

# Nebraska Democratic Platform

The platform adopted by the Nebraska democratic convention September 24, 1907, follows:

We rejoice at the increasing signs of a moral 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 awakened and must not sleep until the government is freed 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."

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 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 compelling corporations engaged in interstate commerce to sell to all purchasers in all parts of the country on the same terms, after making due allowance for cost of carriage; second—a law preventing the duplication of directors among competing corporations; and third—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 50 per cent of the total amount of any product consumed in the United States.

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 law as may be necessary 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 an immediate revision of the tariff by the reduction of import duty. 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 a 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. To supplement the reductions made by the various states in passenger rates, we favor an act of congress, requiring the railroads to sell interstate tickets at a rate not exceeding the sum of the local rates.

We favor the establishment of state and national boards of arbitration which shall have authority to investigate either upon their own initiative or at the request of either party, any industrial dispute between corporate employers and their employes, the findings of such boards not to be binding upon either party but to serve as a guide to public opinion and as a means of conciliation between labor and capital.

We favor the eight hour day.

We are opposed to "government by injunction," the system under which the writ of injunction is used to deny to laboring men the protection of trial by jury.

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.

We welcome Oklahoma to the sisterhood of states and heartily congratulate her upon the auspicious beginning of a great career.

We favor separate statehood for Arizona and New Mexico and demand for the people of Porto Rico the full enjoyment of the rights and privileges of a territorial form of government.

We sympathize with the efforts put forth for the reclamation of the arid lands of the west, and urge the largest possible use of irrigation in the development of the country.

We favor the speedy completion of the Panama canal.

We favor a generous pension policy, both as a matter of justice to the surviving veterans and their dependents and because it relieves the country of the necessity of maintaining a large standing army.

We condemn the experiment in imperialism as an inexcusable blunder which has involved us in an enormous expense, brought us weakness instead of strength, and laid our nation open to the charge of abandoning the fundamental doctrine of self-government. We favor an immediate declaration of the nation's purpose to recognize the independence of the Philippine islands as soon as a stable government can be established, such independence to be guaranteed by us, as we guarantee the independence of Cuba, until the neutralization of the islands can be secured by treaty with other powers. In recognizing the independence of the Philippines our government should retain such land as may be necessary for coaling stations and naval bases. Desiring the prevention of war, wherever

possible, we believe that our nation should announce its determination not to use our navy for the collection of private debts, and its willingness to enter into agreements with other nations, providing for the investigation, by an impartial international tribunal, before any declaration of war or commencement of hostilities, of every dispute which defies diplomatic settlement.

### A SUGGESTION TO COMMONER READERS

Dr. John M. Fulton, of Audubon, Ia., writes: "We should all join in an effort to increase the subscription of The Commoner for the coming campaign. Each should be willing to sacrifice a little for the great cause which The Commoner is waging. No one is so poor but what he could spend a little time and money. I take three copies, and although I have no money to waste, I think I can spend a few dollars to help to get The Commoner to those who have never had a chance to read it. If each of us who believe in the work The Commoner is doing would send one copy to some doubtful republican it would make a great reduction in some of these republican strongholds and wipe them out in some of the places."

"I have placed a copy of The Commoner in the library here and the librarian tells me it is read as much as any periodical or magazine in the library. We surely ought to be willing to work if we expect to reap the harvest, and it is sure to come if each democrat will do a little work."

### Special Offer

Charles Donohue, New Richmond, Wis.—I send you herewith list of forty names who have subscribed for The Commoner at clubbing rates. I wish I could make this 100, and will try to reach that mark later on. If The Commoner can be circulated among the people there would be no question as to what party will win in the next election, and if the sentiment hereabout is any indication of public sentiment there is no doubt of it any way. I have several very prominent republicans on this list who are getting tired of being robbed by captains of industry protected by a prohibitory tariff. Success to The Commoner.

Everyone who approves the work The Commoner is doing is invited to co-operate along the lines of the special subscription offer. According to the terms of this offer cards each good for one year's subscription to The Commoner will be furnished in lots of five at the rate of \$3 per lot. This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents.

Any one ordering these cards may sell them for \$1 each, thus earning a commission of \$2 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the educational campaign.

These cards may be paid for when ordered, or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold. A coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who desire to participate in this effort to increase The Commoner's circulation:

The Commoner's Special Offer		
Application for Subscription Cards		
5	Publisher COMMONER: I am interested in increasing THE COMMONER'S circulation, and desire you to send me a supply of subscription cards. I agree to use my utmost endeavor to sell the cards, and will remit for them at the rate of 60 cents each, when sold.	
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Indicate the number of cards wanted by marking X opposite one of the numbers printed on end of this blank.		
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