

appoint the committee no one would be named thereon who favored ratification of prohibition. The progressives made no fight on Donohoe, but when Dr. Hall of Lincoln, one of a group of four anti-Bryanites on the Lancaster delegation, moved the appointment by the chair of a committee on resolutions, Thompson moved to substitute by leaving the selection to the congressional districts. An hour and a half debate followed.

DONOHOE BROKE HIS WORD.

Lieutenant Governor Howard left the platform array of candidates, rejoined his delegation and made a fight for the substitute. He said that Mr. Donohoe had not kept faith, that he had agreed to name Mr. Thompson as one of the committee and had made that as a specific promise. Later he refused to carry out the agreement, and Mr. Howard wanted to know what had come over him and what influence had been exerted to produce that result. He said Donohoe had refused to give him any inkling, at their second talk, who would be put on the committee.

Mr. Mullen made a speech declaring that the convention ought not to humiliate Donohoe by branding him as unworthy of being trusted, and predicted the convention would get the right kind of a platform and one that everybody would be satisfied with.

The roll was then called. It was early evident that it was going to be a close fight, and then the unit rule in Douglas was enforced with delegates who were steam-rollered protesting loudly. This gave Donohoe the support of 160 votes, but this did not influence other delegations. There were eighteen absentees in the Lancaster delegation. Only four of the anti-Bryan group were there. There were three Lancaster democrats present who were not on the delegation but who belong to this faction. The majority, out of courtesy, yielded them seats and allowed the minority to cast three more votes as their proportion of the absentees, although the chair had previously ruled that the absentees shall be cast by the majority of the delegation. As it turned out the gift of these six votes to the opposition represented the exact majority given the motion to let Donohoe name the committee, and these ten misrepresented, in the opinion of the majority, the sentiment of the Lancaster convention.

SAW A GREAT LIGHT.

This close vote caused the machine leaders to see a great light. If they could win only by six votes on a thousand on a proposition like that, where it was evident the opposition was attacking at its weakest point, that of depriving the chairman of a time-honored privilege, a man who had just made a speech of which every democrat was proud, what would happen when it came to putting through the remainder of the program?

Mr. Donohoe carried out instructions and named seven staunch supporters of the machine. He came to Lancaster and picked one of the four anti-Bryanites for chairman and another one to represent the First district. His others were of the same crowd, all identified with the majority faction.

The chill of fear was indicated in another move. Originally the program was to allow Neville to speak first, Metcalfe second, Bryan third and Morehead fourth. It was 6 o'clock when Metcalfe finished. Someone moved to adjourn, and it carried.

When the convention reconvened the order of speaking had been changed. Bryan and Morehead had been shifted from the top to the bottom of the list. Mr. Reed was first introduced. He was followed by Price and Howard in turn. It was long after 10 o'clock when Morehead was called, and 11:30 when Bryan got a chance. By that time all of the audience and half the delegates had gone.

Mr. Bryan, however, went at the job. He agreed that winning the war was the big task ahead. But were the democrats to try to do it with words and not with actions. He said that Mr. Wilson's program consisted of acts. He had begun a campaign nationally to rid the people of the parasites, the profiteers; he had gone after the elevators and flour millers and others; why shouldn't the democrats of Nebraska help him win the war by adopting his methods. He spoke in favor of grain and live stock commissioners to protect the farmer from being fleeced, of municipal markets, slaughtering houses, coal yards and produce markets, all war-winning

measures. He pointed out that Secretary Houston had been advocating all these things, and as aids to winning the war.

Mr. Bryan also declared the allies all had programs aimed at profiteering because this was the way to help win the war. He wanted to know what paralyzing influence had been staying the hand of Nebraska's state government on this kind of war measures. He pointed out that congress, a democratic congress, had submitted national prohibition, thirteen states had ratified and that there were twenty-seven dry states now; that two-thirds of the democratic states had voted for ratification and the people had given prohibition 30,000 majority in Nebraska. What influence here, he asked, was holding Nebraska back.

PLEADED FOR WOMEN.

He also pointed out the President's attitude toward suffrage and his recommendation that as a war measure and out of obligation to the women that they be given the ballot. Why not uphold the President with acts and not entirely with words? The women were going to vote at the fall election because it had been already shown that the referendum petition that had so far held up the law was full of fraud and a disgrace to the state. How would the democracy fare so far as the candidate for whom these women would vote? He wanted to know why the party in Nebraska should stop being progressive after a twenty-year record that embraced the championship of reforms that congress had later taken up. He said the republican convention had endorsed suffrage and declared for ratification. He wanted to know if the committee would dare bring in a platform omitting these issues?

The platform committee did not report until close to midnight. It had been on the job, ostensibly, for eight hours. It had been carefully hand-picked so that there would be no opposition to the one plank and two endorsement orders of Mr. Mullen. There was nobody there in opposition or in the minority, and it had handed it a platform already prepared. Why the delay? The progressives say that it was deliberately withheld in the hope that enough progressive delegates would get tired out and leave on the earlier trains and allow the original program to go through. This did not happen, and although Chairman Hall, before the committee went into session, had told the reporters that the platform would contain no mention of either ratification or suffrage, when it did come out it omitted all endorsements of Hitchcock and Neville and did endorse suffrage, while also including a prohibition plank with a double meaning. This plank will enable them to tell the dries that "the people's will" means as expressed on prohibition in 1916 and to convince the wets in wet districts that if they elect a wet senator that will be the expression of the people's will in that district and puts them under no obligation to vote in the senate for ratification.

