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I. M. RICE - Editor and Proprietor.  
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THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1906.

## THOMPSON'S STIRRING ADDRESS TO NEBRASKA DEMOCRATS

Following is the full text of the speech on the subject, "Equality Before the Law," delivered by Hon. W. H. Thompson of Grand Island, before the democratic banquet at Lincoln last Tuesday (March 6th) night:

"The same patriotic spirit that inspired this motto of our state inspired article one of our constitution, wherein it is provided:

"All persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain inherent, and inalienable rights; among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. To secure these rights, and the protection of property, governments are instituted among people deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

"Which was the spirit that sailed in the Mayflower and sunk the tea in Boston bay, penned the Declaration of Independence, encouraged Jackson, led a Lincoln, and inspired a Bryan. It was trampled, denounced and near forgotten for years prior to '96, at which time it forced its way into the demo-

cratic national convention, through the leadership of Nebraska's most noble son, and has been a living, fighting reality ever since. It knows no section of our country to the disadvantage of others. Knows no class or faction of our people in a preferential way as against the masses. The true democratic shibboleth in leading the hosts of liberty against the horde of mammon. No other or different platform is needed. It would trim the great ship of state of every barnacle, and burnish it with beauty. It would give unto Cuba and the Philippines absolute free trade or absolute independence. It would shackle the trusts and remove the tariff upon which they feed. It would regulate commerce or own the railroads. It would provide each city with local self-government and not with biased appointees. It would abolish the lobbyist and hearken to the voice of the people. It would do away with free transportation and rebates, thus insuring the 'square deal.' It would compel the observance of our constitutional pro-

visions as to the public debt, or impeach those who disregarded them. It would enforce the criminal law against the rich as well as against the poor. It would repeal the fellow-servant-rule wrongly called law, and let every laborer stand a king in his own individuality. It would provide the same law for the taxation of the rich corporation as for the most humble individual. It would not provide the injunction for the one and the tax warrant for the other. Not the high board of assessment for the one, and the lowly assessor for the other, taking dictation from above. It would repeal the present sham revenue law and enact one in harmony with our motto. It would make the brady bill a law and provide honest competition and a handy market for each farmer.

"It would enforce the maximum freight law and give each city and town the advantage of its location. It would bring to the officers of these corporations a renewed realization of their true status. That their first duty is to the public, to obey its laws, and second to the stockholder and his dividends. The law is their bond, its conditions should be exacted, no more, no less. The too often arrogant assumption of the stockholder that these quasi public corporations are his, and he can do as he pleases therewith, should not go unchallenged.

### Usurpation Long Endured.

"This baneful spirit of usurpation has been too long assumed. It is like and evil genius, silently, yet surely engraving itself on the body politic until today a candidate for an office, unless assisted by some gigantic trust or corporation, is by too many considered doomed to defeat. There is a fellow-feeling existing between these interests that binds closer than blood, yes, closer than even religious convictions. They flock together like school boys into an orchard, being attracted by the same magnet and the people shrink like cowards being driven by fear, or a lack of appreciation of duty. Some of the leaders of this arrangement have become so blunted, warped and shriveled in their natures as to care not for ridicule, for honest criticism or decent consideration. Without foundation in fact, law or morals, they claim unto themselves a superiority of intelligence. A leadership not warranted or merited, even to treating with disrespect their own associates in the halls of congress and out, as instanced by the recent treatment of Senator Doliver. He dared assert his independence of corporate dictation and for this assertion of manhood was not permitted to report his own bill, although a brilliant member of the committee. Fortunate, however, for the country, it was placed in charge of that fearless democrat, Senator Tillman. They denounce a La Follette and ridicule a Cummins. They say they are talking democratic doctrine, without stopping to realize that all the life there is today in the once proud republican party is that instilled therein by its adoption of democratic principles. It has been said this rate bill is up to the senate, we answer no, it is up to President Roosevelt. If he will be steadfast the bill will pass. The eyes of the nation are on the president. If he will forget party and stay by the right it will not be disappointed. Will he? Every true democrat hopes he will, even if it does mean a disadvantage to our party, for it means a people's triumph.

### Democracy in the Right.

"The grand old democratic party is fortunate in being in the forefront of this now greatest of conflicts. Fortunate in that its principles as they are adopted by it, is all that adds life to the opposition. Fortunate in that the minority democrats in congress can be and are being relied on to bring the nation its only wholesome legislation. The democrats of Nebraska should be keeping step to

the drum-beat of progress. They should favor a government transcontinental line of railroad. A canal connecting Lake Michigan with Lake Erie, and the latter with Lake Ontario, the extension of the drainage canal to the Mississippi, thus giving a water route to the Atlantic ocean and Gulf of Mexico, and the completion of the Panama canal at the earliest possible time, in keeping with good workmanship. One transcontinental line of railway owned and operated by the government would do more to regulate interstate commerce than all the laws congress can enact. As to its charges for passengers and freight, the other roads must compete. In a contest as to unjust rates, the government would always have at hand its own cost, its own operating expenses, its own income, its own equipment as a guide. Could from these figures refute false assumptions and statements. This intelligence would enable it to act advisedly and knowingly. Would supplant ignorance on one side and biased testimony on the other with unprejudiced truth and candor. It would mean millions in the pockets of the people without doing harm to a single interest, and without transgressing a single precept of the constitution. That these corporate interests should have the same fair treatment under the law as those held by the individual, no honest man will deny—that they should not have more, no honest man will gainsay.

### Nebraska's Bugle Call.

"It was the Nebraska democrats who sounded the bugle call to arms in 1896, and they should sound it again in 1908. Remembering it was Nebraska that swelled the eloquence of a Douglas as to popular self-government, and scintillated in the wit and logic of Lincoln as to the rights of all men. It was this spirit that wrote our constitution, it is this spirit that must preserve and protect it. We must, as democrats, so demean ourselves as to draw to us all those who dare to do right and fear no evil, ask no favors and granting no concessions. When and where better than now to unfurl our banner, 'Equal and exact justice to all? Special privileges to none.' remembering that since 1900 the Belshazzar feast of commercialism has passed. There must be no backward step. Let every democrat heed as the hand-writing, 'Equality before the law.'—In Monday's World-Herald.

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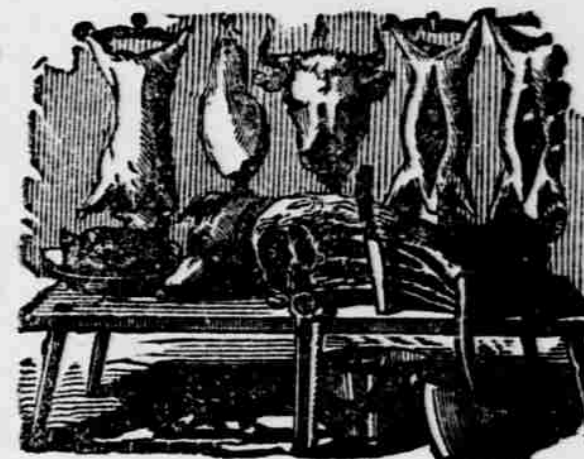
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We do not like to criticize the people whom we have sent notices to the first of the year. Some may be out of luck or short of money. In either case we are out of luck. If you will try to pay a part of what you owe and pay at the rate of \$1.50 per year, which is 12 1/2c per month, it will make us feel better than to totally ignore our statements. Some have already remitted in full. We dislike to speak of this in the paper but many have overlooked or misplaced our statements to Jan. 1, 1906, and we hope to remind them by this notice at much less expense than to send other notices. Pardon us for again reminding you.

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