

**Through the Initiative and Referendum.**

The committee on resolutions reported the following, which was adopted by a unanimous rising vote:

The delegates of the united people's labor party of Kentucky in convention assembled desire to congratulate the reform voters of Kentucky over the tendency of organized labor and the farmers of the country to unite their efforts to advance their mutual interests. We feel now as in 1902, when the Omaha platform enunciated the great truths upon which the people's party was founded—that "the interests of rural and civic labor are the same—their enemies are identical."

We congratulate the united reform movement upon the substantial progress of the immortal principles for which we now stand and have always stood, namely—

Honest elections—the right of every citizen to cast a free and unrestricted ballot, and to have his ballot counted and returned as cast. Free and honest elections are the foundation upon which the enduring republic must stand.

Majority rule, through the initiative and referendum, doing away forever with political machines, and making the people in fact as well as in name, self-governing and free.

A just financial system, taking the control of the volume of money out of the hands of speculators and shysters, and making money the servant of the people rather than the master.

Public ownership—the public owning and operating the great essential monopolies in the interest of all.

Opposition to land monopoly—believing that the land is the heritage of all the people from their common Creator, and not to be monopolized by a few and the masses left homeless.

Labor legislation—preventing child labor, shortening hours of labor, and the passage of all laws bettering the conditions of wage-workers, and increasing their earnings.

Recognition and advancement of the union label—as the badge of intelligent, well paid, free labor, in contradistinction from the products of wage slaves driven by ignorance and avarice to toil in sweat shops under cruel masters, for a bare sustenance.

Recognizing that no reform is possible until the majority of the people favor it, and feeling perfectly secure in trusting the welfare of this commonwealth with a fair and unprejudiced majority of the people, we declare the most important of all issues to be that of the initiative and referendum, or majority rule, providing the open door through which all other reforms may be secured; and, without deserting or modifying our position on any of the great issues we deem necessary for the advancement of labor, we recommend that our efforts be centered upon the issue of majority rule in an attempt to secure its immediate adoption.

In this connection it is therefore Resolved, That in counties where there are no reform candidates for legislative offices the labor forces organize to secure practical results, and agree to vote for no man for representative or senator who will not sign the following pledge:

**PLEDGE TO BE SIGNED.**

"If elected to the legislative office to which I aspire, I agree on my honor as a man and a citizen of the commonwealth of Kentucky, to vote against any proposed election law which is not absolutely fair to all political parties and does not guarantee to every citizen the full enjoyment of his constitutional rights. I also agree to vote to submit to the people at the next general election a proposed amendment to the constitution of Kentucky providing for the initiative and referendum, by which not over five per cent of the voters of the state or any legal subdivision thereof may demand the submission of a proposed law to a vote of the people before it becomes operative or may propose a law and that the people may likewise propose and secure further amendments to the state constitution."

Resolved, That we call upon all labor and other organizations favoring

the principle to join us in demanding pledges from all candidates.

Resolved, That this pledge be submitted to all candidates and where all sign it and others refuse, that reform and labor voters be requested to support the candidate willing to so pledge himself. Where no candidate will sign this agreement an independent candidate should be placed in the field and a vigorous campaign waged on these lines, or that reformers refrain from voting at all.

Resolved, That the support given to any candidate signing this pledge be given solely on the ground of principles involved, and that no division of offices or other reward be asked for or accepted.

Resolved, That an executive committee of three members, representing both organized labor and the people's party, be appointed to organize the state on these lines and to secure from the various political parties lists of all legislative candidates, and that the above pledge be submitted to all, with the information that unless a reply be received by October 15 it will be considered that the candidate failing to answer is opposed to the principles set forth.

Resolved, That the names of all candidates signing the pledge referred to be published, and copies furnished to all committeemen and workers throughout the state and every reasonable effort put forth to elect those who do so pledge themselves.

