

Hughes while a progressive convention was in session in another hall. He will have Wall street with him without the loss of a man. He will rally about him all of the privilege-hunters and the profiteers. His nomination, with the platform on which he runs, will make the Republican side of the issue clear.

There will be no disguising of the situation which the voters have to meet. Now the representatives of predatory wealth can move from Chicago to San Francisco, where they will undertake to manipulate the Democratic convention as they have this. The interim of two weeks will enable them to travel leisurely, stopping in the mountains to rest up so they will be fresh and ready for business when the convention opens. Westward interest, like the star of empire, takes its course, and the question is, can they succeed at San Francisco?

Labor will be hostile to Senator Harding and his platform. The Democratic party has a great opportunity if it will improve it. The party must take the people's side. If the Democratic party does not the socialist party and the newly organized labor party will have a large summer's growth, and it may be added that Mr. Harding's attitude on the liquor question, coupled with silence on that subject in the platform, gives the Democratic party a chance to draw a large number of prohibition Republicans to the Democratic standard. The south, the Democratic south, led in the prohibition fight. It now has a chance to help put the Democratic party in a position to appeal to the conscience of the nation as the guardian of the home. The Democratic party has the chance of a lifetime, and there is every reason to believe it will improve the opportunity.

The people must look to the Democratic party for justice at home and peace abroad.

PLATFORM AND NOMINEES

Chicago, June 12.—The convention is over—"The tumult and the shouting cease." The platform is full of invective against the president and full of boasting of Republican accomplishment, but that is not unnatural. It is the custom of parties to "point with pride" to all they do and to "view with alarm" all that the opposition has done or proposes to do.

The platform is a compromise, but what else could it be when the Republican party is rent with division and held together by party name rather than by agreement upon principles? In 1912 more than half of the voters of the Republican party bolted—an unprecedented thing. Even then a majority of the leaders were reactionary and the percentage has increased until it is safe to say that three-fourths if not four-fifths of the prominent men in the party are distinctly reactionary.

On some questions the pronouncements were clear and unequivocal. For instance, on the private ownership of railroads, telegraph lines, and telephone lines, the attitude of the party is unmistakable. On the subject of profiteering the evasion of the issue was apparent and in the interests of the exploiters. On the subject of the soldiers' bonus, the party's position was not due to hostility to the soldiers or to lack of appreciation for their services. The Republican leaders would be glad to give a bonus if they could do so without offending Republicans, who, though few in number, have more influence with the leaders of that party than all the service men combined. Appropriations have to be provided for and the Republican leaders could not find a way of raising money that would not arouse violent opposition. To tax all the people would offend a larger number than the bonus would please; to issue bonds would depress the price of the bonds outstanding, and that would create antagonism; to put it on stock dividends and war profits would irritate the capitalistic class, so the soldier boys get compliments instead of cash. Their labors are to be held in "imperishable remembrance." The leaders certainly did "say it with flowers."

The woman's suffrage plank underwent a material alteration in the full committee. In the report of the sub-committee as published the governors of states that had not ratified were urged to call special sessions for the hastening of ratification. In the platform as finally published the governors were not mentioned, but legislatures that had not ratified were urged to do so. This seems like a very slight change,

but it may mean the delay of ratification until after the election.

The history of the lost prohibition plank would make a sidesplitting comedy. Some said it was in; some said it was not. Some claimed that it was put in and lost out, and ought to have been read when it wasn't. One member of the committee wrote out a minority report and then went off to his hotel instead of presenting it to the convention. He sent it by an outsider to a delegate who was afraid to present it because he was going to make a nominating speech and feared he would hurt the candidate. "They all with one accord began to make excuse." No one seemed disposed to do the natural and easy thing, namely, bring it into the convention and have the mistake corrected. And this is the convention of a party that has claimed a monopoly of high purpose and conscientious endeavor.

I have already called attention to the ambiguity of the plank on the League of Nations; it says anything or nothing or both, according to your pleasure. Call for anything you want and you will find it there.

A number of the farmers' demands were included in the platform, and several planks suggested by the women, but labor received a scant hearing. The line between the corporation and its employees is too clearly drawn to permit the party to straddle the issue, and, being compelled to choose, it could not take other than the employer's side.

The candidates are men of ability and will prove acceptable to a large majority of the party. Senator Harding, while entirely pleasing to Big Business, cannot be attacked as successfully as Governor Lowden might have been. The campaign expense scandal did not involve him to anything like the extent that it did General Wood and Governor Lowden. He will make a stronger candidate than either the Governor of Illinois or the soldier aspirant. As a campaign orator Senator Harding will be a great asset to his party. He brings to the party the best equipment in this respect of any candidate in recent years. He has a fine presence, a genial manner, and a wife who will grace the White House if her husband reaches that goal.

