

## Progress in Kansas

municipality can repeal it for itself until expressly authorized to do so by the entire state, and this would not be done by the adoption of No. 10. The state might adopt a state-wide prohibition law, allowing no exemptions and no county or municipality could then exempt itself, though its vote were unanimous.

The amendment plainly means that the people of the state reserve the right to legislate directly on state matters and that the counties and municipalities are to be allowed to regulate matters of local concern, subject always to the constitution and laws of the state. If the amendment is full of the monstrosities imagined by its opponents, they owe it to the people to ferret out its authors and reveal their motives.

How about the principle of the initiative and referendum? Some of the opponents of the amendment appear to be hiding out on this. Judge Rose indicates his opposition. Let others show where they stand. If they really favor the principle, let them draw up such a form as they are willing to support. Then we shall be better able to divine the motive back of all this opposition.

DAVID Y. THOMAS.

Fayetteville, Ark., August 27, 1910.

### SAME OLD FIGHT

George Judson King, field lecturer of the International Referendum League, prints in the Arkansas newspapers the following reference to "The Joker in the Bill."

"Are you a friend of the initiative and referendum and taking seriously this talk that amendment No. 10 contains a 'dangerous joke?'"

"Do you know that just this kind of talk is heard in every state where the question is under consideration? Is not the same sort of a yelp emitted every time the people are about to take a forward step of any kind, in any age? Very truly, yes.

"If you knew the fight has been made by the corporations in other states you would understand exactly just what this attack amounts to. Let me tell you just a little about it.

"Says Dr. William P. Hill, president of the Referendum League of Missouri, in a very recent letter: 'Corrupt interests are opposed to the referendum and prevent its submission when they can, and when they see opposition is useless, they take the plan of submitting as bad an amendment as possible.'

"It cost the Missouri League twelve years of hard work and thousands of dollars to get a good amendment submitted and they would have given up but for the final strong support of Ex-Governor Folk.

"In Ohio the fight has been carried on for eight years, and has cost some \$15,000 from hundreds of contributors and there has been no amendment submitted yet. In Ohio the people are demanding action and the corporation lobbyists are howling about the 'dangerous provisions of the proposed amendment.'

"In Massachusetts an amendment passed the lower house and was amended by the politicians so that it took twenty per cent of the voters to sign a petition for a referendum. Even that was killed later.

"In Montana they fixed it so that they have to distribute the petitions over the state, which makes it more difficult for the people.

"In all cases they demand a majority of all votes cast in the election necessary to pass a law. By this trick all the ignorant, uncast votes are counted against the people's measures every time they bring one to a vote. Enough.

"Do you know that amendment No. 10 contains none of these fatal restrictions, but is a good amendment. And that is why all the corporations are fighting it. They want to scare you into rejecting this good amendment, and then prevent the submission of another for years to come, or else fix up one for you to vote on which will not be workable, and worse than none at all."

### ROOSEVELT AND THE TARIFF

It is to be regretted that Mr. Roosevelt did not come out stronger on the tariff. Possibly he is waiting to discuss that more at length in another speech. In denouncing special privilege he ought not to overlook the fact that the tariff is the mother of privilege and the greatest corrupting agency in the United States. It is to be hoped that he does not tie himself to the commission idea. The way to reform the tariff is not through a commission but by the election of tariff reformers to the senate and house of representatives.

Just read the republican platform in Kansas and see what headway democracy is making there. And if democracy is good enough to endorse why are the democratic candidates not good enough to vote for?

The democratic and republican state conventions for Kansas met at Topeka August 30.

### Democratic Platform

The Kansas democratic platform follows: We, the representatives of the democratic party in the state of Kansas, hereby commend the following platform to the voters as embracing needed progressive legislation, imperative and essential at this time.

When great men and newspapers deny the self-evident truth "that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed" and substitute the despotic doctrine that "governments exist for the benefit of the governed," when thousands of dollars are used to corrupt the electorate and our representatives and cabinet officials use their delegated powers to make laws and decisions to enrich themselves and their friends, it is time for those who would perpetuate freedom and establish justice to act.

Statistics show that \$1 out of ever \$5 expended for the necessities of life is paid in increased prices due to our tariff system, thus robbing every family of \$100 a year, and we demand that all articles manufactured here and sold abroad for less than they are sold to the people of this country shall be placed upon the free list.

We reaffirm the declaration of the national democratic platform that private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable and must be destroyed through the power of taxation.

We condemn the present republican tariff law, drawn by the few against the interest of the people.

We denounce the present national administration for having broken the pledges made to the people two years ago and for having surrendered the rights of the people into the hands of predatory wealth.

The corrupting system of patronage has become a national and a state scandal. That the evils of this system may be destroyed we favor the election of all officers, including United States senators, federal judges and postmasters, by a direct vote of the people.

