

IOWA POLITICAL CONVENTIONS AND PLATFORMS

BY DAVID C. MOTT

(Continued from July, 1923)

THE NATIONAL (GREENBACK) PARTY, 1885

The National (Greenback) State Convention met in Des Moines on July 7, 1885. Dr. Hatton of Montgomery County was temporary chairman, James B. Weaver, permanent chairman, and R. G. Lee, secretary. Fifty-three counties were represented. The convention adopted the following resolution favoring fusion with the Democratic party:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this convention that the convention nominate only a candidate for lieutenant-governor and superintendent of public instruction, that if the Democratic convention endorse our nominees and further nominate a candidate for governor and supreme judge who are publicly known to be unflinching anti-monopolists, then in that case our state central committee are instructed to place said names upon our ticket and we pledge them our hearty support, otherwise the central committee is instructed to fill our ticket with straight Greenbackers.

The following ticket was nominated:

Lieutenant-Governor, E. H. Gillett, Polk County.

Superintendent of Public Instruction, F. W. Moore, Davis County.

Following is the platform adopted:

The National party of Iowa in convention assembles reaffirm the national platform adopted by our party at Indianapolis in 1884.

We view with alarm the continued encroachment of confederated monopolies on the rights of the people, and are more firmly convinced with each recurring year of the inability of the old parties to meet the new issues which are being forced upon the people. Close legislation protects a monied oligarchy most damaging to the rights of the people, and is fast undermining the foundation of our civil government, which must rest upon the equality and intelligence of all.

Whereas, The state of Iowa and the whole West is largely under mortgage to Eastern and European capitalists, practically making our people serfs to foreign money lenders, and

Whereas, This condition has been forced upon us by our unjust financial system, therefore

Resolved, That we denounce the present system which enables a few men to borrow the credit of our people at one per cent, and reloan the same back to them at enormous rates of interest, and demand the issue

of lawful money, which instead of being loaned to banks or bondage security, shall be loaned to the people under an equitable and safe system, on ample security, as the school fund of Iowa is now loaned, and at a rate not to exceed three per cent, or the average return for labor.

Resolved, That the policy established by the Republican party, and re-adopted by the present administration, of hoarding hundreds of millions of the people's money, upon various pretexts of discriminating against silver and of contraction in all possible ways, has wrought more ruin to our industries, produced more suffering than pen or tongue can tell, and is calculated to depreciate all values of property, while appreciating all money obligations, thus enabling a few money owners to absorb the wealth of the nation and leave the masses homeless and penniless. We call upon all good citizens to condemn this hardpan policy of confiscation, and by every possible means prevent its further execution. We demand that the idle money now in the treasury be appropriated to pay the public debt.

Resolved, That we regard the expulsion of settlers from Oklahoma lands, owned by the people for a generation, while cattle syndicates are allowed to use them free of charge for a pasture, as unprecedented since the first settlement of the country. We extend our sympathy to the settlers, and demand that Congress shall promptly right this wrong. We further urge that Congress protect the settlers on the Crow Creek Reservation, purchasing whatever claim the Indians may have thereto.

We demand the adoption of the Cassatt Bill so-called for protecting miners from the cattle guard screen swindlers, the suppression of the truck store system of payments, and all necessary legislation to protect this worthy class, who expose their lives in unearthing the invaluable treasures of our mines. We denounce the treacherous Republican party for, after promising the miners relief and the abolition of the past system and other reforms, betraying their pledges in a shameless manner in the last legislature. We demand the abolition of the railroad commissioner system and the substitution of equitable laws controlling freight and passenger rates.

Resolved, That the Greenback party offers to the Knights of Labor, and to all labor organizations, and to all who are borne down by monopolistic oppressions, the most available agency of relief and reform, and that we cordially invite all such to unite with us in such measures and action as will accomplish the desired end. All corporations doing business in this state should be required by law to incorporate under the laws of Iowa, and compelled to litigate their causes in the state courts in common with all other citizens.

We demand the enactment of laws providing for arbitration between employers and employed, and power to enforce the decision of the arbitrators.

