## Nebraska Democrats Meet at Grand Island

The Nebraska democratic convention met at Grand Island July 26. It was one of the largest conventions ever held in the state. Mr. Bryan led the fight for a county option plank and was defeated by a vote of 198 yeas to 647 nays. Speeches were delivered by W. D. Oldham of Kearney, H. P. Fleharty of Omaha, Senator Frank P. Ransom of Omaha, and M. F. Harrington of O'Neil, in which these gentlemen bitterly attacked Mr. Bryan for his advocacy of county option. The convention adopted the following platform:

The democrats of Nebraska in convention assembled present to the voters of the state the

following declaration of principles:

We declare again our devotion to the principles of self-government, of the protection of human rights as proclaimed by Thomas Jefferson at the birth of democracy in America.

We endorse the last democratic national platform and the Nebraska democratic state plat-

forms of 1908 and 1909.

We congratulate the party upon widespread revival of democracy sentiment which gives

promise of democratic victory.

We see in the passage of the present tariff bill an example of the subserviency of the republican administration to the privileged interests of the country.

We congratulate the country that democratic opposition has thus far succeeded in defeating

the iniquitous ship subsidy.

We recognize in the many excessive rates on such favored products as steel, woolen goods, rubber, lumber and others, the return which the republican politicians are making to the plundering trusts for campaign contributions two years ago.

We condemn the president for surrendering to Aldrich and Cannon the control of tariff revision and for using his patronage to force unwilling congressmen of the republican party to

accept their dictation.

We deplore the president's folly and weakness in surrounding himself with a cabinet of trust

advisers.

We favor the conservation of the natural resources of the country and condemn the policy under which favored capitalists and political syndicates secure control of water power, coal mines and other sources of the nation's wealth in the states and Alaska unrestrained and apparently favored by the present national administration.

We condemn the president for retaining in his cabinet the close friend and former attorney for the powerful and unscrupulous syndicate

caught in the very act of plunder.

We join democrats everywhere in pledging the party to the cause of tariff reform, economy and simplicity in government, trust prosecution and the ratification of the income tax amendment.

We have confidence that upon the national issues and in an attack on national evils, we shall receive the co-operation and support of independent voters and win a sweeping victory in Nebraska.

We heartily approve of the daylight saloon law and we commend the courageous action of Governor Shallenberger in approving it.

We approve and indorse the administration of Ashton C. Shallenberger. His acts have been honest, wise and patriotic. We invite a careful scrutiny of the executive power which two years ago was committed to our trust in his selection as governor. His administration has been one of fidelity and devotion to the party pledges upon which we invited the suffrages of the people.

We are opposed to making county option or any other plan for the regulation of the liquor traffic a question of party creed. We stand for and insist upon a strict enforcement of our present laws, and believe that any further changes in our liquor legislation ought to be decided by a direct vote of the people, and that the cause of good government and public morals will be better served in that way than by dividing the people into hostile factions on purely moral issues.

We are in favor of the following amendments o our constitution:

First—Providing for biennial elections.

Second—Providing for the election of judges of the supreme court by districts on a non-parti-

Third—Providing for a non-partisan board of control of our state institutions.

san ballot.

Fourth-Providing for the initiative and referendum.

Fifth—Giving to metropolitan cities and cities of the first-class the right to make their own

We pledge ourselves to a redistricting of the state by the legislature to be elected this year to the end that all counties and sections of the state may have fair and equitable representation. We favor such laws as will take our courts and schools out of partisan politics.

We favor the advancement of agriculture and pledge the legislature if successful to favor the establishment of an agricultural school in south-

western Nebraska.

We believe that the prosperity of any country is in direct ratio to its facilities for communication and transportation. We therefore favor the enactment of a more effective system of road laws that will provide for state and county aid in the construction of permanent wagon roads.

The rapid increase in the use of the automobile as a means of travel necessitates such legislation as will protect the public against accidents resulting from reckless, immature and in-

efficient drivers.

We pledge our local committees and state committee and our candidates not to accept contributions from any railroad or other corporation, trust, brewery, distillery or saloon, anti-saloon organization or from any person or association of pecuniary or prejudicial interest in securing or defeating legislation.

