

land "concentrated" in the hands of the capitalists. The urban workmen are denied the right of organization for self-protection, imported pauperized labor beats down their wages, a hireling standing army, unrecognized by our laws, is established to shoot them down, and they are rapidly degenerating into European conditions.

The fruits of the toiling millions are boldly stolen to build up colossal fortunes for a few, unprecedented in the history of mankind, and the possessors of these, in turn, despise the republic and endanger liberty. From the same prolific womb of governmental injustice we breed the two great classes—tramps and millionaires.

The national power to create money is appropriated to enrich bondholders, a vast public debt, payable in legal tender currency, has been funded into gold bearing bonds, thereby adding millions to the burdens of the people. Silver, which has been accepted as coin since the dawn of history, has been demonetized to add to the purchasing power of gold by decreasing the value of all forms of property as well as human labor, and the supply of currency is purposely abridged to fatten usurers, bankrupt enterprise and enslave industry. A vast conspiracy against mankind has been organized on two continents and it is rapidly taking possession of the world. If not met and overthrown at once it forebodes terrible social convulsions, the destruction of civilization or the establishment of an absolute despotism.

We have witnessed for more than a quarter of a century the struggle of the two great political parties for power and plunder, while grievous wrongs have been inflicted upon a suffering people. We charge that the controlling influences dominating both these parties have permitted the existing dreadful conditions to develop without serious efforts to prevent or restrain them. Neither do they now promise us any substantial reform. They have agreed together to ignore, in the coming campaign, every issue but one. They propose to drown the outcries of a plundered people with the uproar of a sham battle over the tariff, so that capitalists, corporations, national banks, rings, trusts, watered stock, the demonetization of silver and the oppressions of the usurers may all be lost sight of. They propose to sacrifice our homes, lives and children on the altar of mammon, to destroy the multitude in order to secure corruption funds from the millionaires.

Assembled on the anniversary of the birthday of the nation, and filled with the spirit of the grand generation who established our independence, we seek to restore the government of the republic to the hands of "the plain people," with whose class it originated. We assert our purposes to be identical with the purposes of the national constitution to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity. We declare that this republic can only endure as a free government while built upon the love of the whole people for each other and for the nation, that it cannot be pinned together by bayonets, that the civil war is over and that every passion and resentment which grew out of it must die with it, and that we must be in fact as we are in name, one united brotherhood of freemen.

Our country finds itself confronted by conditions for which there is no precedent in the history of the world. Our annual agricultural productions amount to billions of dollars in value, which must, within a few weeks or months, be exchanged for billions of dollars of commodities consumed in their production. The existing currency supply is wholly inadequate to make this exchange. The results are falling prices, the formation of combines and rings and the impoverishment of the producing class. We pledge ourselves that if given power we will labor to correct these evils by wise and reasonable legislation, in accordance with the terms of our platform. We believe that the powers of the government—in other words, of the people—should be expanded (as in the case of the postal service) as rapidly and as far as the good sense of an intelligent people and the teachings of experience shall justify, to the end that oppression, injustice and poverty shall eventually cease in the land.

While our sympathies as a party of se-

form are naturally on the side of every proposition which will tend to make men intelligent, virtuous and temperate, we nevertheless regard these questions, important as they are, as subordinate to the great issues now pressing for solution, and upon which not only our individual prosperity, but the very existence of free institutions depend, and we ask all men to first help us to determine whether we are to have a republic to administer before we differ as to the conditions upon which it is to be administered, believing that the forces of reform this day set in motion will never cease to move forward until every wrong is remedied, equal rights and equal privileges securely established for all the men and women of the country. We declare, therefore:

First—That the union of the labor forces of the United States this day consummated shall be permanent and perpetual. May its spirit enter into all hearts for the salvation of the republic and the uplifting of mankind.

Second—Wealth belongs to him who created it, and every dollar taken from industry without an equivalent is robbery. "If any will not work, neither shall he eat." The interests of rural and civic labor are the same; their enemies are identical.

Third—We believe that the time has come when the railroad corporations must either own the people or the people the corporations, and should the government enter upon the work of owning and managing any or all railroads, we should favor an amendment to the constitution by which all persons engaged in the government service shall be placed under a civil service regulation of the most rigid character, so as to prevent the increase of the power of the national administration by the use of such additional government employees.

THE PLATFORM.

First—We demand a national currency, safe, sound and flexible, issued by the general government only, a full legal tender for all debts, public and private, and that without the use of banking corporations, a just, equitable and efficient means of distribution direct to the people, at a tax not exceeding 2 per cent. be provided, as set forth in the subtreasury plan of the farmers alliance, or some better system; also by payments in discharge of its obligations for public improvements.

(a) We demand free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1.

(b) We demand that the amount of circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than \$50 per capita.

(c) We demand a graduated income tax.

(d) We believe that the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and hence we demand that all state and national revenue shall be limited to the necessary expense of the government economically and honestly administered.

(e) We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people and to facilitate exchange.

SECOND—Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity, the government should own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people.

(a) The telegraph and telephone, like the postoffice system, being a necessity for transmission of news, should be owned and operated by the government in the interest of the people.

THIRD—The land, including all the natural resources of wealth, is the heritage of all the people, and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes, and alien ownership of land should be prohibited. All land now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs, and all lands now owned by aliens should be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only.

Branch, of Georgia, read the platform proper, which was warmly greeted.

Its adoption was instantly moved,

and was put through by unanimous consent, the whole convention rising in advance of the chair and adopting the platform almost before he could move its adoption.