Resolved, That we are in favor of the use of all practicable means for the suppression of the evil of intemperance.

Resolved, That we regard the ejection, at the point of the bayonet, of Auditor Brown from the office to which the voters of Iowa had just re-elected him, as a high-handed act of treason of Republican institutions by Governor Sherman, in the interest of corporations, and his further course in denying him a trial and imposing conditions impossible to fill after having been deprived of his books, vouchers, and accounts, as unworthy a despotism, much less a republican government.

Resolved, That if the people of Iowa can tamely submit to such acts of usurpation and treachery, without repudiating the party guilty thereof they deserve to lose their liberties, and may expect to do so at no distant day. We demand of the legislature as soon as it shall reconvene, the impeachment of Buren R. Sherman and adequate punishment for his great crime.

Resolved, That we, the members of the National party of Iowa in convention assembled, pledge our unqualified support of all the reforms demanded by the Knights of Labor, and we congratulate the order upon its rapid increase in our state and nation.¹⁶

National (Greenback) State Central Committee, 1885:

H. S. Wilcox, Polk County, Chairman.

- First District—William Hanna, Louisa County.
- Second District—S. K. Howe,
- Third District, S. T. Spangler,
- Fourth District—L. H. Weller, Chickasaw County.
- Fifth District—L. S. Wood, Linn County.
- Sixth District—Dr. Ramsey, Monroe County.
- Seventh District—W. H. Shaw, Polk County.
- Eighth District—T. L. Maxwell, Union County.
- Ninth District—..... Dennis, Montgomery County.
- Tenth District—R. Sutton,
- Eleventh District—Q. A. Wooster, Monona County.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, 1885

The Democratic State Convention met at Cedar Rapids, August 19, 1885. John R. Keatley of Council Bluffs was temporary chairman, Fred W. Lehmann of Des Moines, permanent chairman, and John Flynn of Dubuque, secretary. The following ticket was nominated:

- Governor, Charles E. Whiting, Monona County.
- Lieutenant-Governor, E. H. Gillett, Polk County.
- Judge of Supreme Court, William F. Brannon, Muscatine County.
- Superintendent of Public Instruction, F. W. Moore, Davis County.

This was a fusion ticket, as the candidates for lieutenant-gov-

¹⁶The Iowa State Register, Des Moines, July 8, 1885. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

ernor and superintendent of public instruction, Gillett and Moore, had been nominated by the Greenback State Convention on July 7.

The following platform was adopted:

The Democratic party of Iowa announces the following platform of principles:

First. We approve of and adopt the principles of the late Democratic National Convention.

Second. We declare in favor of the repeal of the prohibitory liquor law of the state of Iowa as unjust and hostile to temperance.

Third. We pledge ourselves to favor and use our best efforts for the enactment of a license law of \$250, with power to increase from \$250 to \$1,000 as may be described best for the public interest in the various localities of the state as expressed by the legal constituted authorities of such locations.

Fourth. We pledge ourselves to favor and use our best efforts for the enactment of a law which shall punish as criminal the manufacture and sale of all adulterated liquors, such adulteration being the direct cause of intemperance and destructive to the health of the people.

Fifth. We condemn as disgraceful and tyrannical the action of the Republican executive of the state in driving out with muskets and fixed bayonets a one-armed soldier elected by the people in the time of profound peace, before any judgment of civil courts had been rendered against him, thus making the civil power of the state subject to the military power. We denounce such acts as truly destructive to civil liberty and an insult to the people.

Sixth. We urge upon Congress the prompt enactment of appropriate legislation to open to settlement the forfeited railroad lands in the states.

Seventh. We approve the action of the Democratic senators of the Twentieth General Assembly in voting unanimously in favor of the prompt consideration of the bill known as the Cassatt Mining Bill, and condemn the action of the Republicans in promising the miners of this state adequate legislation, and then denying them even a fair hearing.

Eighth. That, while we oppose all monopolies, we recognize the right and duty of the government to give the greatest possible liberty to every citizen consistent with the rights of every other citizen, and we believe in and announce it as one of the fundamental principles of the Democratic party, that the laborer should be the special object of the care of the government.

