

Nebraska Democratic State Convention

The Nebraska democratic state convention met in the great auditorium at Omaha at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, March 5. It was generally agreed that the convention was the largest in the history of the state. H. H. Hanks of Nebraska City was chosen temporary and permanent chairman. C. H. Whitney of Cedar county was chosen temporary secretary, and Dan Horrigan of Douglas county was chosen assistant secretary.

The delegates at large were elected as follows: Mayor F. W. Brown, Lincoln; I. J. Dunn, Omaha; Dan V. Stephens, Fremont; Felix J. Hale, Atkinson.

Alternates for the delegates at large were chosen as follows: Robert Graham, Alliance; J. R. Cory, Hastings; Harry B. Hayward, Omaha; George Brophy, Polk county.

District delegates were as follows:

First District Delegates—John H. Moorehead, Falls City; Monroe T. Connor, Auburn.

First District Alternates—John K. Henninger, Pawnee City; George Warren, Tecumseh.

Second District Delegates—George Rogers, Omaha; Dr. W. J. McCrann, South Omaha.

Second District Alternates—Thomas F. Kelly, Washington County; J. A. Peterson, Sarpy County.

Third District Delegates—William A. Smith, Beemer; Phil H. Kohl, Wayne.

Third District Alternates—James Hughes, Schuyler; B. N. Saunders, Creighton.

Fourth District Delegates—J. F. Gerke, Seward; Bartholemew Koehler, Geneva.

Fourth District Alternates—Charles Krumbach, Shelby; John Byrnes, Hebron.

Fifth District Delegates—C. E. Harmon, Holdrege; B. F. Scroggin, Oak.

Fifth District Alternates—R. S. Logan, Stockville; James Bell, Franklin.

Sixth District Delegates—Andrew M. Morrissey, Valentine; James R. Swayne, Ord.

Sixth District Alternates—Joseph Oberfelder, Sidney; A. I. Woodsum, Lexington.

Resolutions of instruction were adopted as follows:

The democratic party of Nebraska again declares confidence in and admiration for William J. Bryan. In him we behold the ideal American citizen—the ideal democrat. We rejoice that the principles which he has so ably advocated have been gladly received and are now generally accepted by the American people.

Resolved, That the delegates by this convention chosen, be and they are hereby instructed to vote as a unit for the nomination of Mr. Bryan for the presidency.

The correspondent for the Lincoln, Neb., Journal says:

Raymond P. Robbins of Chicago addressed the convention and the large audience which had gathered in the galleries, saying in part: "The issue in American politics today is the great struggle between the group of plunderers on the one hand and the group who toil on the other. The real issue is between the people who work and do not get a living and the people who get a living and do not work."

Mr. Robbins then paid a glowing tribute to the character and work of William J. Bryan, saying: "The issue confronting us today has slowly widened and deepened for twelve years until it is now squarely presented to the people by Mr. Bryan. He came to us a man without great wealth or position and his only reputation was his honest character. On that he has won the hearts of the people and they will this fall elect him to the highest office in the gift of the nation."

Mr. Robbins then took up and discussed economic conditions.

"The soup wagon has succeeded the prosperity wagon in this country," he said, "and this under a republican administration, when we have been taught that panics occurred only under democratic administrations."

Arthur Mullen of O'Neill, president of the Bryan volunteers, spoke for the extension of that organization. He declared that twenty-seven counties had no organization; seven judicial districts had no candidate in the field at the last election; five counties had no county ticket. Funds, said he, were needed to carry on the campaign, and he asked all delegates to come to headquarters and sign up.

Dr. P. L. Hall of Lincoln was unanimously chosen as the Nebraska member of the national committee.

At the evening session following Mr.

Robbins' speech Mr. Bryan addressed the convention, the great auditorium building being filled with visitors.



MR. BRYAN'S ADDRESS AT OMAHA

In his speech before the Nebraska democratic state convention at Omaha, Mr. Bryan entitled his speech "A Word of Encouragement," and devoted his remarks to the producing of evidence to show the growth of democratic policies and principles and the basis for democratic hope. He spoke in part as follows:

"Our trouble used to be to persuade the republicans to accept democratic policies; our work now is to expose the imitation by them of democratic ideas and to point out wherein they come short in their effort to appropriate democratic doctrines.

"Take, for instance, the trust question; we had difficulty convincing the republicans that there were trusts. Now they admit trusts exist; we had difficulty convincing them the criminal law should be enforced against trusts; now they admit it should be enforced, but fail to enforce it. Insofar as they have acted against the trusts at all they have acted along the lines laid down by the democrats, but the trust magnates are still at large, the trusts are still flourishing, and even the supporters of Mr. Taft have no specific remedies to offer for relief, and trusts arise while republicans are boasting of their crusade against them. They propose regulation of monopolies instead of extermination, although they have reason to know that regulation has failed and that any one of a number of trusts can afford to contribute ten times as much to a campaign fund as can be collected from all the voters who are outside the privileged circles.

