

regular state officers elected by you, is taken from them and centralized in the governor, giving him more power than a crowned head abroad. He in turn delegates this power out to six code secretaries and they appoint a small army of assistants, clerks, etc., at compensation fixed by them, with the result that you find a great army of political employes standing between you and your government.

"The theory of the code system is that you can't elect men competent enough to handle the government affairs so you go out and hire experts at \$5,000 a year to handle the affairs for them.

"These men are supposed to be the very best that can be found in efficiency and economy. Did Governor McKelvie select such men for his code secretaries? No. He picked men who, as far as I can learn, never earned more than \$150 a month in their lives—men who were associated with him in a political way.

"With his code system he set up a bureaucracy at Lincoln second only to the one at Washington now. It got so bad down at Washington that the President got Charles Dawes, an old Lincoln boy, down there to figure out what was the matter. Dawes cut off 122,000 useless employes from the payroll before they stopped him and he could have cut off 300,000 more. It's just like that at Lincoln. We can't actually find out how many employes they have now under the code system. But we have had no trouble at all in finding out what it's costing. Just look at your tax receipts and you'll be convinced that it's costing a plenty.

#### WHERE THE MONEY GOES

"The governor, who now is touring the state with a couple of charts trying to explain the code system, says he admits the taxes have been doubled during the Republican administration and assumes responsibility for the same. Mind you, the governor is not running for any office this year. It's easy enough for him to assume responsibility, but who's going to accept the financial responsibility? He explains that the money is going into good roads, etc. Let us see: The cost of operating the governor's department during Neville's administration was \$72,000 in round numbers. During McKelvie's administration this same appropriation jumped to approximately \$127,000. Did that go into good roads?

"It cost the state about \$61,000 to operate the attorney general's office under Gov. Neville, whereas now it costs \$122,000 under the code plan. Did that money go into good roads?

"Take a look at your tax receipts and you'll see where your money is going. The code system, building up a great political machine as it is, already has advanced until now we have more than 300 people on the state payroll riding up and down the state advocating re-election of their bosses. The expense of this code system in traveling expenses of employes alone amounts to something like \$300,000 a year.

"I want to see the code system—or duplication in government—wiped from the statute books of the state and the state's business placed back into the hands of the men whom you elect.

#### THE INIQUITOUS REVENUE LAW

The revenue bill, passed under Republican rule, was the next to come under fire of Mr. Bryan, who discussed it as follows:

"Next, I desire to call your attention to a revenue bill that was passed a year ago last winter by the present legislature. The revenue bill is about as vicious a piece of legislation as was ever put on the statute books of Nebraska. It provides that tangible property such as farms, homes, business blocks, livestock, stocks of goods and other property that you can see, shall be assessed for taxes at their full value or one-hundred per cent.

"But the bill also provides that intangible property, such as cash in the banks, stocks, bonds, notes, mortgages and other forms of intangible property should be assessed at one-fourth their value. This bill was introduced by two bankers, and they said it would encourage the wealthy people who had their money invested in intangible property to list a larger per cent of it with the tax assessor and that there would be so much more of it listed under the reduced tax than there was listed formerly when they were taxed on the same basis as the farmers and other business men were taxed; that it would produce more revenue and enable the state to lower the tax on the farms, homes, etc. They said that the wealthy people who had their money invested in intangible property could not afford to be dishonest for a tax only one-fourth as large as farmers and other holders of tangible property pay.

"This vicious law has now been in operation

#### THE ISSUE IN NEBRASKA

In Nebraska, as well as in the nation, the great issue of the pending campaign will be the problem of taxation. To meet this issue fairly the Democrats of Nebraska have nominated as their candidate for governor a man whose very name is an argument in opposition to code bills and all other forms of Republican incompetence and extravagance. Charles W. Bryan, the Democratic nominee for governor, has made a life study of the taxation problem. Upon this question he is wedded to one and only one idea, and that idea demands the levying of all taxes in manner to make the tax burden rest evenly on all shoulders. He is opposed to our present McKelvie-Code-Bill and to all manner of taxation fads. In private life he has been successful in business. In public life, as mayor and as commissioner for the city of Lincoln, he has made a record which has attracted the favor of economists throughout the world. His successful inauguration of a municipal coal yard in Lincoln, by the aid of which the people of that city saved in one year more than \$100,000.00, stamps him as the true friend of common men. When Charles W. Bryan is elected governor of Nebraska he will carry to that high office the same courage and the same ability which he has so splendidly displayed as Mayor and Commissioner of his home city and by the aid of which he will accomplish good for the whole people of Nebraska in measure as he has worked for the welfare of the people of Lincoln.—From Nebraska Democratic State Platform.

one year, and the law has operated just the opposite of what the state senators (who were bankers) who introduced it claimed. The record shows that there has been but a very slight increase in the amount of intangible property listed with the assessor over the year before, and inasmuch as it is only taxed at one-fourth of what it was under the former law, the present revenue law has brought into the treasury \$500,000 less than that class of property did when it was assessed the same as the property of the common people of Nebraska. In other words, this vicious law has transferred \$500,000 of the taxes of the rich on to the backs of the common people of Nebraska, who are already overburdened and some of whom are borrowing money to pay the taxes on their farms at the present time.

