

# Nebraska Democrats Indorse Mr. Bryan's Conduct at Baltimore

The democratic state convention for Nebraska, was held at Grand Island, July 30th. It was one of the best attended conventions ever held in Nebraska. There was a clear cut contest over Mr. Bryan's course at Baltimore and that course was explicitly indorsed by a vote of 636½ to 246½. William H. Thompson of Grand Island was elected chairman of the state committee to succeed John C. Byrnes and Leo Matthews was re-elected secretary. The resolutions indorsing Mr. Bryan's course were debated by picked speakers for one and one-half hour. Arthur Mullen of Omaha, Bernard McNeny of Red Cloud, State Senator Placek of Wahoo and H. F. Fleharty of Omaha spoke in opposition to the Bryan indorsement. Judge Matt Miller of David City, H. H. Hanks of Nebraska City and Richard L. Metcalfe of Lincoln, defended the resolutions. The resolutions as adopted were as follows:

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 thoroughly good progressive platform.

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

We point with pride to the leadership Nebraska 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 these elements to dominate the 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 of Nebraska.

The following state platform was adopted: 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 amendment 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 business-like 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 intrastate 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 regulations for 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 systemize 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.

The 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 railway commission to examine and audit the books and accounts of all public service corporations doing business within the state, and to limit the earning power of such corporations to a 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 for 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 safeguard the rights of litigants.

Nebraska's awkward and inequitable taxation system should be replaced by a twentieth century method.

We favor, therefore, taxation reforms 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 speculative purposes and without improvement ought to carry a larger share of taxation than it now does. 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 suited for Nebraska's peculiar needs.

We favor insurance reform 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 policyholders. 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 to the fact that the democratic legislature appropriated more money for the permanent equipment of normal schools than had been before expended for like purposes during the entire history of the state. We pledge ourselves now 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 appropriations for those 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 earner as

ers of the nation as Samuel Gompers and John Mitchell for daring to exercise the prerogatives of free speech, and we call upon Nebraska representatives in congress to investigate the record of this procedure with a view to the judge's impeachment.

We favor a just workingman'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 thing 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 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's prison should not be deprived 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 on his labor should be devoted to the support of those innocent people.

## A CORRECTION

The editorial entitled, "Theodore Roosevelt vs. Democracy," on the first page of The Commoner of July 26th, was written as an answer to Mr. Roosevelt. Mr. Bryan's attention has been called to the fact that the Outlook editorial which The Commoner editorial answered was not signed by Mr. Roosevelt. It might be reasonably assumed that the Outlook would not, at such a time as this, speak on political issues without Mr. Roosevelt's approval, but in the interest of absolute accuracy the above correction is made. The Commoner's readers will be notified if Mr. Roosevelt's future utterances are at variance with the views set forth in the Outlook editorial.

## INDORSEMENT APPRECIATED

Mr. Bryan heartily appreciates the cordial indorsement given by the recent democratic state convention of Nebraska of his course at Baltimore. A crisis arose and it was necessary that prompt measures be taken to save the party from a serious mistake. Mr. Bryan acted upon his judgment and he is gratified to be assured that he so accurately interpreted the will of his constituents. He has been their co-laborer for twenty years and nothing could give him more pleasure than their commendation.

## PROGRESSIVE NEBRASKA

"Forward march!" is the command in Nebraska. Past differences over local matters are forgotten and the party is on the battle line for Wilson, Marshall, Shallenberger, Morehead and the rest of the ticket. The new state committee, with that veteran democrat, Hon. W. H. Thompson, at its head, is a militant body and entirely in harmony with the platform and the candidates. Nebraska is progressive. Now for a big majority.

Now that the president has taken the country into his confidence and explained why it would be disastrous to elect either Governor Wilson or ex-President Roosevelt, we await the replies of the gentlemen warned against. They ought to be able to put two danger-signals on the Taft candidacy.

Mr. Roosevelt fears that the trusts will support the democratic ticket. No danger: the trusts will never support a democratic ticket when they have a chance to support him or a candidate whom he supports.

Wall street can not count Nebraska among her supporters.