

C. W. Bryan a Candidate for Governor

[Mayor Charles W. Bryan of Lincoln has accepted a filing made in his behalf by Nebraska democrats who petitioned him to become a candidate for governor at the primaries April 18. Mayor Bryan will base his candidacy upon the following platform:]

Regarding a candidate for public office as in the attitude of a workman who offers his services to an employer, I deem it right to submit to the democrats of Nebraska at this time a brief statement of my views as to matters of public interest, in order that none may be in doubt regarding the service I shall attempt to give to my employers—the people of Nebraska—in event that I shall be nominated and elected to the office of governor.

As touching national affairs and the national democratic administration, I yield first place to no man in approval of the great works accomplished by President Wilson and the democratic congress, nor in advocacy of the renomination and re-election of President Wilson. The pending legislation in favor of giving independence to the people of the Philippines, and the certain early success of the administration's rural credits bill, mark the most faithful redemption of all the legislative pledges made to the people of the nation by the Baltimore convention, and entitle the administration and the democratic congress to the unreserved approval of the country.

In the hour when our country is threatened by a foe more dangerous than it has ever encountered—the militaristic foe—I take my place with the friends of honorable peace and against the friends of war, and declare unalterable opposition to any and all military programs calculated to promote the profits of the makers of war munitions at the expense of the peace and prosperity of the vast majority of the people.

As touching matters of particular moment to the people of our own state, I desire to be fairly understood as favoring legislation to the following specific ends:

1. To curtail the arbitrary powers of the state railway commission, so that the people who contribute to the profits of the great telephone corporations may not be compelled to pay exorbitant rentals and tolls for telephone service. I favor legislation which will limit the revenues of the great telephone corporation to a reasonable profit on the capital stock of such corporation after all moisture shall have been squeezed therefrom.

2. To assist in every way possible the people of Gosper, Phelps and Kearney counties to secure government aid in their efforts to utilize the flood waters of the Platte river to supplement the rainfall, thereby making certain profitable returns to the agriculturists of that section of the state.

3. To give the people of the metropolitan city of Omaha the right to establish a municipal lighting plant, by the aid of which they might be annually saving more than a quarter million dollars now unjustly collected from them above a reasonable rate by the corporation which owns the private electric plant in that city.

4. To prevent the fire insurance combine from destroying competition in the writing of fire insurance policies which would lay an additional burden upon the policy holders in Nebraska of upwards of three quarters of a million dollars annually.

5. To encourage the building of good public highways throughout Nebraska.

6. To encourage the building of electric inter-urban railways.

7. To provide a plan under which the people of Nebraska towns, counties, districts, or the state may build and operate water-power plants on the rivers of the state for the purpose of generating electric energy at low cost and carrying it to the homes of the people on the farms as well as in the towns.

A study of the efforts of the people to secure legislation for the common welfare, and contrary to the desires of the public-service corporations, convinces me that such efforts will be futile in whole or in part as long as the organized liquor interests shall be permitted to have as large a hand as they have heretofore had in controlling the actions of our legislatures. Experience in our own and other states has convinced me that

there is one way, and only one way, to put the organized liquor interests out of the legislative business in this state, and that way lies in the direction of putting the saloon out of business altogether. In my campaign for the democratic nomination for governor I desire it to be understood that if nominated and elected, I shall feel it my duty to lend all possible influence to the making and execution of laws for the enforcement of all the provisions of the pending constitutional amendment, provided the people shall vote to make it a part of the state constitution.

CHAS. W. BRYAN.

Miami, Florida, Feb. 3, 1916. C. W. Bryan, Lincoln, Nebr.—I am very much gratified to learn that you have consented to enter the democratic primary as candidate for governor. I am in position to know of your devotion to every reform for which progressive democracy stands, and shall gladly avail myself of this opportunity to repay part of my obligation to you for your unselfish labors during the past twenty years. Call upon me for any service that I can render.

W. J. BRYAN.

Prohibition in Nebraska

Prohibition will enter into the campaign in Nebraska this year and will be the leading issue in the democratic primary, as well as at the election. Under the initiative and referendum it is possible to submit a proposition to the people upon its merits without regard to its connection with parties, but in Nebraska the liquor interests have interfered in politics to such an extent that it is not possible to ignore the efforts which they are now making to nominate candidates for office who will, if elected, obey the liquor interests rather than the people.

Experience has shown, in other states as well as in Nebraska, that those who profit by the manufacture and sale of liquor have no regard for a popular vote and no respect for the wishes of the majority. If the prohibition amendment carries in Nebraska, it will be necessary to put it into force by legislative enactments and through administrative officials. A wet legislature would, as far as it could, hamper the enforcement of the law and impair the value of the victory at the polls. If the people of Nebraska want prohibition it is fair to assume that they want a legislature and state officers in harmony with prohibition and willing to make the amendment effective.