"On the tariff question the republican leaders now admit that tariff reform is necessary, but a careful reading of their promises show that they use language identical with that employed in former platforms which have been the basis for the present extortionate rates. The advocates of the McKinley tariff and of the Dingley tariff never asked for more than enough to cover the difference in the cost of labor here and abroad, but under the pretense of protecting labor they built up the present oppressive schedules. What reason have we to believe their promises are worth any more now than they have been in the past twenty years. Surely the people will not trust tariff reform to those who have stubbornly refused to reduce tariff rates when they had full power to do so, and then ask to be returned to power that they may do what they should have done long ago.

"The republicans now admit that railroad regulation has been needed, and yet for ten years the republican party allowed itself to be overawed by the railroad lobby at Washington and having, with the aid of the democrats, secured a little relief, the republican leaders now rely upon what has been done, and outline no program for further legislation. The republican leaders have watched a few railroad magnates strangle competition and combine great systems into greater ones, without raising a hand for the protection of the public, and now they ask for another lease of power as a reward for their inaction.

"Under republican rule the relations between capital and labor have become more and more strained, and yet the republican leaders resist each attempt to bring employers and employes into more harmonious relations.

"The Philippine question presents another instance of gross mismanagement. Instead of applying American ideas to the Philippine question, the republican leaders imitated the empires of the old world and entered upon a colonial policy which has involved us in enormous expense, brought us weakness instead of strength, and humiliation instead of glory.

"The present financial stringency is another illustration of republican incompetency. In the full possession of power, it has allowed the country to be run by Wall Street financiers and in the crisis is impotent to do more than furnish money out of the public treasury to support the market. It has made no effort to stop gambling—the fruitful cause of panics—it has made no effort to furnish government notes for an emergency and it has made no effort to protect depositors. While it demands security for government funds when deposited with banks, it has left the individual depositor

to risk his scanty savings without protection against mismanagement by bank officials.

"The republicans admit that something must be done and they know not how to proceed. They are so convinced that the present conditions are deplorable that they applaud the president's last message, which was an indictment of republican misrule, for all abuses of which he complained are traceable to republican legislation or lack of legislation.

"The democrats face the future with hope and their hope rests on a firm foundation. Democratic policies have grown in popularity as the voters have become better acquainted with the evils to be remedied. The democrats have been looking at public questions from the standpoint of all the people, while republican leaders have been looking at them from a standpoint of a few. As the strength of a party must in the long run be measured by the strength of its principles, democrats have reason to believe that their prospects of success have been greatly increased by the widespread acceptance of democratic remedies.

"Another reason for hope is to be found in the fact that the democratic party is united, while the republican party is divided, and the reunion of the democratic party is due to the same causes that have brought division into the republican ranks. The country has moved forward toward positive and aggressive resistance to the encroachments of predatory wealth, and this growth has brought the rear ranks of the democratic party up to the firing line, while it has separated the republican reformers from the republican standpatters. The fight for supremacy in the republican party is a bitter one, and whichever side wins the other side will be disgruntled. As the republicans used one faction of the democratic party to defeat us in 1896, we shall return the compliment this year and use one part of the republican party to defeat the other, for it is so hopelessly divided that it can not be trusted to do anything at present.

"The third cause for hope is to be found in the moral awakening. Never within a generation has there been such a stirring of conscience, and the sense of justice inherent in the people has been made sensitive to the democratic appeal, which is essentially an appeal for justice. The democratic party has been doing pioneer work and now it will enjoy the gratitude and the appreciation showered upon the pioneer when the character of his work is fully understood."



NEBRASKA POPULIST CONVENTION

The Nebraska populist state convention met at Omaha March 5. The following report is taken from the Omaha World-Herald:

With the largest crowd of delegates at any of the party conventions for four years the populist state convention was called to order in Washington hall at 2 o'clock yesterday by State Chairman Manuel, with Secretary Walrath of the committee acting as secretary of the meeting.

E. E. Thomas of Omaha was made temporary chairman, and this committee on platform and resolutions was appointed: Thomas H. Tibbles of Omaha, chairman; J. S. Canady of Kearney county, W. B. Jones of Polk, Fred Sheppard of Lancaster and Orin Reed of Keith county.

While the platform committee was conferring short speeches were made by State Chairman Manuel, Elmer E. Thomas of Omaha, Walrath of Osceola, T. H. Tibbles of Omaha and a number of others, long set speeches being barred.

Before the convention was called to order State Chairman Manuel in an interview, said:

"This is the largest convention the populists have had for many years. Practically every county in the state, with the exception of a few of the far western tier, is represented. Some have only one delegate here, while from other counties there are as many as a dozen or more.

"In a private meeting this morning there were 122 delegates present. Everything done there was informal. We just talked over the situation and, of course, took no action."

The committee reported the following resolutions which were presented to the convention:

Your committee appointed in caucus to present resolutions to the convention of the people's