deal.

We adopt the clear and intelligent program submitted by the democratic minority in the late session, the taxation of non-resident corporations equally with domestic, the adequate taxation of public service corporations and the taxation of incomes and we favor the amendment of the constitution to that end.

We favor the municipal ownership of public service corporations, the principle of direct legislation and home rule in local taxation.

We believe that the interests of labor can best be conserved by organization, and we demand for every man who labors an equal use of all natural opportunities to the end that no man shall take the proceeds of another's labor without full compensation therefor.

We are in favor of the observance of a general eight-hour work day, and that all printing done for and supplies purchased by the state of Minnesota shall bear the union label, and pledge our support to organized labor in its efforts for securing the same.

We would correct the errors in the law establishing the state board of control.

We recommend to the voters the adoption of the proposed law, whose submission to the people was secured by the persistent efforts of the Lind administration, for the increase of the railroad gross earning stocks.

We favor the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people, and the election to the senate only of men pledged to that reform.

We condemn the failure of the present state administration to enforce the law against the merger of the Iron Range railroads.

We condemn the surrender of the state railroad and warehouse commission to the United States steel trust in giving up the state's jurisdiction over railroads wholly within its borders and abandoning the just rates ordered by the preceding commission, to the prejudice of the state's interest in the school lands.

We condemn the failure of the board of control to conserve the efficiency of the state institutions, and we abhor the theory that the public schools, which are fundamental to the life of

the republic, are charitable institutions.

We condemn the administration for converting the state binding twine plant into an auxiliary of the cordage trust.

We condemn the Minnesota congressmen for their failure to promote legislation to strengthen the powers of the interstate commerce commission, and we regret that subserviency to privileged greed should compel our United States senators to vote for the iniquitous ship subsidy.

The Policy of Empire.

The policy of monopoly in note issue, underlies and supports every empire of Europe. It is the banking policy of the empire of Russia, of the empire of Germany, of the empire of Austria, and of the empire of Great Britain, attempted to be applied to free America. It is not the policy of the republic of France, which is the soundest financial government of Europe which has always made it the

foundation of its financial policy to accumulate as much as possible of real money, both gold and silver, as a base upon which to build the superstructure of her credit. There is no demand for it from the people, and to pass it now, between elections, when the people have had no opportunity to register their judgment and their verdict upon it at the ballot box, would be an act of political injustice which has no parallel in all our history upon financial questions, unless we except the act of the demonetization of silver itself.—Congressman Shallenberger of Nebraska, in the house of representatives, May 28, 1902.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Little Crusaders, by Isabel Scott Stone; published by The Abbey Press, 114 Fifth ave., New York.

The Days That Are No More, by Elizabeth Bryant Johnston; published by The Abbey Press, New York.

The Travels of a Drop of Water, and other stories, by Mrs. James Erwin Morris; published by the Abbey Press, New York.

NEBRASKA DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

We, the democrats of Nebraska in convention assembled, reaffirm our faith in the principles of the party as enunciated in the last national platform adopted at Kansas City, and we point to the vindication which that platform has received from the events of the last two years.

We call attention to the anti-trust plank in the republican national platform and point to the rapid growth of great trusts and monopolies since the election of 1900, and the utter failure of the republican party to suppress them, as an evidence of the insincerity of their professions or lack of ability to apply corrective remedies to this great public wrong.

The administration's failure to enforce the criminal law against these trusts proves the subserviency of the republican party to corporate power.

We charged the republican leaders with an intention to establish in the Philippines a permanent colonial system fashioned after the colonial systems of Europe, and that intention then denied is now fully apparent. We therefore cordially commend the substitute offered by the democrats of the house and senate to the administration measure on the Philippine question providing for the Philippines the same form of government now enjoyed by the Cubans.

We are opposed to the Fowler currency and banking bill pending in congress for the reasons it destroys independent banks and substitutes therefor the European branch bank system with the privilege given to such banks to issue currency based on assets and also because by making the silver dollar redeemable in gold it lessens the debt paying money of the country without reducing its indebtedness.

We pledge ourselves and the officials elected by our party to favor in every possible way the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people and we condemn the republican leaders of the senate for defeating for the fourth time this great reform so earnestly desired by the people.

We demand that railroads and all other public franchised corporations, whether state or municipal, shall be taxed in proportion to the value of their property, both tangible and intangible, and in determining that value the rules of the supreme court should be adopted, namely, the sum of their debts represented by bonds and floating indebtedness should be added to the market value of their stocks.

We are in favor of a law reducing freight rates 15 per cent on cattle, horses, mules, hogs and sheep, and

15 per cent on hard and soft coal, lumber, lath, shingles, doors, salt, lime, cement, wheat, flour, coal, corn, oats, grain and mill products.

Railroads and other public franchised corporations owe to the public the duty of treating all their patrons alike. We therefore condemn the giving of rebates and all other forms of favoritism and demand that the laws against discriminations by them be strictly enforced.

We pledge ourselves if entrusted with power to pass a statute abolishing the fellow-servant law so far as it affects railroads and other corporations engaged in hazardous pursuits and making these corporations liable to their employes for any injury received by them through the negligence of their fellow servants.

Our revenue law should be amended and the necessary steps should be taken to pay the floating debt of the state, amounting to about \$2,000,000, a product of republican misrule.

We favor an amendment to the constitution permitting the investment of the permanent school fund in municipal and school district bonds of this state, and we favor the passage of a law providing that all earnings of the public funds, whether through deposits in banks or otherwise shall be covered into the state treasury.

The state treasurer and all county treasurers shall be required by law to make monthly statements showing where the public funds entrusted to their care are kept and the rate of interest paid thereon.

We approve that provision of the Weyer insurance bill providing for a tax on the gross premiums received in Nebraska from foreign insurance companies.

The executive power to pardon should never be used except for the gravest reasons and we condemn governors Dietrich and Savage for their abuse of that power.

We are in favor of liberal appropriations for the support of the state university. We condemn the sham economy which led Governor Dietrich to veto the appropriation for the state university while he was an active participant in the senatorial struggle which wasted the legislature's time at a cost to the people of over \$70,000.

We invite all citizens without reference to their political affiliations, who agree with us in the foregoing declaration of principles, to support the nominees of this convention, and we pledge the people of Nebraska that if entrusted with power our candidates will, without fear or favor, put these principles into force, both in letter and in spirit.