

NEBRASKA'S DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION

The democratic state convention for Nebraska met at Lincoln, September 20. William G. Hastings of Saline county was nominated to be judge of the supreme court. D. C. Cole of Polk county and Louis Lightner of Platte county were nominated to be regents of the state university.

The following platform was adopted:

"We, the democrats of Nebraska in state convention assembled, reaffirm our faith in democratic principles as enunciated by Thomas Jefferson and defended by William J. Bryan.

"As touching the attitude of the democratic party of Nebraska toward the general railroad question, we declare specifically as follows:

"1. In favor of a law making the giving of a free railroad pass to a public official a criminal offense, and the acceptance thereof a forfeiture of office.

"2. In favor of placing a valuation upon railroad property for purposes of taxation, based on the market value of the stock of the road, plus its outstanding bonds.

"3. In favor of an immediate and substantial reduction of railroad freight rates, and to that end we demand that the attorney general shall apply to the federal court for an enforcement of the provisions of the Nebraska maximum freight rate law. We make this demand in harmony with the right reserved to the state of Nebraska by the court to apply for a reopening of the maximum freight rate case whenever business conditions might warrant.

"We demand that every executive and judicial officer, and every member of the legislature, immediately surrender whatever corporation favors he may have accepted, and adhere, in the future, to his sworn obligation.

"This convention emphatically condemns the issuance of free transportation for any purpose other than in genuine cases of charity or to bona fide employes actually under pay of the issuing corporation, and demands the adoption by the Nebraska legislature of a law making the intentional acceptance or issuance of such free transportation a criminal offense as a violation of the principles of justice by a common carrier.

"The people cannot expect just laws for the regulation of corporations at the hands of a legislature whose members accept favors from corporations. They cannot expect equitable taxation of corporations from a board whose members are under obligations to the powers seeking to avoid taxation. The rule—now thoroughly established in our courts—that a man is disqualified from serving as a juror if he has accepted a pass from a corporation that is party to the case, should be as strictly applied to the bench as it is to the jury box. We denounce the acceptance of these corporation favors by the judiciary as particularly offensive; and we pledge to the people of Nebraska that the nominee of this convention will not accept favors—in the form of free transportation or otherwise—from any corporation.

"We demand the strict and prompt enforcement of the law passed by the Nebraska legislature in 1897 providing a fine of \$1,000 for any corporation which, in the language of the law 'contributes money, property, transportation, help or assistance in any manner or form to any political party, or to any candidate for any civil office, or to any political organization, or committee, or to any individual to be used or expended for political purposes.'

"We condemn the republican party of Nebraska for its general and continued subserviency to

great corporations and for the hypocrisy of its present day attitude. For more than five years that party has been in control of the executive and legislative power; yet it has failed to provide the people with relief from corporate imposition. It has had it within its power to protect the people, but it has piled higher and higher the burdens upon them and has permitted the representatives of special interests to wage unrestrained war upon the public welfare. It has permitted the corporations to name its United States senators; to frame the laws enacted by its legislatures; and to make non-effective the petitions of the people. When republican extravagance in the administration of state affairs has made it necessary to increase taxation, republican officials have seen to it that the increased burden rested heaviest upon the people and lightest upon the corporations. Now that the popular protest against this reign of corporation power through the medium of the republican party, has become so strong that attention must be given that protest, the republican party asks for a vote of confidence and expects the people to be satisfied with a republican convention's 'recommendation' that a law be enacted by some future legislature to prohibit free railroad transportation.

"We denounce the republican legislature for its subserviency to the elevator trust, and for its failure to heed the request made on behalf of the farmers of the state that adequate laws be passed for the protection of the grain growers from the impositions made possible by the conspiracy between the elevator combine and the railroads. We demand the arrest and prosecution under Nebraska's criminal laws of every member and officer of the elevator trust and of all their conspirators amenable to that law.

"We urge an immediate and vigorous prosecution by the Nebraska officials of the obnoxious coal, lumber and other criminal combines in the restraint of trade.

"We favor the passage at the next session of Nebraska's legislature of a law providing for the nomination of candidates for public office by the direct primary system.

"We favor the initiative and referendum in order that the government may be kept close to the people.

"We favor the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people as the only means of bringing that body into harmony with the voters.

"We express our gratification over the conclusion of peace between Russia and Japan, and cordially commend the president of the United States for his efforts toward that end.

"Believing in equal rights to all and special privileges to none, we demand the enforcement of all anti-trust laws, and particularly the criminal clause of the Sherman anti-trust law. 'Private monopolies are indefensible and intolerable,' and we believe the law should be as strictly enforced against the powerful monopolists who prey upon the necessities of the people and conspire against the lives of human beings as it is against the commonest criminal in the land.