Ninth. That in President Cleveland the country has found a man of solid judgment, conscientious integrity, unswerving fidelity, patriotism and courage, equal to that of Andrew Jackson. And in his efforts for economy, for the exposure of the criminal acts of the Republican party and its officers, for his unflinching firmness in dealing with the cattle kings, for his zeal in behalf of reform, for his efforts to restore the pub-

lic lands to the settlers, for his efforts to enforce the law against polygamy, and for his constant watchfulness of the public welfare in such a way as to receive the hearty thanks of the Democracy of Iowa and its unswerving support.

Tenth. With these principles we go before the people of Iowa, calling upon all who believe a change is demanded that the books shall be opened and examined; that all who are tired of fanaticism and folly, whether Democrat, Greenbacker, or Republican, to unite with us in bringing about the results to which we are hereby pledged.¹⁷

Democratic State Central Committee, 1885:

L. G. Kinne, Tama County, chairman.

Cato Sells, Black Hawk County, secretary.

First District—George Rodman, Washington County.

Second District—G. L. Johnson, Jackson County.

Third District—Cato Sells, Black Hawk County.

Fourth District—M. J. Carter, Winneshiek County.

Fifth District—N. B. Holbrook, Iowa County.

Sixth District—P. G. Ballingall, Wapello County.

Seventh District—E. T. Likes, Polk County.

Eighth District—E. H. Hunter, Adams County.

Ninth District—F. P. Bradley, Audubon County.

Tenth District—C. O. Bailey, Wright County.

Eleventh District—M. Miller, Carroll County.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, 1885

The Republican State Convention met at Moore's Opera House, Des Moines, August 26 and 27, 1885. George D. Perkins of Sioux City was temporary chairman, P. M. Sutton of Marshalltown, permanent chairman, and J. A. Story of Adair County, secretary. The following ticket was nominated:

Governor, William Larrabee, Fayette County.

Lieutenant-Governor, J. A. T. Hull, Polk County.

Judge of Supreme Court, Joseph M. Beck, Lee County.

Superintendent of Public Instruction, John W. Akers, Linn County.

The following platform was adopted:

The Republicans of Iowa in state convention assembled declare:

First. The issues growing out of the war for the Union can never be called settled until they are settled right. By usurping and absorbing the rights of the disfranchised colored men, the white men of the Southern States are exerting double the political power of the white men in the Northern States. The Rebel soldier in the South is thus enabled to wield twice the influence in the nation that the Union soldier

¹⁷*Dubuque Daily Herald*, August 20, 1885. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

in the North can wield. We protest against the Union soldier having one vote, and the Rebel soldier having two.

Second. The menace of this crime against the ballot in the South is also a menace to free labor in the North. With the black men robbed of the elective franchise, their power to protect themselves is gone, and the Southern white men can degrade them at will into a form of cheap labor. Labor in the South can not be pauperized without the wages of labor in the North being necessarily affected. It is already driving the Southern blacks to the North, to find both liberty and employment and Iowa has received thousands of such men who here have sought and found a chance to live as free men, and to work at good wages. The Republican party declares in the interest of honest and safe government, that there cannot be a political inequality maintained among the citizens of a free republic, and that there can not be a minority of white men in the South ruling a majority of white men in the North.

Third. The adhesion of the Democratic party to the doctrine of state rights is evidenced by the character of the diplomatic appointments made by President Cleveland; and we censure his selection of persons to represent this government at the courts of foreign countries, who deny the indissoluble unity of this nation, and who during the rebellion, either fought for its success or justified the principle on which it was based, and still continue so to do; and we declare that his conduct in this regard is made all the more offensive by his persistent removal of disabled Union soldiers from government employment, by means of the fraudulent and disreputable device of the "offensive partisan" scheme formulated by his postmaster-general and enacted by the other heads of departments and by the President himself.

