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WILLIAM J. BRYAN
Editor and Proprietor
RICHARD L. METCALFE
Associate Editor

CHARLES W. BRYAN
Publisher
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NEBRASKA REPUBLICANS

The Nebraska republican convention met at Lincoln, Neb., July 26. They adopted a platform eulogizing the Taft administration, declaring in favor of direct legislation and on the temperance question adopted the following plank:

"For the further regulation of the liquor traffic in Nebraska, we are in favor of the passage of a county option law by the next legislature, and pledge our candidate for governor if elected to approve such a law on that subject as the legislature may enact."

OHIO REPUBLICANS

The Ohio republicans met at Columbus July 27 and nominated Warren C. Hardine of Marion as the republican candidate for governor. He is the editor of a Marion newspaper and has been lieutenant governor of the state. It was early seen that the Taft forces were in control and so James R. Garfield, Roosevelt's friend, announced that his name would not be presented to the convention. The Taft forces completely dominated the convention, nominating the candidates and framing the platform. The Taft administration was given a strong endorsement and the platform declared among other things that "the tariff has been revised in accordance with the republican doctrine of protecting home industries and American labor."

IOWA DEMOCRATS

The Iowa democrats met at Ottumwa July 27. They adopted a platform denouncing republican tariff revision, declaring trusts and monopolies to be intolerable, opposing the central bank idea, indorsing income tax, initiative and referendum and the recall, together with the Oregon plan of electing United States senators. A vigorous fight came up on the resolution relating to the liquor question. The convention defeated the temperance plank and adopted a resolution providing that such townships and municipalities as are willing to pay a high license for the sake of selling liquor may do so. The liquor plank follows:

"The democratic party is in favor of as large a degree of individual liberty as is compatible with the rights of organized society and, therefore, with reference to the use and sale of intoxicating liquor we are in favor of a strong optional law, with a high license, the minimum to be fixed by the legislature under which the municipality should declare by vote of the people

thereof whether or not intoxicants shall be sold therein."

An Associated Press report of the convention says: "Former Congressman Martin J. Wade, chairman of the resolutions committee, defended the plank against a vigorous assault on the part of General James B. Weaver. 'I am tired of belonging to a party which is known as the liquor party,' declared Mr. Wade. 'Where a majority of a community desire liquor they should have it, and vice versa. That is personal liberty, gentlemen, and it is democracy.'

"General Weaver grew vehement in reply. 'I don't know what will do more to make the democratic party the liquor party than this plank,' he said.

"The platform as reported was then adopted with a shout and General Weaver demanded a roll call on the liquor plank so that, as he said, the people of the state would know exactly where the party stands. He made a motion to strike out the vital parts of the plank, but was overwhelmingly defeated on roll call.

"A Van Wagenen, of Sioux City, was nominated for judge for the term beginning 1911 over Frank Wilson of Adams county, and N. C. Mathews, of Dubuque. On the first ballot he received 451, against Wilson's 329 and Mathews' 175. Judge P. B. Wolfe, of Clinton, was nominated for the term beginning in 1912.

Jerry B. Sullivan of Des Moines, in his capacity as temporary chairman, delivered the keynote speech. H. J. Strenger of Toledo, presided over the permanent organization. A ringing speech was delivered by Claude R. Porter, the democratic candidate for governor."

MINNESOTA DEMOCRATS

The Minnesota democrats met at Minneapolis July 28 and nominated the following ticket:

Governor—John Lind, of Minneapolis.
Secretary of State—Fred W. Johnson, of New Ulm.

Clerk of Supreme Court—Fred E. Wheaton of Minneapolis.

Attorney General—J. M. Freeman of Olivia.
State Treasurer—Charles F. Lander of St. Cloud.

Railroad and Warehouse Commissioner—James C. Tracy, of Rochester.

State Auditor—T. J. Meaghan of Albert Lea.
Justices of Supreme Court—T. J. O'Brien, of St. Paul. A. W. Snow, of Winona, Philip E. Brown, of Laverne, Calvin L. Brown, of Norris.

The convention was a stormy one, the big fight being over county option. The opponents of county option controlled the resolutions committee, and there were many scenes of disorder. A resolution favoring county option was offered from the floor by Professor Anderson of the University of Minnesota. It was ordered referred to the committee without reading. The committee reported that it had decided to lay the county option proposition on the table.

Later John Lind declined the nomination for governor.