This plank was later adopted, it being the majority report of the three bearing on county option submitted by the committee on reso-

lutions:

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## MR. BRYAN AT GRAND ISLAND

(From the Hastings, Neb., Republican)

The editor of this paper attended the democratic state convention at Grand Island and we feel we do not exaggerate the least in declaring that for dramatic situations and incidents, display of oratory, invective and withering sarcasm by those skilled in rhetoric and logic it was a struggle such as was never witnessed before in Nebraska and in many particulars was the most intensely interesting and exciting political battle ever waged on a convention floor in this or any state in the union. It was a Titanic struggle pitted against one man-W. J. Bryan-and when all was said and done and the smoke of battle had lifted from the scene, there seemed but one inevitable conclusion, and that was that it was a turning down of a great leader that to his friends could not have been considered otherwise than painfully humiliating. Never did the genius of Bryan as an orator shine with greater lustre. Indeed, there were those present at Chicago who heard the great speech which swayed a convention, electrified the people of the entire nation and won for him his first nomination for the presidency. These friends think his speech of more than three hours duration at Grand Island last night surpassed this Chicago effort. Such was his earnestness, directness and mastery of his subject and the situation from his viewpoint, that even those in the majority pitted and committed against him were seemingly as eager and willing listeners as his friends.

It was a mighty struggle waged with a tensity and subdued emotions of feelings, such as is seldom witnessed on a convention floor.

If any there present had the least doubt Mr. Bryan ever lacked in courage, even when surrounded by opponents, that thought was quickly dispelled. A Roman gladiator never went forth with sword unsheathed to do battle with greater courage than did Mr. Bryan face his opponents on this occasion.

He never spoke more earnestly and vigorously and, too, when he must have apparently felt and known that no matter how eloquently he pleaded his cause, he was doomed to defeat.

The thousands of people packed in and about a large circus tent made up a mighty crowd

that listened to him with keenness and admiration that to see was not to be forgotten. Some of Nebraska's greatest democratic leaders of eminence, prominence and acknowledged eloquence who arraigned themselves against Bryan gave rare exhibitions of courage and displays of forensic ability long to be remembered.

No man ever made a braver fight than did Mr. Bryan at this great convention. The hosts were too overwhelmingly and unflinchingly marshaled against him; after all he said and did before the platform committee and on the convention floor he failed to sway a majority over to his side. When the final roll was called a vast majority registered against him—administered to him the most stinging defeat of his political career—and this, too, by representatives of his own party in his own state.

After the sting of defeat he was found showing the same confidence, self-poise and earnestness of purpose as on those former occasions when he lost in his great contests for the

presidency.

The Grand Island convention is history.

The verdict of the rank and file at the primaries in August and then at the polls in November will be a final test that will be looked forward to with uncommon interest.

## NEBRASKA POPULISTS

The people's independent party of Nebraska met at Grand Island July 26 and adopted the following platform:

We, the duly accredited delegates of the peoples' independent party in the state convention assembled at Grand Island, Neb., on this 26th day of July, 1910, hereby renew our faith in and adherence to the principles set forth in the peoples' independent party platform adopted at Omaha, Neb., eighteen years ago, the fourth day of July last. We rejoice that our persistent advocacy of these principles has led both the democratic and republican party to incorporate a number of them into their respective platforms, and we hereby pledge our unswerving support and advocacy of our faith until all governments, state and national, shall be administered with a sole view of securing equal and exact justice to all the people. We therefore demand the enactment of the following principles into law:

First—Initiative: We indorse the method of direct legislation by the people; known as the initiative and referendum and recall, made applicable to state, county, city and village, township and school district, and we favor the submission of an amendment to our state constitution to that end.

Second—Board of Control: We are in favor of a non-partisan board of control for all of our state institutions, and we believe that all appointments should be based on a civil service examination so that the wards of the state can

have the best possible care.

Third—We favor an adequate appropriation for the proper equipment of the bureau of labor and industrial statistics to the end that it may be able to perform its functions as a means of arbitration, mediation and conciliation and also to the end that it may be in proper shape to advertise to the whole world the manifold resources and unlimited possibilities of the great state of Nebraska.

Fourth—County Option: We favor county option. We demand the enactment of such a law as the best method of controlling the liquor business and destroying the brewers' power in politics of this state.

Fifth—Liquor Legislation: We approve the enactment of the daylight saloon law, the veto of the Fort Crook saloon license law and the invocation of the Sackett law against the recreant chief of police of the city of Omaha.

Sixth—We commend the great commoner, W. J. Bryan, for his fight against the brewers and for the homes of Nebraska.

The following resolution was adopted:
"We pledge the peoples' party to vote for
those candidates only who openly pledge themselves for county option."