

# THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1905.

## WHAT THE DEMOCRATS DID.

Detailed Story of the State Convention Proceedings.

Chairman Allen of the state central committee called the convention to order at 2:20 yesterday afternoon. At that time it was estimated that about 300 delegates were in the hall. Part of the call was read by Secretary J. A. Maguire, the reading being interrupted by J. G. P. Hildebrand of Lincoln, making the first motion of the convention—a motion that further reading of the call be dispensed with.

Chairman Allen stated that Harry Dungan of Hastings had been selected temporary chairman, but owing Burlington to No. 2 being 2 hours late he could not arrive until after 4 p. m. Mr. Allen stated that he has information that a large number of delegates from the Fifth district were on this train.

C. J. Smyth of Omaha nominated A. C. Shallenberger of Alma as temporary chairman, and Mr. Shallenberger was selected without opposition. Mr. Shallenberger appeared on the platform and thanked the convention for the honor bestowed upon him. He said he had been compelled to travel all night to reach Lincoln, and that because of fatigue and loss of sleep he felt that he scarcely had enough sense left to write a free pass plank in a republican platform.

Continuing, Mr. Shallenberger said that the fight in 1896 was to control the money volume, to control transportation affairs, and to control the tariff, that this state and this nation might grow in wealth and enjoy prosperity. These are the issues today in Nebraska. The democrats must finally win on these issues, thought the speaker. He criticized the republicans, saying that by resolving against the free pass they admitted that they are very bad now, but they hope some future legislature will pass a law making them better. "Why not enforce the present law," he asked, "put on the statute books by the populists years ago." He thought if Attorney General Brown, instead of returning railroad passes, which the speaker presumed were valueless, had filed information under the anti-pass law against 500 delegates to the late republican state convention he would have been sure of at least 499 convictions.

### The First Applause.

The first applause to prove that a convention was in progress followed the speaker's statement that democracy should resolve in favor of absolute ownership by the government of all railroads. This should be incorporated in the state convention's platform, he thought, and he hoped to see a plank there in declaring for the reduction of freight rates.

After a brief reference to the Panama canal the speaker said that our interference in oriental affairs is today the greatest menace in America. He thought we had better attend to our own affairs and allow nations over the seas to look after their affairs. In an eloquent peroration he said that there is room and space enough at home to build up the greatest and best government on earth—a govern-

ment that in itself shall stand as a temple of liberty. Let Columbia be the uncrowned queen of the noblest, brightest and best nation on the face of the earth, he said.

As Mr. Shallenberger closed, Mr. Bryan came up the aisle to join the Lancaster delegation, and he was given applause.

On motion of C. J. Smyth a committee on credentials was dispensed with, the names handed to the secretary being the accredited list of delegates from the several counties.

### Resolutions Committee.

C. J. Smyth moved and the motion was seconded that a committee on resolutions be appointed, one member to come from each congressional district. Without putting the motion before the house Chairman Shallenberger said that he had made out the following list of members for this committee: C. J. Smyth, R. L. Metcalfe, Edgar Howard, C. J. Bowlby, Judge Crites and W. H. Thompson.

W. D. Oldham moved that a recess be taken until 5 p. m. There was no second to this motion. Instead a delegate asked that W. J. Bryan be heard. Mr. Bryan was called for.

Mr. Bryan excused himself. He said he is a member of the Lancaster delegation, and that he would much prefer to wait until a later hour to address the delegates.

Mr. Oldham renewed his motion, but on objection amended it to adjourn until 4 p. m., and in making this motion he said that many delegates have not arrived who will want to hear Mr. Bryan, and he thought it courtesy to both Mr. Bryan and the absent delegates to wait until a later hour before calling on him for a speech. The motion to take a recess until 4 p. m. was carried.

### The Democratic Platform.

The convention was called to order again at 4:05 p. m., by Chairman Shallenberger, who asked for the report of the resolutions committee. Chairman Smyth read the resolutions as follows:

"We, the democrats of Nebraska in state convention assemble, reaffirm our faith in democratic principles as enunciated by Thomas Jefferson and defended by William J. Bryan.

"As touching the attitude of the democratic party of Nebraska toward the general railroad question, we declare specifically as follows:

"1. In favor of a law making the giving of a free railroad pass to a public official a criminal offense, and the acceptance thereof a forfeiture of office.

"2. In favor of placing a valuation upon railroad property for purposes of taxation, based on the market value of the stock of the road, plus its outstanding bonds.

"3. In favor of an immediate and substantial reduction of railroad freight rates, and to that end we demand that the attorney general shall apply to the federal court for an enforcement of the provisions of the Nebraska maximum freight rate law. We make

this demand in harmony with the right reserved to the state of Nebraska by the court to apply for a reopening of the maximum freight rate case whenever business conditions might warrant.

"We demand that every executive and judicial officer, and every member of the legislature, immediately surrender whatever corporation favors he may have accepted, and adhere, in the future, to his sworn obligation.

