

mobilized to give our soldiers at the front the necessary supplies and support. The governments of foreign countries and the state governments abroad have seen the far-reaching importance of protecting the laboring men and wage-earners by giving them life insurance at cost, giving them old age and dependent pensions to protect them against want and sickness when they are unable longer to contribute their strength to their nation's needs. As a war measure, foreign governments are rigidly enforcing the laws which regulate the number of hours a day that labor shall be employed so that the strength of the man-power in the factories and in the shops shall not be overtaxed or the health of themselves and families impaired.

"These are all questions which should be considered by the loyal people of Nebraska as war measures to supplement the work of the federal government in its effort to protect the people and keep them in a mental, financial and patriotic frame of mind, to keep them working together as one unit to win the war without undermining the great democratic principles upon which our government is founded, and upon which our people have established an enviable position among the nations of the world.

"It is to be regretted that at the special session of the Nebraska legislature, which passed some splendid legislation that will enable the Nebraska soldiers stationed in this country to vote, and will enable our state courts to co-operate with the federal government in the enforcement of law against treason, sedition and disloyalty, that the governor did not also suggest economic legislation to enable the state to co-operate with the federal government in preventing unreasonable profits by passing legislation that would break up monopoly and restore competition in our various lines of business that has been causing so much unrest among our producers and consumers in Nebraska. The co-operation between the governor and the wet members of the Nebraska state senate to prevent the ratification of the national prohibition amendment was a slap in the face of overwhelming public sentiment in this state. The action of the governor and the eighteen wet senators is satisfactory only to the liquor interests in this state who have already been outlawed by a vote of twenty-nine thousand majority and to the National Brewers' Association, who are expected to contribute a campaign fund to the liquor element in this state in the hope of electing another governor and another state senate that will defy the people of the state by an effort to postpone ratification of the national prohibition amendment. The national congress submitted the constitutional amendment to the various state legislatures as a war measure to help conserve the food grains of the country, to protect the man-power of the nation against the effects of alcohol and disease and to prevent the profit from the liquor business from being used by alien enemies to carry on a propaganda against our government and our soldiers.

"The defeat of the ratification of the prohibition amendment through the audacity of the governor and the eighteen wet senators will enable the breweries — which are largely alien-owned — to continue to destroy food worth \$140,000,000 a year that is needed by our soldiers and those of the countries allied with the United States in this war until other states ratify the amendment without the help of Nebraska or until the people of Nebraska repudiate the action of the governor and the wet senate and elect men whose moral conscience and patriotic spirit will not longer thwart the will of the people of Nebraska and give aid and comfort to the enemy. As a war measure and for the purpose of co-operating with the federal government, one of the most important things for the people of Nebraska to do in the coming election will be to nominate and elect a governor and a legislature composed of men who are personally known to be in favor of national prohibition and who may be depended upon to vote and to use their influence immediately upon assuming office to bring about the ratification by the Nebraska legislature of the national prohibition constitutional amendment.

#### A STATE PROGRAM TO ASSIST PRESIDENT WILSON AND TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE

"Summarizing, I take the liberty of outlining below for the consideration of the people of Nebraska brief legislative suggestions which might serve as a program of principles to be discussed in the state campaign by those who may seek

the support of the voters at the August primaries and the November election:

"Unswerving support of President Wilson's war plans without question or hesitancy until the war is brought to a successful close.

"Prompt and adequate punishment for all disloyalty to the government of whatsoever character, and ample protection to all loyal citizens against unnecessary and unjust criticism or attacks. Nebraska people, with possibly very few exceptions, are one-hundred per cent loyal Americans and are supporting every branch of President Wilson's program.

"Candidates for congress should be pledged to support the commander-in-chief of the army, President Wilson, and to assist him by their vote and influence in raising as much as possible of the additional money needed for carrying on the war by taxes on war profits, excess profits, surplus incomes, and legislation for the conscription of wealth for war purposes in the same manner as men are conscripted, the exemption rules for wealth to be worked out along the same lines and for the same reasons that men are exempted or are placed in deferred classifications.

"National prohibition by congressional action as a war measure to conserve food needed by our soldiers and allies, to maintain the efficiency of the man-power of the nation and to prevent the profits now being made by the breweries from being used for alien-enemy propaganda against the United States.

"Equal suffrage, state and national, as an inherent right and also a right women have earned and as a help to the political life of the nation.

"The nomination and election of a governor and a legislature personally known to be in favor of national prohibition and who may be depended upon to vote and work for the ratification of the national prohibition amendment as a war measure and to prevent the liquor interests and other special interests from thwarting the will of the people.