NEW PARTY IN PENNSYLVANIA

A new party was born in Pennsylvania July 28. The following is the Associated Press report:

"William H. Berry of Delaware county, for governor; N. Clarence Gibboney of Philadelphia for lieutenant governor; Cornelius D. Scully of Allegheny county for treasurer and John Casey of Luzerne county for secretary of internal affairs, is the ticket nominated by the keystone party, formed here today to oppose the nominees of both the republican and democratic parties. The convention, composed of 117 delegates from fifty-two counties in this state, denounced both the old parties as being under the domination of the liquor interests.

"The nominee for governor was formerly state treasurer, to which office he was elected by the combined democratic, prohibition and independent votes in 1905. While in office he uncovered the capital scandal. In the recent democratic state convention he was defeated for the nomination of governor, but received 109 votes. Many democratic delegates subsequently bolted their party and took part in today's convention. The name of Keystone was adopted by the convention as the party name. The preamble to the platform adopted by the independents begins with the following language:

"Pennsylvanians are face to face with the necessity for a desperate battle for the preservation of representative free government. A political trust managed by cunning politicians threatens the commonwealth. Some of the conspirators are labeled republicans and some democrats, but they are all in league against the people and act in harmony with one treasonable

purpose and under the order of one head. Their power is based upon the illegal and unwarranted use of public property and office; upon force, fraud and election crimes. Police-protected dens of vice are made to furnish enough illegal votes to overwhelm respectable citizenship. Both of the tickets nominated and both of the platforms adopted, it is well understood, were dictated by the same authority and were intended for the delusion of the voters and the further confiscation of the power of the political machine."

If the People Rule Why Don't They Get What They Want?

In his great speech, delivered in the United States senate, Senator Owen of Oklahoma asked, "If the people really rule why don't the people get what they want?"

The Commoner has received many replies to this question and some of these are hereinafter printed:

Edwin L. Moore, Lamar, Mo.—The people do not rule, because too many public servants betray their trusts; because the federal judiciary is saturated with czarism and anarchy; because the people themselves are blindly partisan; because they place men above principle and because too often they are indifferent and permit the bosses and perpetual politicians to run their primaries, conventions and party organizations.

L. Ferguson, Chetopa, Kan.—I have just looked over The Commoner's answers as to why the people don't get what they want. I contend they do not get laws passed to enable them to keep what, at least part of what, they already possess. Well the people own gas and oil, raise corn and wheat and own it. Why not vote bonds to erect mills in each township, bore for their own gas and oil and save millions upon millions every year and kill combines and trusts without blaming others for their own neglect and nip them in the bud; but they let go what they have. One court fined Rockefeller \$29,000,000, another court releases the fine. Still they howl combines and trusts. I can give one hundred reasons why I so contend; will anyone please give any reason that I am not right?

Fred W. Davis, Muskogee, Okla.—My answer to Senator Owen's question is "institutional slavery," idolatry. The worship of idols. Men worship political parties and through this false worship become blinded to the true principles of government. The same as worshippers of idols are blind to the true God. The remedy, direct legislation, an election law providing for a general primary, no official recognition of parties or party names in either primaries or elections.

A. F. Culver, Hoyt, Kan.—The inquiry is very much to the point, and it would seem that the reason is party politics, an honest and patriotic democrat's vote cancels an equally honest and patriotic republican's vote, thus eliminating six or seven million ballots on each side on election day, then in the state legislatures and in congress the same system of conciliation goes on and the interests whose only party is their own private gain seem to find a way of controlling the few real representatives of their own selfish schemes, which are left. Isn't that right?

William Mathews, Spokane, Wash.—Our present government is not truly representative, but one in which we delegate our power for a time to a set of officials. This delegated power has usually been abused by the recipients and the people are helpless for the time being to prevent its abuse. What we must do, is not only to retain the power to choose our representatives; but have continually the power of the recall to guarantee faithful service. The people must also have the power to suggest or initiate law, and to compel their legislatures to be obedient servants and enact their suggestions into law. The people must further have the power to veto any vicious laws in favor of the interests, through what is known as the referendum. The initiative, referendum and the recall, comprising what is commonly known as direct legislation, will give us a truly representative government based upon the consent of the governed. Direct legislation will arouse a greater and more intelligent interest in public questions, and thus prove to be a great factor in removing the menace of indifference on the part of the masses, which