

# THE PROGRESSIVE PLATFORM OF NEBRASKA DEMOCRACY

We, the democrats of Nebraska in state convention assembled, send greetings to the democrats of the nation and congratulate them upon the good results at the Baltimore convention in the nomination of Woodrow Wilson for president and Thomas R. Marshall for vice-president, and in the adoption of a good thoroughly progressive platform.

We hereby express our unqualified approval of the nominees and of the platform.

We point with pride to the leadership Nebraska's democracy has taken during the past eighteen years under the guidance of William J. Bryan.

We congratulate the democrats of the nation that they had in Nebraska's distinguished citizen a man who dared defy the elements that had wrecked the republican party and that sought at Baltimore the destruction of the democratic party; that with superb courage he challenged the right of those elements to dominate in democratic convention and stood for what he believed to be the interest of "the folks at home;" that through his leadership the convention at Baltimore was transformed from what at one time seemed to be a reactionary gathering into a real democratic convention with real democratic candidates standing upon a genuine democratic platform. We cordially approve Mr. Bryan's course at Baltimore and we heartily commend him for the course he adopted, and we congratulate him upon the magnificent victory.

We approve the work of the democratic house of representatives, and we heartily commend the Nebraska democratic delegation in either branch of congress for their faithful efforts to represent in the votes they have cast the democratic sentiment in Nebraska.

We invite attention to the fact that there are important problems of state government, and we pledge the best efforts of democratic members of the legislature and other democratic officials to the solution of these problems by the way of constructive legislation.

We favor the adoption of the proposed constitutional amendments providing for the initiative and referendum.

We favor the adoption of the proposed constitutional amendment giving to cities of more than 5,000 population the privilege of framing their own charters consistent with the constitution and laws of the state.

We favor the adoption of the proposed constitutional amendment providing for a board of control for the government of state institutions, and we promise that the democratic governor will appoint as members of the state board men upon whose integrity and capability the people may rely for economical and businesslike conduct of all the affairs of the state institutions.

We favor zealous guardianship of the right of the state to regulate common carriers with relation to interstate commerce.

We favor the passage of a law having for its purpose the abolition of vote trading, commonly called "log rolling" in the legislature.

We favor a law requiring the governor to make public the names of all persons who petition him, either verbally or in writing, to approve or veto any measure.

We commend the last democratic legislature for the passage of the Ollis stock yards bill, and we promise such further regulation of stock yards as the public welfare may require.

We promise the faithful enforcement of the anti-lobby law to the end that such a law shall no longer be a dead letter upon the statute book.

We favor the enactment of a law creating a state highway commission in order to help systematize road construction and thereby further the good roads movement.

We favor the eight-hour day for all toilers, especially in the case of state and municipal work.

Our state is rich in natural resources not yet developed, a condition due to the lack of public knowledge of such wealth.

We therefore favor a liberal appropriation by the legislature for the purpose of giving publicity to the state's resources.

We favor the enactment of a law directing and empowering the state, and to limit the earning power of such corporations to accounts of all public service corporations doing business within the state, and to limit the earning power of such corporations to reasonable proportion of the capital invested.

We recognize in the merger of the telephone companies of the state an effort to establish a complete telephone monopoly. We promise that our member of the railway commission will do everything in his power to see that the telephone business is properly regulated and that rates charged for telephone service are reasonable. We further promise such additional legislation as may be necessary to protect the interests of the users of telephones in Nebraska.

We deplore the needless delay in the disposition of controversies throughout the courts of the state, and especially that of the supreme court, and pledge our candidates to the legislature, if elected, to support such measures and endeavor to crystallize into law an act of the legislature which will result in the speedier disposition of cases in the higher courts of the state, and at the same time safely guard the rights of litigants.

Nebraska's awkward and inequitable taxation system should be replaced by a twentieth century method. We favor, therefore, taxation reform by separation of the sources of the state and local revenues, thus giving to counties and towns the privilege of enjoying the taxes from purely local valuations. Land held for purely speculative purposes and without improvements ought to carry a larger share of taxation than it now bears.

To this end we promise to submit to the vote of the people a proposed constitutional amendment enlarging the powers of the legislature with respect to the enactment of the taxation system, and then provide for the selection of a commission whose business it will be to investigate and report for the consideration of the legislature its idea of the taxation system best suited to Nebraska's peculiar needs.