Until the constitution can be amended we favor the Oregon plan of electing United States senators and denounce the present state administration for defeating such a law in 1909.

We favor an income tax law by means of which the vastly rich shall be required to bear their just share of the expenses of government.

We denounce the present so-called postal savings bank law, enacted at the behest of President Taft, as a short cut for the savings of the Kansas people into banks of Wall Street and demand its repeal and the enactment of a true postal savings law in the interests of the whole people—a law that will leave deposits in the community where savings are deposited.

We favor the enactment of laws prohibiting corporations from issuing fictitious stocks and bonds and for the physical valuation of railroads and other public service corporation properties to the end that these corporations shall be limited to just and fair compensation for services rendered to the people, and be required to pay their just proportion of the taxes necessary to support the government.

We pledge our congressional candidates to the policy of conserving all natural resources.

We reaffirm our past declarations in favor of the enforcement of all laws.

In 1897, under Governor Leedy's administration, with 1,366,787 population, the state taxes were \$1,333,954. In 1902, with a population of 1,464,629, the state taxes were \$1,997,354. In 1909, with a population of 1,707,491, the state taxes were \$3,193,074. An increased population of 242,863 and an increased state tax of \$1,141,720 is out of all proportion to the growth and development of the state and shows waste and extravagance on the part of the dominant party. We pledge ourselves to an economical state administration and to require all public servants to devote their entire time to the business of the state.

Believing that the intelligence of the voters of Kansas is such that they do not need pictures or emblems to guide them in the selection their candidates for office, and believing that in a spirit of fairness it should be as easy for an elector to vote an independent ticket as a party ticket, we pledge our senators and repre-

sentatives in the Kansas legislature to vote and work for a measure that eliminates what is known as the straight ticket, and provide for a ballot stripped of all emblems over party candidates, and to provide that the names of all the candidates for each office on all tickets shall be printed under the same head. This form of ballot is known as the Massachusetts ballot. In enacting this measure into law it shall be so written that no elector shall be assisted by the judges or clerks of the election board to cast his vote unless said elector be physically disabled from so doing.

The settlement of labor disputes concerns the general public together with the employer and the employed. The state should intervene either through receiverships or compulsory arbitration to compel the operation of the industry affected until a settlement is obtained.

We demand that the present fellow servant law be extended to cover employes in coal mines.

We demand the recall and we reiterate the demands of our state platforms for many years for the initiative and referendum.

We believe that our judiciary and public school systems should be removed from the influence of partisan politics and favor the election of judges and school officers on non-partisan tickets.

We favor the abolition of all unnecessary offices.

We are in favor of extending the power of the state railroad commission over all state-wide public utilities.

We commend and indorse the state bank guaranty law, passed by non-partisan vote of the last legislature, and particularly call attention to the fact that this is the only law that has stood the test of the superior federal courts; and we re-affirm our faith in the principles of our platform of two years ago as provided in this law.

We are in favor of amending the present direct primary ballot law so that a voter may cast an independent vote.

We pledge ourselves to an aggressive and progressive policy looking to the development and improvement of the common schools of the state, especially the rural schools, and charge the republican party with neglect and indifference toward these schools of the people.

We pledge our support to the educational institutions of the state wisely and economically administered, and favor a policy that will remove them from political influence. Money appropriated for education should be considered as an investment and not an expense, and boards of regents and school officials should be held rigidly responsible for adequate returns on this investment.

We believe that the law known as the inheritance tax law is an unnecessary burden on the people of this state and should be repealed.

We favor increasing the powers of the interstate commerce commission so that it shall have effective jurisdiction over all interstate business, including express, telephone and telegraph companies. We favor amending the long and short haul clause of the Hepburn bill so as to make effective the provision that a common carrier may not charge a higher rate for the short haul than for the long haul in the same direction, thereby removing the discrimination between jobbing centers.

We demand the enactment of a maximum railroad passenger rate law of two cents a mile. We favor the publication of campaign contributions and expenses before the election.

### Republican Platform

The republican convention was presided over by Senator Bristow. The Kansas City Times report of the convention says:

"The platform was chock full of progressive insurgency. Every paragraph fairly bristled with square deal sentiments. Furthermore, every pledge was given boisterous applause, the one regarding Colonel Roosevelt almost bringing the council to its feet. 'We send our greeting to Theodore Roosevelt,' read Victor Murdock, chairman of the resolution committee in that megaphone voice of his. There was a comma in the manuscript from which he was reading but the council was not paying attention to punctuation. It mattered not whether the stenographer had written a comma or period. The reading had to stop while the members of the council cheered and cheered again."

The republican platform follows: We, the republicans of Kansas, in party council, desiring to express our pride in the traditions of our party, feel that respect and veneration to those traditions and for the history we have made may be most adequately