Fourth. Time does not bar the claims of the soldiers who fought down the rebellion, nor the gratitude and justice of the country, and therefore we demand such modification of the pension laws as shall secure equal treatment to all such soldiers entitled to pensions under said laws, by commencing payment from the date of disability; the increase of widows' pensions from eight to twelve dollars per month; and the granting of a pension to all such soldiers as are disabled from securing support by their own labor; and to those who served in the War with Mexico. We condemn the removal by President Cleveland of the medical pension examiners appointed by Lincoln, Grant, and Garfield, who have been the steady friends of the Union soldiers, and their replacement by men who generally opposed the passage of the pension laws.

Fifth. The American laborer is the unit in the prosperity and stability of the republic. The old world theory of classes is abhorrent to the American mind. No peasant class can ever be created in America. The Republican party has protected and fostered the labor of this country so that its compensation is larger than is realized in any other nation. It has guarded and saved it from the degraded competition of contract labor from China. It is pledged to protect it from the pauper

labor of Europe. We demand that ample provision shall be made by law for the protection of labor and capital and their varied interests, and such laws should provide for a state board of arbitration, for the adjustment and settlement of disputes between labor and capital, including the questions of screening coal and others peculiar to the mining interests of the state, in order that the miners may be assured pay for all work done by them, and labor should have its just proportion of representation on such board. And we further declare that provision should be made by law whereby convict labor shall not be brought into competition with the other labor within the state.

Sixth. We are opposed to the British policy advocated by the Democratic party in this country, under the guise of a tariff for revenue only. The English theory of free trade, which has degraded its labor at home, and been so successfully used as a means to destroy the industries and oppress the people of Ireland, can not be imposed for English interests upon the people of the United States. We invite all people of Irish blood, who know the wrongs of their native country, its fate under English rule, to join with the Republican party and the great body of American working men, in resisting the introduction of the free trade policy in America.

Seventh. We favor closer commercial intercourse with all nations, and the enlargement and extension of American commerce in all possible quarters. We especially urge the establishment of better commercial relations and the enlargement of our trade with South America. We favor the increase of American shipping by all practical means.

Eighth. The Republican party inaugurated civil service reform, and enacted the present civil service law. It will faithfully maintain it, and cheerfully aid in any needed amendments to give it full force. We look with regret upon the failure of the present administration to promote the reforms of the civil service so auspiciously begun under Republican administration.

Ninth. We demand that the public domain, including forfeited and unearned lands within the limits of grants made to railroads or other corporations, shall be disposed of only to actual settlers in limited quantities provided by law; and the *bonafide* settlers on the unearned lands within the limits of the Sioux City and Saint Paul Railway Company should have their rights amply and speedily provided for by the prompt enactment of laws by Congress to effect that result. We are opposed to the acquisition of public lands or any part thereof, by nonresident aliens.

Tenth. We oppose any change in the laws of currency and finance that will increase the burdens of the debtor class. We favor a revision of the patent laws for the better defense of the people against the frauds now practiced thereunder. We favor such practical improvements of the national waterways as shall secure the element of competition in the transportation of the country. We favor the rigid enforcement of all laws for the suppression of polygamy.

Eleventh. The Republican party of Iowa, while a steady upholder of the right and duty of the state to regulate the traffic in liquor by such methods as will suppress the most of its evils, has never made the support of prohibition a test of party fealty. It pledged its honor to enact, and afterward did enact, a law which the people of Iowa at a nonpartisan election fairly held, had ordered by an unquestioned majority that came alike from the votes of Republicans and Democrats. We declare now for a fair and thorough trial of that law, that it may have time to demonstrate its efficiency, or prove its inefficiency before it is repealed to give way to some other honest and earnest method in the line of finding the true and successful system of dealing with the liquor traffic. We arraign and condemn the Democratic party of Iowa, for its action in declaring for a two hundred and fifty dollar license, compulsory on every community regardless of local option, for legalizing again in Iowa the sale of whisky and all other alcoholic liquors, and for removing all restrictions from saloons, giving a freedom in the liquor traffic that has not existed in Iowa for thirty years.

