

Charles W. Bryan for Governor

Announces Platform Against Profiteering

Says Help President Win War by Making Patriotic Application of Patriotism

To the Voters of Nebraska:

I have filed as a candidate for governor on the democratic ticket, subject to the action of the primaries August 20. Six weeks ago I gave a statement to the press that was widely published, analyzing conditions that were causing the unrest among the producers and consumers, and pointed out that the menace to keeping the people of the United States united and their minds concentrated on winning the war was the unpatriotic and conscienceless profiteering upon the sacrifices of the people. I suggested a state legislative program to supplement the work President Wilson is doing to destroy the parasites who were preying upon the open hearts and open pocketbooks of loyal Americans.

Three weeks ago President Wilson startled the country by a public statement to the effect that profiteering is being practiced on a wide scale and that the income tax reports on file at Washington furnished the evidence as to the extent of the profiteering and fixed the guilt on the right parties. One week ago the federal trade commission published the result of its investigations into the cost of manufacture of lines of merchandise and supplies necessary to feed and clothe the people and the army and to furnish heat, power, ammunition and supplies for the public and for our soldiers at the front. The official report so startled the public as to what was going on in some business institutions as to immediately make the question of profiteering the paramount issue for the public to consider.

In announcing six weeks ago a legislative program providing means as to how the state governmental machinery could be utilized to stop the various forms of profiteering by the elevators and flour mills, the manufacture of farm machinery, by factories, by wholesale and retail merchants and insurance companies, and suggesting legislation to protect the laboring people in case of sickness or accident, I had hoped that candidates could be prevailed upon to file for the nomination for governor on one or both of the two great political party tickets of the state and lead a fight against the special interests that have been dominating the upper branch of our legislature and preventing our state government from carrying out the will of the people as expressed by thirty thousand majority on the liquor question. This is no time for partisanship or partisan appeals. The people of Nebraska are united in a patriotic effort to win the war. They have over-subscribed their quota in men and money for all branches of the war service, and the great object and aim of government officials at this time is to keep them so united by legislative action and executive leadership as to make it unnecessary for the people to turn aside from the great work which they are doing in the production of foodstuffs and the manufacture of raw material in order to prevent a small group of men from taking advantage of those who trade in what other men produce.

I believe in the thought expressed by President Wilson when a candidate for the presidency that a chief executive elected by the people should take the lead in promoting and protecting the general welfare of the people. Nebraska is an agricultural state, and legislative remedies and executive action should be directed to increase the production of all of its foods and feeds and so regulate their distribution and marketing that the producer shall receive the benefit of what he produces and so as to protect the consumers against the high cost of living. The profiteer who has been denounced by the President and the federal trade commission can not shield himself from an outraged public

by his demagogic attacks on men who appeal to the public to stand by President Wilson and protect the public from graft while the war is being fought to a successful conclusion. No one should have the audacity to defend the enormous profits taken from the public by the profiteers and described in per cent of profits by the federal trade commission as follows: "Some food dealers as high as 2183 per cent; flour miller, 437 per cent; meat packers, 234 per cent; soft coal operators, 504 per cent; retail coal concerns, 80 per cent; department store, 331 per cent; retail clothing 1100 per cent; tool manufacturer, 788 per cent."

The federal government should not be expected to appoint a million or more inspectors to go through the various states to stop local profiteering, and the people of Nebraska should not have to wait for relief from the many forms of profiteering until the federal government can take up such matters. It is the duty of the state government and municipal governments to do this work on behalf of citizens and to assist in every way possible the heroic efforts of President Wilson and his official associates.

The terms used by the federal trade commission in referring to the war profiteer and his cunning methods to prevent the government from detecting his work and to shield himself against paying his just war tax on profits are as follows: "Enormous," "unusual," "exorbitant," "unprecedented," "outrageous," "unconscionable," "astounding," "inordinate and barefaced fraud."

PLATFORM

I recommend below some legislation and executive remedies for co-operating with the President in winning the war:

LOYALTY TO PRESIDENT WILSON.

