

Outlines Municipal Program for Lincoln

The municipal primary and election will be held in April and May respectively, at which five commissioners, who will govern the city during the coming two years, will be chosen. The commissioners after their election choose from among their number one who serves as executive head of the city or mayor. Former Mayor Charles W. Bryan recently gave to the press of Lincoln a statement in which he discussed measures in which the citizens of his home city were interested and suggested a number of things which he thought Lincoln needs and should have, and mentioned a number of things that Lincoln did not need and should not have forced upon it. Mr. Bryan's statement follows:

In my judgment there are a number of things that Lincoln needs and should have and a number of other things that Lincoln does not need and should not have forced upon it.

It is apparent to all that conditions are not satisfactory at this time. Men are being laid off in the shops, mills, factories, stores and offices. The earning power or income of the people has been in a great many cases cut in two and in a great many other instances has been wiped out entirely.

As there has been no program formulated in Lincoln to meet and remedy the conditions outlined above, and as a number of progressive measures that have been provided by city governments in other cities for the protection of the people and to enable the municipalities to grow and develop have not been provided by our city officials so that we can keep pace with other cities, I will suggest a number of things that should be done for Lincoln people and a number of other things that Lincoln people should guard against. I will only state these measures at this time but will discuss each measure separately in a later statement.

MUNICIPAL COAL YARD

A municipal coal yard should be established in order to restore competition and fix a reasonable price at which coal should be sold. This would easily save to the people \$40,000 per year in their coal bills. Other cities have them.

MUNICIPAL ICE PLANT

There should be a municipal ice plant established in Lincoln to restore competition in ice and to fix a reasonable selling price. A municipal ice plant could reduce the price of ice 40 per cent. to the people, saving about \$25,000 per year on ice bills and should be able to pay for the ice plant in ten years out of the profits of the business. Other cities are doing it.

MUNICIPAL PUBLIC MARKET

A municipal public market should be established in Lincoln to restore competition in the selling of produce, vegetables, fruit, etc. There should be a saving of \$100,000 a year in the cost of living by a properly constructed and operated public market. This would not hurt the grocery stores but should be a benefit to them, and it would encourage truck gardening and would provide a home market for the farmer's fruit, vegetables, produce, eggs, poultry, etc., without requiring him to lose the whole day in peddling his produce from house to house. Other cities have provided them.

REDUCE PRICE OF GAS

The cost of gas can, and should be reduced. In the meantime the gas bonds should be voted so that Lincoln can protect itself by building its own gas plant if necessary.

MODERNIZE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

The transportation system of Lincoln should be modernized, and by doing so, the fares could be reduced, the company put on a paying basis and the people be given a modern up-to-date system as other cities are doing.

CLOSE IN PARKS

The money raised from taxes to develop parks should be spent in developing parks down in the city as other cities have been doing, where the common people could use them without having to pay streetcar fare, which is now prohibitive for the average family. Antelope Park should be extended north from O Street to the state fair grounds.

ZONING

The present charter authorizes the council to establish zones anywhere necessary to protect buildings, such as the capitol, university, resi-

dences, etc. The plan that was under way four years ago to widen the east, west and north approaches to the capitol building and park the centers of these streets should be carried out without further delay, which could be done without much expense.

REMOVE ROCK ISLAND ROAD

The plan for removing the Rock Island railroad from the Antelope Valley and building a union depot that was well under way four years ago should be completed.

BASEBALL PARK

The city should provide a permanent baseball park and provide additional ground to complete an up-to-date eighteen hole golf course.

RESTORE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT

The legal aid department that was discontinued four years ago should be re-established at the city hall so as to provide an attorney to make collections, settle disputes and attend to legal matters for persons not financially able to employ a private attorney.

DO NOT NEED

There are some things that in my judgment Lincoln people do not need and that they should see are not forced upon them. They should not permit the Traction Company to be unloaded on the city of Lincoln, as was attempted last fall under the law passed two years ago that provides appraisalment without permitting the people to vote on the price.

The people should not permit the gas company to be forced on to them under the guise of municipal ownership under the appraisalment law or a condemnation law as the financial interests back of the gas company are now planning to undertake.

WILL BE DECIDED DURING COMING TWO YEARS

The disposition and future of the traction company and gas company will be decided during the coming two years. The decision reached as to who shall own and operate those plants and on what basis carries grave possibilities to the future growth and development of this city. If those plants are unloaded on the city under appraisalment or condemnation proceedings, the price at which the city would be compelled to pay might double the taxes of every taxpayer in Lincoln and make it necessary for a high rate for gas and high streetcar fares for the rest of our lives to pay the interest on the investment. If the traction or gas company desires to sell their plant to the city, they should state their price. The people could then decide whether to buy, and the people would know from the purchase price what the price of streetcar fares and what the cost per thousand feet of gas would be before they put their head into a halter.

MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT

The municipal light plant should be extended so as to be prepared to supply light and power at a reasonable price. If the private light plants want to sell their plants to the city, they should come out in the open and state their selling price, otherwise the city should not consider purchasing them.

KEEP OUT STOCKHOLDERS

No stockholder of the traction company or the gas company should be elected or appointed as a city official this spring or anyone having a financial interest in these companies or anyone who is under obligations to the financial interests back of these two plants, as it will be as impossible during the next two years to serve two masters as it was to do so two-thousand years ago.

IMPOSITION ON TAXPAYERS

No additional taxes should be added to the peoples' already heavy tax load. The suggested bond issue of \$250,000 to build new police stations, fire stations, etc., should not be submitted, and if submitted, should be defeated by the people. The new buildings are not imperatively necessary during the coming two years, and to add unnecessary taxes is an imposition on the public that the council should not require the people to defend themselves from.

If we can establish a municipal coal yard, a municipal ice plant and a public market, we can save from \$150,000 to \$200,000 on the cost of living to be spent for other necessities of life, and by the reduction of our gas rate and mod-

ernizing our streetcar lines, with reasonable fares, it will enable Lincoln to again compete with other cities, and in place of closing factories, mills, shops, etc., we should be able to bring to Lincoln other factories, mills and shops, put our laboring people to work and put Lincoln again on the up grade for the growth, development and prosperity which it so richly deserves.

ASK MR. BRYAN TO BECOME CANDIDATE

The signs point to a red-hot city campaign in Lincoln this spring. No candidates have yet been announced positively. A half dozen men of prominence have been tentatively proclaimed as candidates, but all have retired from the running. It is an odd situation. Thousands of men and women have petitioned Charley Bryan to become a candidate for mayor, but thus far he has declined. The people want Bryan because they believe he is the only man with sufficient courage to protect the city and its people against the ravages of the coal trust and kindred combinations of profiteers. * * * During my week in Lincoln I saw a score of petitions being circulated by people who had been robbed by the coal trust and other profiteers. The petitions were addressed to Charley Bryan personally, appealing to him to permit his friends to make him a candidate for mayor. I know Charley Bryan is pretty busy, but still I hope he may consent to be elected mayor of Lincoln. I have a special grievance against the operators of the fresh fruit trust, largely owned by Lincoln capital, and I believe C. W. would make the robbers sweat a little kerosene—Columbus, Neb. Telegram.

PETITIONS C. W. BRYAN

The Central Labor Union, representing the thirty-two crafts of organized labor in Lincoln, has petitioned former mayor, Charles W. Bryan, to become a candidate for mayor at the city election this spring. The communication from the labor union is as follows:

Lincoln, Neb., February 26, 1921.—C. W. Bryan, Lincoln, Neb. My dear Mr. Bryan: The Lincoln Central Labor Union directs me to extend to you the thanks and appreciation of its members for the able address made to them at their last meeting upon subjects which are of vital moment and interest to them.

The delegates also direct me to request of them that you become a candidate for mayor of Lincoln at the coming municipal election. Very respectfully,

L. G. DAVIS,
Secretary of Lincoln Central Labor Union.
(Seal)

A MUNICIPAL TRADE COMMISSION

(From the Miami, Fla., Metropolis.)

Recommendations of William Jennings Bryan to make provision in the city charter for the appointment of a trade commission and of a board of conciliation were adopted by the city charter board at regular meeting Monday night.

The trade commission is to deal with disputes that may arise between merchant and customer, such as charges of extortion or unfair dealing, while the board of conciliation is to have power to investigate differences between employer and labor, with a view to adjusting misunderstandings and avoid strikes or lockouts if possible. The board shall be limited in its powers and not be a board of arbitration.

Among other provisions adopted by the board Monday night were sections dealing with the holding of elections and with franchises and public utilities.

"Sub-section No. 29 of Section No. 3.—To create a municipal trade commission consisting of one or more members similar in purpose, plan and authority to the federal trade commission.

Sub-section No. 30 of Section No. 3.—To create a municipal board of conciliation with authority to investigate and report on disputes between employers and their employees; such reports to be for the information of the public only and not binding on the parties.

"The people shall have power at their option to propose ordinances, including ordinances granting franchises or privileges, and to adopt the same at the polls, such power being known as the initiative. A petition, meeting the requirements hereinafter provided and requesting the commission to pass an ordinance, therein set forth or designated, shall be termed an initiative petition and shall be acted upon as hereinafter provided."

Humanity has won its suit (in America) so that Liberty will never more be without an asylum.—Lafayette.