Twelfth. We hold steadily to the doctrine of the control and regulation of railways by the people, as first established by the Republican law in Iowa, which was finally approved by the Supreme Court of the United States. This principle gives to the General Assembly the power to regulate state commerce, and to Congress the regulation of interstate commerce. Under Republican rule and Republican methods the cost of transporting produce has been decreased from three cents per ton per mile in 1870 to eight mills per ton per mile in 1885. We are opposed to all unjust and arbitrary discriminations, poolings, and combinations, which prevent legitimate competition or work injustice to communities or individuals in the state. The full measure of prosperity for the agricultural, manufacturing, commercial, and mining interests of our state, depends upon the just and impartial service of the great railway systems operating within its borders, and holding their corporate privileges within its statutes, and any policy of railway management designed to embarrass a single industry of our commonwealth for the direct benefit of corresponding interests elsewhere is a fit subject for legislative inquiry and correction. We favor the creation by Congress of a national commission for the supervision and regulation of interstate commerce. We favor the election of railroad commissioners by the people.

Thirteenth. The importance of the stock and dairy interests of the state are such as to call for additional legislation for the better protection of their interests. We need further state and national legislation more effectually to stop the spread of the cattle plague and provide for its eradication.

Fourteenth. We favor such legislation as will keep the litigation with corporations doing business in this state in our state courts.

Fifteenth. We endorse the action of the Grand Army of the Republic, in their last state encampment, asking that the legislature at its next

session shall pass a bill and make an appropriation for the establishment and maintenance within the state of Iowa, of a home for our disabled volunteer soldiers and sailors.

Sixteenth. In the death of General Grant the nation has lost one of the greatest and best men known in history. For his services to the nation we express our unbounded gratitude; for his death, our profound sorrow; and to his widow and family, we extend our sincere sympathy and condolence.¹⁸

Republican State Central Committee, 1885:

Charles Beardsley, Des Moines County, chairman.

George E. Roberts, Webster County, secretary.

First District—Louis Weinstein, Des Moines County.

Second District—John Hillsinger, Jackson County.

Third District—E. A. Dawson, Bremer County.

Fourth District—T. W. Bardick, Winneshiek County.

Fifth District—J. F. Parker, Marshall County.

Sixth District—W. H. Needham, Keokuk County.

Seventh District—John Herriott, Guthrie County.

Eighth District—M. F. Stookey, Decatur County.

Ninth District—C. R. Scott, Pottawattamie County.

Tenth District—John R. Hays, Story County.

Eleventh District—George D. Perkins, Woodbury County.

THE PROHIBITION PARTY, 1885

Early in September E. W. Brady of Davenport, editor of the *Northwestern News*, issued a call for a State Prohibition Convention to be held at Cedar Rapids on September 23. The call contained the following:

All friends of prohibition in the state of Iowa, regardless of past party affiliations, who are in favor of the prohibition laws now upon the statute books of the state, and their amendments so as to make them in every sense of the term operative, and who do not regard the so-called prohibition plank in the Republican platform as a pledge for the amendment and enforcement of the law, and whose convictions of right and devotion to principle preclude their supporting the candidate now in the field, are invited to participate.¹⁹

The convention met according to call. It was not a convention of accredited delegates, but there were some forty citizens in attendance from seven of the eleven congressional districts.

¹⁸*The Iowa State Register*, Des Moines, August 28, 1885. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

¹⁹*The Iowa State Register*, Des Moines, September 5, 1885. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

J. W. Murphy of Jasper County was temporary chairman and James Mickelwaite of Mills County was permanent chairman.

The following ticket was nominated:

Governor, James Mickelwaite, Mills County.

Lieutenant-Governor, W. H. Steer, Cedar County.

Judge of Supreme Court, Jacob Rogers, Fayette County.

Superintendent of Public Instruction, William H. Taft, Mills County.

Following are the resolutions adopted:

First. We acknowledge Almighty God as the rightful sovereign of all men, from whom the just powers of government are derived, and to whose laws human enactments should conform as an absolute condition of peace, prosperity, and happiness.

Second. We demand an amendment to our state and national constitutions forever prohibiting the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, including ale, wine, and beer; and we insist upon the existing prohibitory laws being so amended as to make them operative.