Resolved, That under existing circumstances we feel that the nomination of a state ticket would be inopportune, but that we recommend to reform and labor voters to use their votes in the most effective manner to purify and uplift the politics of our grand old commonwealth, and to free out citizenship from the domination of political rings, cliques and factions.

Resolved, That we urge upon all friends of labor the importance of demanding union made goods when they go to make purchases, and that they accept no goods that do not bear the union label as a guarantee that they were made by intelligent, fair, union labor.

The following executive committee was selected and granted plenary power to carry out the resolutions adopted in the most effective manner, namely Jo A. Parker, Joe D. Bradburn and Wm. B. Bridgeford. Headquarters will be at the Enterprise hotel, 242 E. Market st., Louisville, and the active support of every friend of majority rule is solicited. Let us have your name and address at once as a worker in this cause, for we have much for you to do. Address,

JO A. PARKER,  
General Organizer, Louisville, Ky.

Such is the Kentucky program. It is practically sure that a constitutional amendment for majority rule will be secured from the legislature to be elected. Two years ago a first effort was made, but as the questions asked included several of a partisan nature there were fewer replies than would otherwise have been made, and the questions were asked at a late day in the campaign, at the instance of the state committee. Two years' experience has shown how to improve the system.

(Continued Next Week.)

H. E. Leisy, of Wisner, Neb., culled out the poor end of the cattle in his feed yard and put same on the South Omaha market Tuesday last week, where they brought the very satisfactory price of \$5.40. Nye & Buchanan Co. made the sale. Mr. Leisy expects to ship the heavy end soon.

**Col. Felter Delighted**

Editor Independent: I was much delighted reading the letters from the old reformers that came "over the trail." Grand men, good men, noble men, men that had moral sense and courage. In all ages such men have blazed the way and made progress possible. In all ages God has had a few brave spirits that would not bow their knees to Baal. Such spirits are God's lever with which He moves the world. God bless the Old Guard and may their spirit still walk the earth until populist principles regenerate America; when moral cowards and political buzzards fade out of our sky, and a redeemed manhood look back with pity on a generation with special privileges, and marvel at their stupidity.

I ever look through the telescope of justice to the dawn where mingles the forces that impel the onward march of man, and by faith in the final triumph of right, catch a glimpse of a grander civilization in which "equal rights under the law" shall crown and glorify the efforts of man. Such is the faith of all reformers that strive to better the conditions of their fellow man, and without such faith progress would be impossible. The populists of America have already made contributions to

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the science of government that have been appropriated by the old parties and what was once denounced "fads" and their advocates' denounced as "long-haired men" and "short-haired women" are now operating to bless. The rural delivery is here, municipal ownership of internal improvements is here, it won't be long until government ownership of all means of transportation and communication will be here; and it can't be very long before the producers of all the wealth will see that the government must coin the money, and that every dollar shall be equal in debt-paying power.

I say it cannot be long, for the people are beginning to understand and a panic will finish up their education. True, it may be slow, but come it must; and when it comes, what political party has the argument but the populist? Yes, brethren, we have every reason for being hopeful, for now all discord within has ceased and truth stands at the helm of common sense, while experience points the way. The bugle notes from Omaha are ringing over the land; and the west has heard it as never before, the south and north have caught its sweet notes of concord, and the east sheds its dim light in recognition of the oncoming host.

The banner from Omaha again sweeps the heavens, carried by beating hearts and loyal hands; cheered by our wives and loved by our daughters, and honored by patriots, and who dare to pull it down? Yes, brethren, line up for country, line up for home and loved ones, line up for truth and justice, line up for the greatest political battle the world ever saw; line up and be counted, for now you are needed; line up and pass the word all along the line—forward, march! and move on the enemy, and publish to all the world, we shall never turn back until victory comes. Line up, leave all grumblers behind to mingle with sore heads and kickers, to go where they belong.

I appeal to men of heart and brain, to men of honor, to men that love principle, to line up, that the gospel of Omaha may be heard throughout the world. J. S. FELTER, Springfield, Ill.

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