Governor Coolidge will strengthen the ticket in the east. Ohio, while east of the center of population, is considered so western by those on the Atlantic coast that they could not think of going to Kansas or Wisconsin for the second man. Governor Coolidge became famous in the policemen's strike, and has added to his popularity in the west by vetoing a bill authorizing beverages containing a higher alcoholic content than the federal law permits. The Governor's veto message was published only a few days before the Supreme Court decision which would have invalidated the law had it been signed.

The platform and the nominees of the Republican convention are a challenge to the Democrats to do their best. They present a clear cut issue. If the Democrats accept it as boldly as the Republicans have presented it the people will be able to vote with intelligence and choose their policies as they choose their president. The Democrats could not ask more than the Republicans have done to insure a lively campaign—unless the Democrats confess judgment in advance by attempting to crowd into the same seat. It all depends upon what is done at San Francisco. If the influences which were controlling here dominate the convention at San Francisco—which God forbid!—we will have a repetition of 1904, when Wall street picked out our candidate for us and then threw him overboard. If Wall street takes charge of the Democratic party this year, it will be, not for the purpose of electing the candidate but to save themselves from the necessity of making a campaign.

PROHIBITION CUTS CRIME

An Albany dispatch to the New York Tribune, dated May 21, says: There were 914 cases of intoxication before magistrates in New York City during the first three months of this year, according to a statistical statement issued today by the New York State Probation Commission. For the corresponding period last year the total was 1,914.

The statement declares "prohibition reducing crime in this state," and offers statistics compiled by Charles L. Chute, secretary of the commission, to support this declaration.

A Good Platform

At the convention of the Democrats of Lancaster county, (Lincoln), Nebraska, May 11, called to select delegates to the state convention at Omaha May 11, Charles W. Bryan was chosen chairman of the delegation. The following resolutions, declared by many to be a "model platform," were adopted:

"We, the Democratic voters of Lancaster county, Nebraska in convention assembled desire to reaffirm our adherence to the time honored principles of good old Thomas Jefferson democracy, favoring equal rights to all and special privileges to none.

"We commend the splendid administration of that magnificent statesman whom we delight to honor as president, Woodrow Wilson. His wise conduct of the nation's affairs during the greatest war of all history; his wonderful work as a member of the peace conference, and his masterful efforts to effect participation on the part of the United States in the league of nations, deserve the praise of all. We favor the ratification of the league of nations at the earliest possible moment.

"We congratulate the Democrats of Nebraska on the notable moral victory recently won in the state primaries under the leadership of our esteemed fellow citizen and leader, Honorable William Jennings Bryan; and we wish the Nebraska delegates Godspeed in their efforts to prevent any departure from the party's stand on the great moral issues.

"We rejoice in the constitutional amendment that makes the nation dry and unhesitatingly condemn any efforts to detract from the force or efficiency of the Volstead law.

"We congratulate the women of the nation upon their partial admission to the ranks of voters, and commend to them the Democratic party as offering a more promising field for their political activities and affording better opportunities for promoting such needed reforms than any other party. We are heartily in favor of the immediate ratification of the national suffrage amendment to the constitution and favor an amendment to the Nebraska constitution giving the women full and complete equal suffrage in this state.

"We denounce the present Republican state administration as tending to extravagance and neglect of the public's business, and too great laxity in the state's policy toward convicted criminals. We condemn the mutilation of the state primary law which took place in the 1919 legislative session and favor the repeal of all the amendments then adopted.

"We condemn the unconscionable profiteering that is going on and is being permitted to continue in this country, and favor specific federal, state and municipal remedies to protect the people from the impositions to which they are being subjected by organized profiteering.

"We favor the licensing by the state of all dealers in the necessities of life, such as food, clothing, fuel, etc., and limiting the per cent of profit to a reasonable basis the same as banks are limited in the per cent of interest that they can charge for the use of money.

"We favor the appointment of a state trade commission similar to the federal trade commission with powers to investigate profiteering and to furnish evidence of violation of laws.

"In order to protect the farmers and livestock raisers we favor a state bonded grain commission and a state bonded livestock commission which will protect them in the marketing of their grain and livestock.

"We favor the establishment of municipal market houses, municipal slaughter houses, municipal coal yards, and municipal produce stores when necessary to protect the public from the organized profiteer.

"We favor the strengthening and the extension of the state hail insurance law so as to give ample protection to the crop-growers of the state.

"We favor state fire insurance, state ownership of elevators and stockyards on whatever scale may be necessary to restore competition and protect the people of Nebraska from extortionate rates and rules.

"We favor the eight hour day for labor and the principle of collective bargaining between capital and labor.