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

Prompt and adequate punishment for all disloyalty or interference with the program of the commander-in-chief of the army. Ample protection to all loyal citizens against unjust criticisms or attacks and to keep the efforts of the people united in one great patriotic effort in support of President Wilson to win the war.

A STATE FOOD COMMISSION TO PROTECT CONSUMERS.

A state trade commission with power to investigate costs and profits, to report to the chief executive of the state and legislature and to work in harmony and supplement the splendid work the federal trade commission is doing to protect the people of the state against profiteering.

Enforcement of state laws against monopolies in restraint of trade and enactment of new legislation to prevent profiteering.

WAR PROHIBITION AND RATIFICATION.

Immediate war prohibition and ratification of the national prohibition constitutional amendment, and equal suffrage—state and national. The women and children in Nebraska are making a sacrifice in the use of grain and other foodstuffs, and no true patriot will support the efforts to defend the liquor men in Illinois, Missouri and other states in their use of Nebraska grain and foodstuffs for the manufacture of booze.

State fire and hail insurance. These would be self-supporting and save the people several million dollars yearly.

OLD AGE PENSIONS FOR WAGE WORKERS.

State insurance against sickness and injury for all wage-earners and a plan of old age pensions for dependents. It is to the interest and

the welfare of the state that our wage-earners be given the same care and protection that other governments are giving.

PROTECT FARMERS AGAINST PROFITEERS.

State ownership and control of a sufficient number of terminal elevators and encouragement and protection to co-operative-owned elevators so as to protect the grain-growers of Nebraska in the grading, shipping and marketing of their products.

Bonded grain and produce inspector to protect grain-growers in marketing and grading their grain and produce the same as other countries have provided.

Bonded livestock commission to protect the livestock producers and feeders in marketing livestock and in buying feeders and stockers, to give the livestock interests in Nebraska the protection other countries are giving.

PUBLIC MARKETS.

Legislation authorizing all towns and cities to establish public markets and public slaughterhouses to bring the producer and consumer together to prevent monopoly and to keep down the high cost of living.

MUNICIPAL COAL YARDS.

Legislation authorizing all cities and towns and county commissioners to establish municipal coal yards and food markets for the public when necessary to protect the people against unscrupulous profiteers.

WATER POWER AND GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP.

Development of the water power of the state by a governmental development or adequate governmental control in order to secure cheap power for the factories and farms and to supply heat and light in the home, which will conserve coal and transportation of same.

Government ownership of public utilities and municipal ownership of local public utilities when the federal government's financial plans for conducting the war will permit.

NEBRASKA SOLDIERS.

Nebraska soldiers represent the finest manhood of the state; they are making the supreme sacrifice that our democratic Nebraska institutions shall be preserved. Those remaining at home should make every provision for the welfare, comfort and support of our boys who are fighting the nation's battle. A wise provision has been made to enable the soldiers to vote, and it is the duty of parents, relatives and friends of our boys in the army to keep them advised as to the issues and efforts being made to support them in their home states so they will not overlook their patriotic duty of voting with other citizens of the state to support in every way possible the efforts of the commander-in-chief to win the war.

A BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

The conduct of the state government on a business basis so as to cut out unnecessary appropriations, reduce taxes, abolish unnecessary boards and commissions and create only such new governmental machinery as is needed to protect the producers and consumers of the state against the avarice of the unconscionable profiteer.

The duty of the chief executive of the state is to initiate and lead in all movements for the patriotic, economic and social welfare of the state, and he should give careful consideration to all complaints and suggestions by the people for the remedy of governmental abuses.

ASSIST THE PRESIDENT.

This program will supplement and assist President Wilson to carry the war to a successful conclusion. If elected governor I will appoint no profiteer to an office that could be used to his financial gain, and the door to the governor's office will be kept open. In advocating these measures I realize that they will not please the profiteer.

Patriotism has been described as "love of one's country put into action." I appeal to the people of Nebraska to make a practical application of their patriotism by helping the President make the world safe for democracy and protect democracy at home by curbing the unconscionable greed of the parasites who are fattening their incomes out of the sacrifices of the people.

CHARLES W. BRYAN.