"Federal legislation or action that will maintain the market price of liberty bonds at par.

"Producers and wage-earners should have adequate representation upon all boards and commissions appointed and created for fixing prices of commodities, wages of labor and for the management of publicly-owned utilities or industries.

"Defer consideration of question of compulsory universal military training until after the close of the war. We are now fighting to make democracy safe throughout the world and destroy militarism, and if we win we will not require large standing armies and large navies — and we expect to win.

"Development of the water power of the state by governmental development or under adequate governmental control so that cheap electric current may be had in the factories and on the farms and to supply as heat and light in the home, and to conserve coal and the transportation of same.

"Government ownership of public utilities when the subject can be considered without hampering the financial plans of the federal government in the conduct of the war.

"State fire insurance. This could make a saving to holders of insured property of at least one-and-a-half million dollars a year.

"Opposition to the fire insurance combine's so-called 'uniform rate bill.'

"Legislation to prevent life insurance companies from confiscating the money of soldier boys that is now tied up in insurance policies.

"Enforcement of state laws against monopolies in restraint of trade and the enactment of new legislation that will prevent profiteering out of the sacrifices of the people as President Wilson has so forcibly stated.

"State ownership and strict control of a sufficient number of terminal elevators to protect the grain-growers of Nebraska in the shipping, marketing and grading of their product.

"Legislation providing for the appointment of bonded grain and produce inspectors to protect the grain growers in the marketing and grading of their grain and produce, the same as other countries have made provision.

"Legislation appointing bonded livestock commissioner to protect the livestock producers and feeders in securing the market price for their livestock and in protecting them on market prices when they buy feeders and stockers on the livestock markets, the same as other countries make provision to protect them.

"Legislation authorizing all towns and cities

to establish a public market to bring the producer and consumer together to prevent monopoly.

"Authorize cities, towns and county commissioners to establish municipal slaughter-houses for the convenience and advantage of the people who have livestock for sale in less than car-load lots. These municipal slaughter-houses will save four men's profits, two railroad freight rates, and could easily increase the price 10 per cent to the producer of livestock and reduce the price of meat 10 per cent to the consumer. Other countries are making this provision.

"Legislation authorizing cities and towns and county commissioners to buy and sell food and fuel to the public when necessary to protect the public against monopoly.

"State hail insurance that will equitably and fully protect livestock and crops against natural calamities.

"State life insurance at cost for all wage-earners and insurance against sickness and injury and a plan of old age pensions for dependents.

"The enforcement of the state laws regulating the hours of labor of men and women and of child employment.

"State legislation that will give the people of Omaha the right to construct and operate a municipal light plant the same as Lincoln, as it would save the users of electric light and power in Omaha one hundred and fifty thousand dollars annually.

"Rural credit legislation that will enable the farmers to secure cheaper money to protect their crops against a low market.

"State registration of the man-power of the state and the establishment of labor assignment and employment bureaus through the state, county and governmental machinery.

"The arrest and prosecution of any state employe or other person, or former state employe, found guilty of graft or malfeasance in office in connection with the feeding of state troops.

"The placing of the state government on a business basis by the abolishing of unnecessary boards or commissions and by the consolidation of departments to promote efficiency and economy.

"The co-operation of the state, county and municipal governments with the federal government in confining the building of permanent roads in the country during the war to road-building suggested or approved by the federal government as war measures.

"The establishment of a state executive budget which would provide for a list of proposed expenditures to be submitted to the state legislature for consideration.

"I believe that the policies and legislation outlined above are in the interest of the great majority of the people of the state of Nebraska. I believe that the policies and legislation outlined, if put into effect, would mean the saving of millions of dollars each year to the producers and consumers of the state and those who carry the burden and have no way to offset combines, monopolies and profiteers who have taken advantage of the public because state laws and state officials have not restrained them. I believe that the policies and legislation outlined are in accord with the legislation that President Wilson and his associates have secured, and the additional legislation and authority that they have asked for and recommended to equalize the burdens and sacrifices that are necessary on account of the war. I believe that the policies and legislation outlined above will go a long way towards meeting the demands and expectations of the people of the state of Nebraska and of allaying the unrest and alarm among the people who feel that they may be unable to provide for themselves and families if prices continue to rise and the exigencies of the war require further conserving of the food and an increase in taxation. These are questions that should immediately be considered by the students of economic and patriotic legislation and of business men and property owners with a vision as to the needs of the people.

"I expect to discuss more elaborately in the future each of the various policies and legislation outlined, and I will be glad to receive the views of Nebraska people, by letter or through the press, who either approve or disapprove any or all of the policies or legislative measures offered for consideration.

"CHARLES W. BRYAN."