

propriations; and we promise if entrusted with power by the people of Nebraska such relief from tax burdens as may be possible by economy in state government and equalization of assessments.

"We denounce the majority members of the present state board of equalization as brazen railroad tools, and we are amazed at their effrontery in seeking re-nomination and election.

"We particularly condemn the present secretary of state, Galusha, for his outrageous delay in publishing the railroad commission amendment to the constitution, which delay can only be explained as due to the most disgraceful incompetence or as part of a plot to invalidate the amendment.

"We are unalterably opposed to the professional lobbyist. Every person and every corporation has a right to be heard upon all matters affecting their interests, but outside of that the professional lobbyist has no more right to tamper with the legislature than a litigant has to tamper with a jury that is considering his case. We therefore declare in favor of legislation eliminating the professional lobbyist from our politics.

"We deplore the fact that the republican party of the First district has been willing to renominate by acclamation as a representative in congress from this state a man caught in the act of salary grabbing at a time when the people are earnestly seeking to rid the country of official grafting.

"We favor the election of senators by the direct vote of the people, as soon as the constitutional amendment for that purpose can be secured; and in the present campaign we pledge the democrats elected to the legislature to support for United States senator a democratic candidate who may be nominated for that office by this convention.

"We demand that the attorney general of Nebraska shall make an attempt to reinstate the maximum freight rate law, temporarily suspended by the supreme court of the United States during a period of railroad depression, but now subject to enforcement, and we demand that the attorney general shall enforce the criminal law against the members of the grain and other trusts.

"Believing that the vital interests of the people of Nebraska are at this time involved chiefly in the triumph of the reform movement to rid the state government of corporate control in its legislative and administrative branches, we deplore the fact that in the preliminary republican campaign state interests have been largely lost sight of or skillfully smothered by the manipulations of senatorial aspirants and plotting railroads, who have subordinated the state issues and the state campaign to the per-

sonal contest of senatorial aspirants. By these means it has been possible for corporations largely to secure a controlling voice in the selection of legislative candidates and state nominations, thus holding for themselves the substance of political power in Nebraska, while the attention of republican leaders and voters is fixed upon the glittering senatorial prize.

"We favor the abolition of the common law fellow servant rule as applied to the operation of railroads in our state. We believe where any employe of a railroad is injured or killed in the line of duty through the negligence without contributory negligence on his part that damages should be awarded to the person injured or to the next of kin of the person killed as now provided by law in other cases.

"We favor the enactment of a law whereby persons and companies desiring to do a shipping business in lumber, live stock, fuel and grain, and who shall give bonds to erect a public elevator of not less than two thousand dollars value may apply to any railroad company for a site on its right of way for an elevator, and in case of a refusal shall have the same right to have condemned a site for such railroad company as railroad companies have under existing laws to condemn real estate for right of way purposes.

"We demand local self government for the cities of this state in all police regulations for the government of the same. We believe the voters of the city are best qualified to determine their administrative policies on such matters. We therefore demand that Omaha and South Omaha have the right to govern themselves like other cities and towns of the state without the interposition of a board of fire and police commissioners appointed by the governor. They should be elected by the people.

"We arraign the republican administration in Nebraska for the cruelties inflicted by its official representatives upon the inmates of the Norfolk asylum for the insane, and for the failure of those in authority to take prompt and effective measures for the removal of these helpless wards of the state from the custody of brutal keepers and attendants. We invite attention to the rumors concerning instances of alleged brutality and neglect at other asylums and we submit to the people of Nebraska that a change in state administration is essential to thorough investigation of the charges made against asylum managers and the adoption of practical measures for permanent reform. To this end limited tenure of office for superintendents and employes is important, native kindness being of more consequence than long experience on the part of those intrusted with the care of the insane. We therefore pledge democratic officials having to deal with asylum management to such change in the personnel of the asylum staff as will insure for the helpless inmates that kind consideration and care which may reasonably be expected from men whose sympathies have not become calloused by remaining long in contact with the conditions peculiar to asylums for the insane.

"We invite the co-operation of all persons who approve the declaration of principles to unite with us in support of the ticket nominated by this convention."

The populist state convention met at Lincoln on the same date. General P. H. Barry presided at the populist convention, while Judge C. M. Skiles presided at the democratic convention. The populist state convention adopted the following platform:

"We, the people's independent party in state convention assembled declare allegiance to the fundamental principles of the party as enunciated in past national platforms relating to

lands, transportation and money. Lands for the citizens, government ownership of railroads and means of inter-communication of the people and the issue of money by the general government only.

"We denounce the present revenue law and demand such a revision as will restore to the people the right of self government, and that all property in the state be listed at its actual cash value, and that all railroads be assessed upon the actual value of their stocks and bonds.

We favor a law compelling the taxing of all persons and corporations upon all property they own, after deducting all lawful debts.

"We favor a law forbidding, under severe penalty, the granting of free passes by the railroads, to any persons except bona fide employes of railroads.

"We favor the enactment of a law reducing passenger rates to two cents per mile.

"We favor the adoption of the initiative and referendum and the right of recall.

"We favor the passage of a law providing for the condign punishment of lobbyists.

"We favor the enactment of a primary law for the nomination of all public officers.

"We are in favor of the adoption of the constitutional amendment providing for the election of three railroad commissioners and the enactment of such legislation as will clothe the commission with full power to fix rates and specifically to control the railroads with respect to transportation facilities, charges and discriminations.

"We are in favor of the government ownership of all public utilities, and we demand that the railroads of this state shall grant sites, side tracks and other shipping facilities to grain shippers alike, whether operated by a line house, an individual or a farmers' shipping association.

"We condemn the action of Nebraska's attorney general, Norris Brown, for laying down in the fight against the grain trust after having promised the farmers of Nebraska that with the evidence at his hand he would prosecute criminally and take away the charters of every member of the grain trust in Nebraska."

BLIND FROM CIGARETTES

A pallid little messenger boy staggered into Perry's drug store on Saturday and began groping along the cigar counter. Several clerks on the lookout for signals of distress from all sorts of human craft that drift into the store ran to the boy and he was conducted back to the prescription department. His eyes had a glazed appearance and he declared that he could not see. He was very much frightened and thought he had been stricken blind.

He held firmly to several packages that he said he had been told to deliver that afternoon, and refused to give them up to one of the clerks until he was assured that they would be stowed away in a safe place. The boy said that he had smoked many cigarettes recently and he feared that smoking might have had something to do with his trouble. An ambulance from St. Gregory's was called and the surgeon carried the boy out of the store in his arms and rushed him to the hospital. The boy's trouble was diagnosed as intestinal inactivity and cigarette smoking and he was soon relieved. The boy's father came after him in the afternoon and took him home. Incidentally he got the packages from the drug store and they were delivered. Before night the boy was able to sit up and read that fascinating story, "Mercurial Mike, or He Never Dozed on Duty." He announced that he was going to cut out cigarettes.—New York Sun.

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