It is suspected that the decision to leave out endorsements was influenced by the fact that the afternoon papers in Omaha had contained a story showing that Senator Hitchcock had offered to help the German propaganda free of charge because of sympathy with its humane objects, matters brought to light by the government investigation, and that if the platform had endorsed him delegates who had the facts would have sprung them on the convention.

The cold fact is that the narrow escape on the Donohoe motion threw such a chill into the hearts of the machinists that they did not dare raise another issue for fear of defeat, and after eight hours of trying to stave off this possibility, gave up and gave in and added prohibition and suffrage and eliminated all endorsements.

DID DONKEY DRINK?

One of the uppermost questions asked by democrats who attended the state convention at Hastings is, "Did the democratic donkey drink only to get his nose wet when his head was forced into the prohibitory amendment trough." From where they sat the delegates were not sure. They saw Charles W. Bryan and W. H. Thompson, the "Little Giant," yank the stubborn brute up to the tank, give it a few kicks in the ribs and by main strength force its head into the fountain. They saw I. J. Dunn give the animal's tail a double twist and tie a hard knot in it. They saw Lieutenant Governor Edgar Howard wildly wave his big hat, swing his arms and shout: "Drink, darn you." They saw the democratic

donkey, always affrighted at the sight of water, shudder from head to stern, and heard it give a snort of defiance and canter away.

Did it drink or merely get its nose wet? Not being willing to leave the answer to a mere mule, the delegates are trying to solve the problem.

BRYAN'S GENEROSITY.

Out of the generosity of his heart and in the desire to have harmony, Charles W. Bryan let seven democrats get a place on his Lancaster county delegation to the state convention. These caused him some trouble when a vote was taken on the W. H. Thompson substitute to permit the convention delegates to choose a resolutions committee by congressional districts instead of having the committee appointed by an unfriendly chairman of the convention. The substitute was lost by a vote of 497 to 503, as announced by the tellers. The Lancaster delegation announced its vote as 51 to 10 for the substitute. There were many absent from the delegation. Seven in the delegation voted against the substitute. They were P. L. Hall, C. J. Campbell, A. V. Johnson, John A. Maguire, Charles S. Roe, M. L. Blackburn and Charles A. Currie, the latter of Havelock, and chief clerk in Governor Neville's office. Under a rule often enforced the absentees were apportioned to the divided factions in the delegation, which increased the seven negative votes to ten. A unit rule or non-enforcement of the apportionment rule would have carried the Thompson substitute or at least resulted in a tie.

THE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

The following program was adopted: "We, the democrats of Nebraska, assembled in convention in the midst of the supreme crisis of the world's civilization, know but one duty, recognize but one issue, accept but one leader. The duty is to offer our blood and treasure, without stint or limit, to crush the beast of German autocracy. The issue is whether that autocracy, booted and spurred, shall ride the world, to the destruction of all human liberty, happiness and progress or whether it shall be made a fit and safe place in which free men may live, build their homes and rear their families. The leader is Woodrow Wilson, the president of the United States and commander-in-chief of our armies and navy. Into his keeping all that we prize and all that we hope for has been entrusted. In his hands we have placed our heroic sons dearer to us than life itself. They are his instruments. Their bared bosoms are the shield of our home and our womenkind. Through blood and agony and tears the world is moving towards its goal. We are solemnly impressed with the truth that if we unselfishly and to the uttermost sustain our leader, who is at the same time the leader of the world's forces of morality and progress, of honor and law, that goal will make the triumph of our cause and the eternal glory of our arms. And we are as solemnly impressed that if we fail in united, devoted and self-sacrificing support we contribute to palsy the arm of him who is the hope of the world, to make vain the sacrifices of multitudes of our dearest and best, and to open the gates through which the foul beast of Berlin will soon or late advance to crush our womanhood under the same iron and polluting heel that has crushed martyred Belgium.

"Fellow countrymen, of Nebraska, of all parties, from the depths of our hearts we call to you how, in such a day, is it possible that free men should hesitate! How is it possible that they should stop to quarrel and quibble over mole hills when the majestic mountains of human achievements and human rights are trembling on their foundations! How, in such a time, can sane men think of playing for parties and advantages!

DOWN THE ODIOS PROFITEER.

"We can win this war, we can serve our sons in arms only by support of our superb president, Woodrow Wilson. We can support him by giving him the backing of a friendly and sympathetic congress. We can not support him by electing a congress seeking to supplant him. Neither can we support him by distracting the attention and energies of the American people from war duties to other issues that in happier and serener days might well be of great importance. And so we say in solemn earnestness that there is but one issue and but one leader, and that beside our duty to them other duties and other desires fade to nothingness. That duty includes the protection of our sons at home as well as abroad, and of free American institutions for which they fight. We must perform this duty by putting down the odious profiteer, by planting our heel unmercifully on sedition. By sustaining the