"I believe that all taxpayers should stand equal before the law and that all property be taxed alike, and that men who are so unpatriotic or so dishonest that they will not list their property with the assessor should be prosecuted the same as any other criminal.

"I am in favor of wiping this vicious revenue bill from our statute books and replacing it with a revenue bill that recognizes the Jeffersonian principle of equal rights to all and special privileges to none.

#### THE FOUR REFERRED BILLS

"The state direct primary law will be so emasculated if the amendments tacked onto it by the last legislature are allowed to pass at the November election that selection of delegates to the national conventions will virtually revert back into the hands of the party bosses," he declared.

"Those amendments are so bad and contrary to the interests of the people that they were suspended through the filing of a referendum petition containing 60,000 signatures of both women and men.

"The filing of the petition enables the people to vote on adoption or defeat of the proposed amendments this fall. Those amendments, if adopted, will take election of national committeemen out of the hands of the people.

"Next, it would take selection of delegates, now selected by popular vote, out of the hands of the people and permit party conventions to pick them. This would place their selection in the hands of the party bosses who are controlled by special interests and the delegates thus picked, select the candidates for president and vice-president and also write the party platforms. The amendments also would repeal the law that now prevents conventions from endorsing candidates for office.

"If you permit a convention to endorse your

candidates it will have the same result as though you permitted conventions to nominate the candidates because candidates with party endorsement would be given such an advantage over other candidates who might file that it would be folly for others to do so. Without party endorsement, other candidates might as well withdraw from the race and save campaign expenses.

#### ROBS PEOPLE OF CONTROL

"I'm a strong supporter of the direct primary system and I hope the people will be aroused to the importance of exercising their right under the referendum to defeat those amendments. They are so drawn that they practically nullify the direct primary system and take from the people the control of their own nominations.

"I realize that the governor alone cannot repeal these reactionary measures and if you feel as I and the other Democratic candidates do about them, it is your duty to support the Democratic state and legislative candidates, all of whom are pledged, in writing, to wipe out the revenue law first, the code system second, and to reduce the state appropriations.

"If, on the other hand you favor the code system, objectionable as it is; the revenue laws; the wholesale expenditures in state and national government, you should cast your votes for our opponents.

"Another measure which we complain of, which, like the primary law amendments, is up for referendum vote this fall, is the so-called bank monopoly bill which vests in appointed employes at Lincoln the power to decide whether any more bank charters shall be issued. It is too much of a temptation to place before them—employes who are not directly responsible to you. You should not let that power pass from you.

"Another measure up for referendum which we are protesting against is a measure which you people of Sarpy county will feel the full effect of. It would require you to go to your county seat thirty days before an election and register under penalty of disfranchisement. In the city registration is necessary to protect the ballot because there, most voters are strangers to each other—but here in the country where you all know each other, there is no occasion for such a law.

"The most charitable way I can view it is that it is designed to cut the rural vote and place control in the city.

"Isn't it very singular that that reactionary legislature—controlled by Republicans—should pass so many bills with the same aims?

#### ANTI-PICKETING BILL

"The next measure suspended by referendum petition and upon which you will vote this fall is the anti-picketing bill. You people out here might not know what it means, because it will not directly affect you. It is a measure designed to prevent peaceful picketing and it is so drastically drawn that it almost prevents a man on strike from talking to his wife when he gets home. It is un-American, to say the least, and should be defeated at the polls this fall.

"Those are some of the things that the Democratic party is pledged against. I came into this campaign because I'm interested in legislation for the people. My idea is to cut off these duplications in government; abolish the office of fire warden because that office is a duplication also. I want to see action to cut the county taxes. I want to abolish the office of county highway commissioner; the county truant officer they have wished on you; I want to see the health department put on a practical basis and the fads and isms cut off. I want the state automobile tax reduced. It was raised as a war measure and the war's over now. Let's get back to normalcy, as the President said.

"When you see the necessities of life advance in price under the new tariff bill you'll see what has been done to you at Washington. It's time for you to turn around and give some attention to the man behind.

"There is no reason why any two of you should differ on these issues. Either we are right and the other party is wrong or we are wrong and the other party stands for what you want. The issues were never clearer. You should discuss these issues and when you find out which party represents what you are interested in, you should vote as units. Form farm blocs and then you'll begin to have your influence felt in state and national affairs.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF WATER POWER

"The development of water power has been delayed for years on account of the influence of the big private power plants over the state government," Mr. Bryan continued. "These plants have filed on the power sites on the rivers, not with the intention of develop-