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**W. J. Bryan, Lincoln, Neb.**

**GOVERNOR DUNNE'S SPEECH AT NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE**

(Continued from Page 13.)

democratic senators, in the spirit of compromise and fair play, and for the purpose of ending the deadlock, in an open address to the people, I suggested that the legislature solve the situation by electing a democrat for the long term and a republican for the short term. Even this reasonable solution has not commended itself to our republican friends, and the deadlock still continues. The logic of the situation, however, is strongly in favor of the democratic position, and the ultimate outcome must be that we shall secure the election of Colonel Lewis who received the indorsement of the people upon the advisory ballot, for the long term, as a democrat, and possibly another democrat, if the republicans persist in their present unfair methods to not accept a reasonable compromise.

Once the senatorial difficulty is removed, we shall proceed, pursuant to the terms of the democratic platform, in the effort to place upon the statute books certain great reforms demanded by the people of our state. All of these reforms, I am glad to say, have received the approval of Illinois' greatest and most talented son, the adopted son of your state, our present secretary of state, William J. Bryan. Indeed, most of them, I believe were first enunciated by this distinguished leader of the democratic party.

In our state we are demanding, first the creation of a public utilities commission which shall have power by law to fix the character of the service by all public utility companies in the state of Illinois; secondly, to fix the rates at which they shall be sold to the public, and, thirdly, to control the issuance of stocks and bonds so as to protect on the one side investors in these securities based upon fictitious capitalization and water, and on the other side to protect the people from charges which may be made to secure returns upon exaggerated and swollen capitalization.

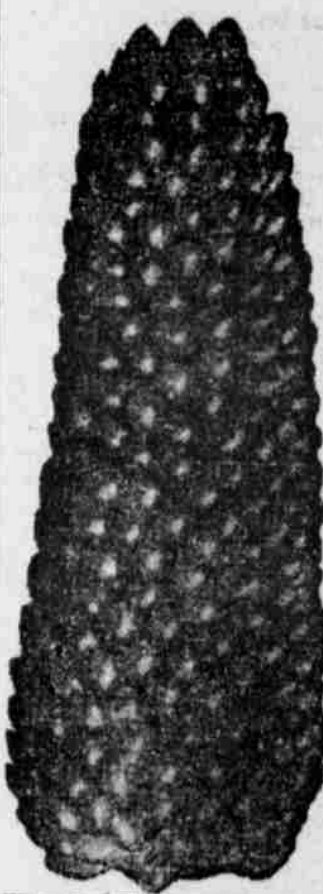
The people of Illinois have become, as the people of other states have become, weary of the exactions and inefficient service rendered by great corporations. We are determined that public utilities which have control of many of the necessities of life of the common people, shall furnish their products in efficient form and at decent rates. We recognize that corporations created by the state must be subject to the control of the state, that they have no right arbitrarily to fix prices and determine upon the surface independent of the demands and decent requirements of the public.

Secondly, the people of Illinois have determined that all cities and municipalities, and it may be counties, shall be given the right to own and operate their own public utilities. By this we do not mean that necessarily they shall engage in the ownership and operation of these utilities, but they shall be given the right so to do; after they have been given this right they are placed upon even terms with private corporations and if private corporations, furnishing these utilities, act unjustly towards the people, the people under this enabling law shall be permitted to compete with the corporations and if the people can, as it has been demonstrated they can in other jurisdictions own and operate these utilities efficiently and economically, they shall be permitted so to do.

The people of Illinois also insist that there shall be reform in the matter of conducting elections. Hitherto a scandalous situation has prevailed in our state, under which, particularly in the great cities, men have sought and secured public office by the expenditure of three times the

amount of salary that the candidate would secure from the public during the whole term of his office. This state of affairs is a scandal and a disgrace to the community and we are determined in the state of Illinois, that, first, there shall be a limitation upon the amount of money expended to a certain percentage of the salary to be paid, and secondly, that all contributions to campaign funds shall be publicly announced and all expenditures stated to the public before and after the holding of the election, and that these public statements shall be made under oath under the penalty of perjury and that man who violates the provisions of this law shall thereafter be ineligible for public office.

The fourth great reform demanded in our state is the abolition of our state board of equalization which, under our law, has exclusive rights to assess the taxation to be levied on corporations. Under our present law this board is elected, one being selected from each congressional district every two years. The body is cumbersome and constantly changing in personnel as the result thereof. It holds its sessions once a year for about forty or fifty days practically behind closed doors. The experience of over twenty years, with this cumbersome and unscientific body, has resulted that year after year their



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