At once, on the adoption of the platform, the convention broke over all restraint and went wild in one grand demonstration. The whole convention, audience and delegates, rose to their feet and the first platform of the people's party was ushered into the world with a scene of enthusiasm that in intensity and earnestness exceeded anything ever before witnessed in a national convention. The scene lasted between twenty and twenty-five minutes. It began by the convention rising to their chairs, cheering, swinging coats, which had been taken off on account of the heat, waving hats and fans and throwing things into the air. All the delegates were on their feet and the stage was crowded with members of the committee on resolutions. As if by a flash a number of delegates seized the uprights used to hold placards designating the place of state delegations in the hall and rushed with them to the platform, forming a cordon about the whole platform. Banners were also borne there. The New Yorkers seized Lloyd of New York, and bearing him on their shoulders placed him in the very front of the phalanx on the stage, where he was handed a baton and enthusiastically beat time to the wild cheering of the crowd. The enthusiasm continued as great as ever and each new banner was warmly greeted.

After order had been restored the convention adjourned until 8 p. m.

EVENING SESSION.

The delegates were prompt in arriving for the night session and all were nervous and expectant, owing to a lack of knowledge of his position and final information as to the possibility of the acceptance of the nomination by Judge Gresham. The first actual business was the reading by Chairman Branch, of the resolutions committee, of a supplement to the platform, as follows:

WHEREAS, Other questions having been presented for our consideration, we hereby submit the following, not as a part of the platform of the people's party, but as resolutions expressive of the sentiment of this convention:

Resolved, That we demand a free ballot and a fair count in all elections and pledge ourselves to secure it to every legal voter, without federal intervention, through the adoption by the states of the unpurged Australian or secret ballot system.

Resolved, That the revenue received from a graduated income tax should be applied to the reduction of the burden of taxation now resting upon the domestic industries of the country.

Resolved, That we pledge our support to fair and liberal pensions to ex-union soldiers and sailors.

Resolved, That we regard the maintenance of the large standing army of mercenaries known as the Pinkerton system as a menace to our liberties, and we demand its abolition, and we condemn the recent invasion of the territory of Wyoming by the hired assassins of plutocracy, assisted by federal officials.

Resolved, That we commend to the favorable consideration of the people and the reform press the legislative system known as the initiative and referendum.

Resolved, That we favor a constitutional provision limiting the tenure of office of president and vice-president to one term and providing for the election of senators of the United States by direct vote of the people.

Resolved, That we oppose any subsidy or national aid to any private corporation, for any purpose.

Resolved, That we condemn the fallacy of protecting American labor under the present system, which opens our ports to the pauper and criminal classes of the world and crowds out our wage earners and we denounce the present ineffective laws in regard to contract labor and demand the further restriction of undesirable immigration.

Resolved, That we cordially sympathize with the efforts of organized workmen to shorten the hours of labor, and demand a rigid enforcement of the existing eight-hour law on government

work, and ask that a penalty be added to the said law.

The following telegram was then read:

"CHICAGO, July 4.—J. B. Weaver, Ignatius Donnelly, Ben Terrell, John W. Hayes: I have just returned and find your dispatch of the 1st. I must stand by my dispatch to Mr. Orr of the 2d. Accept my grateful acknowledgments.

[Signed.] W. Q. GRESHAM."

This putting Gresham out of the question all interests seemed to combine on Weaver.

The roll of states was called for the presentation of candidates for the presidency. When Alabama was called delegate Manning nominated Gen. Jas. B. Weaver of Iowa, saying: "He is a man the mention of whose name creates such enthusiasm as was never heard in our state."



JAS. B. WEAVER.

Colorado yielded to S. F. Norton, of Illinois, who placed Senator Kyle of South Dakota in nomination, saying the man he should name had already won the spurs in the brainiest assembly in the United States. The man he would speak of stood there as a giant. One part of his strength consisted in the fact that he was a member of no faction. He was a man so great that



JAMES H. KYLE.

no big white hat of an ancestor could hide him from the public gaze. He pledged his support to whomever the candidate might be, for no man could be so great as the platform and principles of his party.

His candidate was a broad and liberal-minded man, who gave to every one the right to speak and write for himself and follow his own conscience in all things. It was not impossible or improbable that they might place the man he would name into the White house. That grand, magnificent man was James H. Kyle of South Dakota.

Stephen H. Basher of Illinois, pastor of a progressive church, said: "As armies follow intrepid leaders to conquest and victory, so should political parties crown with honor the genius of the leaders which gave it birth. The people's party was founded on principles, not men, and it demands as a leader the biggest, brainiest and best man in the party. The party should keep in the middle of the road and choose a man who is old enough in the party to know where the middle of the road is. That man was Senator Van Wyck of Nebraska."

The mention of Van Wyck's name aroused some of the liveliest cheering of the evening.

Vandervoort of Nebraska, said that Senator Van Wyck wished his name withdrawn.

The convention then proceeded to ballot upon the different candidates.

The first ballot resulted as follows: Weaver, 995; Kyle, 265; scattering, 8. The nomination of Weaver was then made unanimous.

The roll of states was immediately called for nominations for the vice presidency. The names of Ben Terrell of Texas, and J. C. Field of Virginia. Field was nominated on the first ballot.

The convention then, at 3 a. m., adjourned sine die.

No Room to Grow.

"I wonder why there is a rule against children in so many flats?"

"Probably because there isn't room for them to grow."—Harper's Bazar.