### Corporation Favors.

"The people cannot expect just laws for the regulation of corporations at the hands of a legislature whose members accept favors from corporations. They cannot expect equitable taxation of corporations from a board whose members are under obligations to the powers seeking to avoid taxation. The rule—now thoroughly established in our courts—that a man is disqualified from serving as a juror if he has accepted a pass from a corporation that is party to the case, should be as strictly applied to the bench as it is to the jury box. We denounce the acceptance of these corporation favors by the judiciary as particularly offensive; and we pledge to the people of Nebraska that the nominee of this convention will not accept favors—in the form of free transportation or otherwise—from any corporation.

"We demand the strict and prompt enforcement of the law passed by the Nebraska legislature in 1897 providing a fine of \$1,000 for any corporation which, in the language of the law contributes money, property, transportation, help or assistance in any manner or form to any political party, or to any candidate for any civil office, or to any political organization, or committee, or to any individual to be used or expended for political purposes.

"We condemn the republican party of Nebraska for its general continued subserviency to great corporations and for the hypocrisy of its present day attitude. For more than five years that party has been in control of the executive and legislative power; yet it has failed to provide the people with relief from corporate imposition. It has had it within its power to protect the people, but it has piled higher and higher the burdens upon them and has permitted the representatives of special interests to wage unrestrained war upon the public welfare. It has permitted the corporations to name its United States senators; to frame the laws enacted by its legislatures; and to make non-effective the petitions of the people. When republican extravagance in the administration of state affairs has made it necessary to increase taxation, republican officials have seen to it that the increased burden rested heaviest upon the people and lightest upon the corporations. Now that the popular protest against this reign of corporation power through the medium of the republican party, has become so strong that attention must be given that protest, the republican party asks for a vote of confidence and expects the people to be satisfied with a republican convention's "recommendation" that a law to be enacted by some future legislature to prohibit free railroad transportation.

### Elevator Trust Plank.

"We denounce the republican legislature for its subserviency to the elevator trust, and for its failure to heed the request made on behalf of the farmers of the state that adequate laws be passed for the protection of the grain growers from the impositions made possible by the conspiracy between the elevator combine and the railroads. We demand the arrest and prosecution under Nebraska's criminal laws of every member and officer of the elevator trust and all their co-conspirators amenable to that law.

"We urge an immediate and vigorous prosecution by the Nebraska officials of the obnoxious coal, lumber and other criminal

combines in the restraint of trade.

"We favor the passage at the next session of Nebraska's legislature of a law providing for the nomination of candidates for public office by the direct primary system.

"We favor the initiative and referendum in order that the government may be kept close to the people.

"We favor the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people as the only means of bringing that body into harmony with the voters.

"We express our gratification over the conclusions of peace between Russia and Japan, and cordially commend the president of the United States for his efforts toward that end.

"Believing in equal rights to all and special privileges to none, we demand the enforcement of all anti-trust laws, and particularly the criminal clause of the Sherman anti-trust law. 'Private monopolies are indefensible and intolerable,' and we believe the law should be as strictly enforced against the powerful monopolies who prey upon the necessities of the people and conspire against the lives of human beings as it is against the commonest criminal in the land.

### Guilt Always Personal.

"We believe with Messrs. Harmon and Judson that 'the evils with which we are now confronted are corporate in name but individual in fact; that 'guilt is always personal; that 'so long as officers can hide behind their corporations no remedy can be effected,' and that 'when the government searches out the guilty man and makes corporate wrongdoing mean personal punishment and dishonor, the laws will be obeyed.' We demand the enforcement of existing laws against rebates, and the enactment of new laws providing for the imprisonment as well as the fine of corporation officials who violate that law.


"We favor a law giving to the interstate commerce commission the power to fix railroad rates. The right of appeal should not, of course, be denied; but when the commission has fixed the rate it should go in force immediately, and remain in force until rejected by a court of competent jurisdiction.

### Some Evils That Hurt.

"The enormous increase in the number of trusts and the enlargement of the power wielded by those great concerns in every phase of our life; the manifestations of the influence wielded by special interests over the United States senate; the exactions of extortionate prices by the meat trusts, and the continued impositions of other combines in the face of the public demand for enforcement of law; the revelations concerning the great insurance companies showing that policyholders have been defrauded in order that money might be put in the purse of the insurance official, and showing, also, that these officials have contributed to the republican campaign fund large sums of their policyholder's money; the surrender of the treasury department into the piratical hands of Wall street; the exposures concerning the lawlessness of United States senators, the corruption among high public officials in nearly every department of government, and the manipulations by corporation chiefs who, pleading for republican victory, posed as the champions of 'national honor' and the defenders of 'the business interests of the country'—these things give but a faint idea of the sacrifices the people were asked to make when they were urged to 'let well enough alone.'

"If popular government is to be preserved, national authority must be taken from the control of the political party that depends for success upon campaign funds provided by great corporations whose pretense is patriotism but whose purpose is plunder.

"Confidently believing that at (Continued on Fifth Page.)



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