"We believe with Messrs. Harmon and Judson that 'the evils with which we are now confronted are corporate in name but individual in fact;' that 'guilt is always personal;' that 'so long as officers can hide behind their corporations no remedy can be affected,' and that 'when the government searches out the guilty man and

makes corporate wrongdoing mean personal punishment and dishonor, the laws will be obeyed.' We demand the enforcement of existing laws against rebates, and the enactment of new laws providing for the imprisonment as well as the fine of corporation officials who violate that law.

"We favor a law giving to the interstate commerce commission the power to fix railroad rates. The right to appeal should not, of course, be denied; but when the commission has fixed the rate it should go in force immediately, and remain in force until rejected by a court of competent jurisdiction.

"The enormous increase in the number of trusts and the enlargement of the power wielded by those great concerns in every phase of our life; the manifestations of the influence wielded by special interests over the United States senate; the exactions of extortionate prices by the meat trust, and the continued impositions of other combines in the face of the public demand for enforcement of law; the revelations concerning the great insurance companies showing that policyholders have been defrauded in order that money might be put in the purse of the insurance official, and showing, also, that these officials have contributed to the republican campaign fund large sums of their policyholders' money; the surrender of the treasury department into the piratical hands of Wall street; the exposures concerning the lawlessness of United States senators, the corruption among high public officials in nearly every department of government, and the manipulations by corporation chiefs who, pleading for republican victory, posed as the champions of 'national honor' and the defenders of 'the business interests of the country'—these things give but a faint idea of the sacrifices the people were asked to make when they were urged to 'let well enough alone.'

"If popular government is to be preserved, national authority must be taken from the control of the political party that depends for success upon campaign funds provided by great corporations whose pretense is patriotism but whose purpose is plunder.

"Confidently believing that at the first opportunity the people will require the republican party to surrender its control over the national government, we submit to the intelligent men of all political parties in Nebraska that the contempt shown by the republican party for the public interests of this state requires the defeat of that political organization at the November election."

Additional resolutions adopted read as follows:

"With sincere regret we have received intelligence of the impaired health of Hon. Silas A. Holcomb, chief justice of Nebraska a condition which renders imperative his retirement to private life. By the voice of the democracy of our state Judge Holcomb was twice called to the high position of governor, his record in that office reflecting credit upon himself and his political following. His six years of service upon the supreme bench have been marked by a rugged honesty and profound erudition, winning for his judicial decrees the approval of the people of his state. We tender to Judge Holcomb our earnest sympathy with the hope that he may be speedily restored to health."

"We denounce the acceptance of the Rockefeller gift by the regents of the university, and demand the withdrawal and the return to Mr. Rockefeller of any money that may have been received from him."

A BIG FIGHT IN OHIO'S STATE CAMPAIGN

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counties were for him and there were enough of them. He was nominated without a vote of a single delegate from either of the eight larger cities. Mr. Pattison was the attorney for the Citizens' Protective league in Cincinnati back in the seventies. He prosecuted many of the embryo grafters of those days, blocked many a scheme to plunder the public, and drafted many laws that gave to Cincinnati the most peaceful and most honest government it has enjoyed in more than a generation. Mr. Pattison was sent to the legislature and proved a valuable member. He was elected to the state senate in 1890 and while a member of it became the pioneer advocate in Ohio of the referendum. He attached the referendum clause to many a bonding and taxing bill. In fact Mr. Pattison offered so many amendments to measures proposed compelling their approval by a majority vote of the people affected that he brought the referendum into notice and made it

popular in Ohio. Mr. Pattison is accustomed to large affairs. He is one of the leading business men of the state, and enjoys the confidence, good will and support of the best citizenship of the commonwealth.

The Issues at Stake

The lines are drawn. Governor Herrick en-joins in his campaign the vigorous support of the Cox machine, the brewing and liquor interests.

He is earnestly opposed by members of his own party who have organized and may be divided as follows:

- The anti-saloon league and the churches.
- The anti-boss and anti-graft of republicans.
- Farmers offended by his veto of agricultural appropriations.
- Teachers and parents opposed to the school code.
- The horse breeders and owners.
- The old soldiers.
- Those opposed to the iniquitous inheritance tax.
- The friends of the canals of the state.

Of course all these elements have reasons for their opposition to Governor Herrick, separate, distinct and unrelated. All are organized and all are supporting Mr. Pattison. But, though such a condition was never before known in the state, with all this cordial support of political opponents, they, alone, cannot elect him. They are a necessary factor in success, but they do not constitute the bulk of the vote absolutely essential to success. Mr. Pattison will have all this and is and will be gratified. But above and more important, he must have the solid democratic vote. Without it the opposition to Herrick fails. With it Pattison is sure to win. The governorship, the legislature, the entire state ticket is offered the democracy. All democrats need to do is to march to the polls and accept the honors. The problem is simple. Its correct solution lays in a full democratic poll. If the democrats, all of them, who voted for Bryan in 1896, will vote for Pattison in 1905, the majority over Herrick will exceed that of Roosevelt over Parker.