The only way to secure prohibition officials is to nominate candidates who will openly pledge themselves to prohibition. A man who refuses to pledge himself to prohibition may be counted as opposing it, because it is the friends of the liquor traffic, not its enemies, who seek the cover of darkness and resort to evasion.

In Nebraska, as in every other state where the liquor question is an issue, the party organization **MUST BE ON ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER**; it can not be neutral. The liquor interests have practically controlled the state democratic organization since 1910, and they have tried to ostracize every one who would not worship a beer barrel.

The fight must be made some time to wrest the control from those whose sympathies are with the liquor interests, and there is a double reason for making the fight at this time. Let the line be drawn and let the victory be a decisive one. If the majority of the democrats who vote at the primaries are with the liquor interests, they are entitled to the candidates and to the influence of the party's organization. If a majority of the democrats favor prohibition, who will dispute their right to direct the party's policy and control the organization?

There need be no sundering of the ties of friendship among those who have co-operated on other issues. All that is necessary is that each one respect the other's rights and to follow his conscience and his judgment. Prohibition is coming; no one acquainted with the signs of the times will doubt it, and it is coming to Nebraska as well as elsewhere. The sooner the victory is won, the sooner will discord disappear.

The liquor traffic is an admitted evil and every evil is to the body politic what a splinter is to the finger; it is a foreign substance, and there will be festering and irritation until it is removed. The democrats of Nebraska, who have

won such an enviable position as pioneers in economic reforms, should not be found on the wrong side in this new contest, which embodies a moral as well as an economic principle—a greater contest than any in which they have heretofore engaged. On which side, democrats?

W. J. BRYAN.

NEBRASKA POLITICS

Villa Serena, Miami, Florida, Jan. 29, 1916.
Charles W. Bryan,
Lincoln, Neb.
My dear Brother:

I notice in one of the Lincoln papers that the liquor interests are bringing out their candidates for the legislature in both parties. That was to be expected. They have no politics, but they insist on running politics wherever they are permitted to do so. Their insolence only hastens the day of their fall. The voters of Nebraska only need to be informed and then they will repudiate the whole saloon-picked, brewery-branded crowd, and a month's campaign will enable the temperance forces to get the facts before the public. I have reserved the time from March 20 until the primaries to aid in this work. I know of no greater service that I can render to the people of Nebraska at this time in return for their confidence and support.

I hope anti-saloon democrats will file for every state and legislative office, but if the ticket is not, for any reason, complete, the fight will be made for those who do file. The people are entitled to officials who are not under obligation to the liquor dealers. The democratic party has defied the other special interests—it must not be enslaved by this, the most sordid and corrupting of them all.

Yours truly,

W. J. BRYAN.

THE "SCAREDNESS" PROGRAM

An eminent divine has suggested that the word "scaredness" should be substituted for the word "preparedness" in describing the President's program. It is a very apt suggestion and the change is hereby made.

Will the people allow themselves to be SCARED into a military program which challenges Christian civilization and creates a menace far GREATER and MORE IMMEDIATE than the danger against which it is supposed to protect?

WHY NOT TRY WORK?

The Army and Navy experts insist that the people should spend a part of each year in military training; why not reverse the rule and have the Army and Navy experts spend a part of each year working? About two months a year of good, hard work on the farm or in the factory, at ordinary wages, would cure them of their extravagant ideas and give them some sympathy with the masses.

ANOTHER SHINING MARK

Now that Dr. Harry A. Garfield, president of Williams college, son of a man who was a general in the Civil war and president of the United States, has spoken out against the increase in appropriations for army and navy, we shall hear that he is a mollycoddle, a pacifist and non-resistant, a man lacking in patriotism— one of those whom Mr. Roosevelt would appoint to do menial work for the army.

MR. BRYAN'S PROHIBITION SPEECH

Mr. Bryan's prohibition speech, following the line of argument presented by him in Ohio last fall, has been made a senate document by request of Senator Shepard of Texas. It is Document 254, Sixty-fourth Congress, First Session.

So long as the supply lasts, anyone desiring a copy can obtain it by application to his senator or member of congress.

The philosophy of scaredness would lead us into greater perils than those employed by preparedness advocates to frighten the money out of the pockets of the people.

Were half the power, that fills the world with terror,
Were half the wealth bestowed on camps and courts,
Given to redeem the human mind from error,
There were no need of arsenals and forts.
—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.