We favor insurance reforms for "old line" as well as fraternal companies.

We favor automatic benefit in case of lapse of policy after three annual premiums have been paid.

Securities in which insurance reserves are invested should be deposited with the state for the protection of the policy holder, and the initiative and referendum should be given to fraternal organizations for the protection of the rank and file.

Recognizing the growing demand for scientifically trained teachers to the end that the best results may be realized from the vast sums of money annually expended for the maintenance of our public schools, we favor liberal appropriations for our four state normal schools and for normal training in the high schools. We point with pride and approval to the fact that the last two democratic legislatures appropriated more money for the permanent equipment of normal schools than had been before expended for like purpose during the entire history of the state. We pledge ourselves anew to the support of these institutions commensurate with their growth and demands.

We point with pride to our state university and agricultural college and favor liberal appropriation for institutions.

We denounce the usurpation of power on the part of the federal judiciary, as shown by the decision of Judge Daniel Thew Wright of the District of Columbia, wherein he sentences to imprisonment such champions of the wage earners of the nation as Samuel Gompers and John Mitchell for daring to exercise the prerogatives of free speech. And we call upon Nebraska's representatives in congress to investigate the record of this procedure with a view to the judge's impeachment.

We favor a just working man's compensatory law and pledge the passage of such a measure by a democratic legislature.

We favor the enactment of a law prohibiting any person or firm engaged in the sale or manufacture of intoxicating liquors from contributing money or valuable things to any person or organization, or to any contest where the question of liquor is involved. The penalty for a violation of this law shall be forfeiture of license and fine.

We pledge the best efforts of democratic members of the legislature and all other democratic officials to the following described policies with respect to state government:

Reservation for the people of control over the water power provided by Nebraska rivers and the leasing of rights with supervision over the rates that are to be paid by consumers of this power.

A "blue sky" law patterned after the Kansas law and requiring investment schemes to undergo examination by the state board.

Prison reform with the abolition of the prison contract, the establishment of a binding twine factory for the more desperate men, and the purchase of a large farm for the training in agriculture, horticulture and manual training of those prisoners who are willing to be helped to an improved view of life.

The dependent wives and children of the inmates of the state prison should not be derived entirely of a father's or husband's earning power, but a certain portion of the regular hire, as well as overtime earnings of the prisoner having a mother, wife or child dependent upon his labor, should be devoted to the support of those innocent people.

## MEN AND MATTERS

Governor Wilson has every reason to be profoundly grateful as well as uncommonly proud of the reception tendered him by the people of Nebraska. The reception in Omaha was hearty enough to satisfy any man, but it was exceeded in every way by the reception tendered in Lincoln. Lincoln has turned out some wonderful crowds to see and do honor to distinguished citizens and guests, and in this she has been aided by the citizens of the state. The reception to Mr. and Mrs. Bryan upon their home coming six years ago was, perhaps, the greatest demonstration ever made in honor of private citizens, either here or elsewhere. But even that record-breaking demonstration was exceeded upon the occasion of the visit of Governor Wilson. But foolish indeed is that man who imagines that it was not, in part, a demonstration also of the love and esteem in which William J. Bryan is held by Nebraskans.

Nor can the meaning of that remarkable demonstration be misunderstood by observant men. It was more than curiosity that attracted thousands to Lincoln last Saturday. It was indicative of something far different from the usual enthusiasm of the average campaign. It was a portent of a great political change. The cheering was enthusiastic, to be sure, but it was not the raucous shouts of political zealots or partisan fanatics; it was straight from the hearts of men and women who have, in large measure, cut loose from party and who no longer are content to take their politics at second-hand. There was something, undefinable to be sure, about that great demonstration which points to the overwhelming election of Woodrow Wilson to the presidency of the United States on the fifth day of next month.

The Omaha reception to Governor Wilson was marked by a peculiar combination of political circumstances. We have heard much of democratic divisions in Nebraska. But what about this? Governor Wilson was introduced to his largest Omaha audience by Senator Hitchcock, who was the leader of the Harmon forces in the primary campaign. He was welcomed to the city by Mayor Dahlman, who defeated Shallenberger for the gubernatorial nomination. He was accompanied by Shallenberger who defeated Thompson for the senatorial nomination, and by Shallenberger's side sat Thompson, who defeated John Byrne for the position of chairman of the democratic state committee, and Byrne was along—all enthusiastic for Wilson, all conferring together with a view to making the Wilson vote as big as possible. That strikes us as being indicative of "Harmony" with a big H.

Ill-health is assigned as the reason for the withdrawal of Moses P. Kinkaid from the congressional race in the Sixth district. It will be readily accepted by those who believe it. The truth is that Mr. Kinkaid had reached the limit of his "pussyfooting" tactics and he preferred to withdraw rather than suffer inevitable defeat. The progressive party in the district refused to endorse Mr. Kinkaid's candidacy and nominated Thomas Armstrong of Kearney. This meant the election of Taylor, the demo-populist candidate if both Armstrong and Kinkaid remained in the field, with Kinkaid doubtless a poor third. Realizing this, Mr. Kinkaid's health suddenly became of great concern to him. Of one thing the voters of the Sixth district may be

assured: Whether they elect Taylor or Armstrong they will be represented in congress by a four-square, upstanding man who will not shilly-shally or evade, but will come out squarely for something. Both have served in the Nebraska legislature and both made good records as faithful servants of the people. The district has gained by Mr. Kinkaid's withdrawal from the race.

We mean no disparagement of any other candidate when we give it as our opinion that Clarence E. Harmon is the logical man to elect to membership of the railway commission. Mr. Harmon's knowledge of conditions in Nebraska is not academic. He was born in southwestern Nebraska and for many years has been a traveling salesman. This occupation has put him into close touch with railway conditions and given him a splendid opportunity to acquaint himself at first hand with what the people want and deserve to have. In other words, he is a fitting representative of the freight and fare paying public. He is a young man of energy and of unquestioned integrity. It is no more than right that the commission should be representative of the whole people by having its membership come from different sections of this immense commonwealth. As now constituted the three members all come from within fifty miles of the Missouri river, and two

of them have long been residents of Lincoln. The southwest section of Nebraska has problems which are best solved by one who is familiar with them, therefore the election of Mr. Harmon would seem most fitting.

In one brief sentence of his auditorium address last Saturday evening, Governor Wilson expressed this newspaper's reason for its disapproval of the plan to hold another "union evangelistic meeting" in Lincoln. "I am opposed to emotional conversion," said Governor Wilson. That is about all that results from such meetings as the one under consideration, and we are of the decided opinion that better results could be obtained in other directions by the expenditure of an equal amount of time and money. It is highly proper that the Lord's business be conducted upon a business basis, but when the salvation of human souls is put upon the sordid basis of dollars and cents and evangelists engage in the business of evangelization exactly like other men engage in merchandising, we draw the line. The thousands that will have to be paid to imported evangelists and "team workers" could be spent to far better purpose and with vastly more lasting results.

## That Morning Chill

Too early to start the furnace and the chilly mornings and evenings are uncomfortable.

### Take out the Chill with a Gas Heater

A few minutes in the morning and evening, and dining room and living rooms are warm as toast. No dirt, no kindling, no work. Cheaper than coal.

**We Sell the Heaters**  
All Sizes and Designs. Ornamental--Comfortable



**Lincoln Gas & Electric Light Co.**  
Fourteenth and O Streets

**Asked to Make Ruling.**  
The right of candidates for the legislature to sign statement No. 1 under the Oregon plan after the primaries has been disputed and Secretary of State Wait has been asked to make a ruling. He's inclined to the belief that candidates can sign the statement any time before the official ballot is prepared. Some contend that a candidate is not entitled to have it appear on the ballot that he has signed the statement unless he signed prior to the primaries. Those who sign the statement agree to vote for the candidate for United States senator who receives the largest number of votes at the general election this fall. They contend that they are morally bound by the statement whether they sign it before or after the primaries, and it matters little whether their agreement to be bound is printed on the ballot or not.

**Prison Population Decreases.**  
The population of the state penitentiary has decreased to 394. Liberation of prisoners by parole and by pardon and the discharge of prisoners by reason of the expiration of sentence and the lack of commitment of prisoners by the courts during the summer vacation are reasons given for the decrease. During the past year or two the number of prisoners has averaged about 450.

Kearney, Neb.—In a modest but substantial way the state of Nebraska is now prepared to do something in the fight against tuberculosis. An "open air hospital" has been completed at the state institution for tubercular patients, situated near this place, and eighteen patients are now receiving treatment and there is room for many more.