Third. That with us days of compromise of principle have passed—that we will neither seek nor accept of affiliation with any party that may promise temporary advantage—our own appreciation of our work being such that we can only move forward in straight lines until it is accomplished.

Fourth. We earnestly call the attention of the mechanic, the miner, manufacturer, and farmer to the baneful effects upon labor and industry of the liquor traffic. It is the prime cause of the reduction of wages and profits, the instigator of strikes, and the destroyer of family welfare, labor, and all legitimate industries, and we cordially invite all such to affiliate with us.

Fifth. We insist upon the enactment of a law requiring instruction in physiology and hygiene and narcotics, with special reference to the effects of alcohol upon the human system, to be given in the public schools.

Sixth. We declare that the bitter persecution, the malignant misrepresentation, burning in effigy, and petty annoyances and injuries to which many prohibitionists were subjected after the last presidential campaign, was an outrage, a shame and disgrace to all who were engaged in or sympathized with them.

Seventh. Believing in the civil and political equality of the sexes, and that the ballot in the hands of woman is her right for protection and should not be taxed without representation and would prove a powerful ally for the abolition of the liquor traffic, the execution of law, the promotion of reform in civil affairs, and the removal of corruption of public life, we favor and demand the submission of the question of equal suffrage to a popular vote.

Eighth. We pledge ourselves to work only for the election of men for the legislature who are publicly and privately pledged to sustain

and use their influence to amend the law to secure the success of prohibition.²⁰

Prohibition State Central Committee, 1885:

E. W. Brady, Scott County, chairman.

A. B. Brady, Scott County, secretary.

First District—D. W. Ferguson, Van Buren County.

Second District—E. W. Brady, Scott County.

Third District———.

Fourth District———.

Fifth District—Samuel Heaton, Linn County.

Sixth District—Townsend Murphy, Jasper County.

Seventh District———.

Eighth District—B. M. Hutsinpillar, Clark County.

Ninth District—M. A. Hunter, Mills County.

Tenth District———.

Eleventh District—V. G. Farnham, Plymouth County.

THE NATIONAL (GREENBACK) PARTY, 1885

In answer to a call a number of members of the Greenback party from different parts of the state who were opposed to fusion met at Marshalltown, October 1. I. R. Eckert of Oskaloosa was made chairman and J. T. Rice of Cedar Rapids, secretary.

The following state ticket was nominated:

Governor, Elias Doty, Linn County.

Lieutenant-Governor, J. J. Clark, Henry County.

Judge of Supreme Court, M. R. Farnsworth, Linn County.

Superintendent of Public Instruction, J. D. Guthrie, Mahaska County.

The following resolutions were adopted:

We endorse the National platform adopted at Indianapolis in 1884, and append the following resolutions:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this convention that fusion with political parties holding declarations of political principles in direct conflict with our own, that we may hurl from power other political parties which hold alike antagonistic principles to our own, works the political corruption of all and makes the combination an engine of power to foist into office corrupt politicians whose only aim is political spoils. Therefore it is wrong in principle and should never be encouraged.

Resolved, That we regard the liquor traffic as one with which political parties seem unqualified to deal in the enactment of positive law, either in the form of prohibition or of license. Therefore we believe that it is best to deal with them on the principle of local option.²¹

²⁰*Cedar Rapids Daily Republican*, September 24, 1885. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

²¹*The Iowa State Register*, Des Moines, October 2, 1885. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

National (Greenback) State Central Committee, 1885:

A. B. Dennis, Linn County, chairman.

I. R. Eckert, Mahaska County, secretary.

First District—Jesse Deitrich, Henry County.

Second District—John Kline, Cedar County.

Third District—M. R. Farnsworth, _____.

Fourth District—E. M. Farnsworth, Winneshiek, County.

Fifth District—A. B. Dennis, Linn County.

Sixth District—W. A. Delashnutt, Mahaska County.

Seventh District—James W. Brown, _____.

Eighth District—E. A. Stone, Appanoose County.

Ninth District—H. S. Smith, Audubon County.

Tenth District—Dr. Lake, Kossuth County.

Eleventh District—L. A. Clement, Buena Vista County.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, 1886

The Republican State Convention met in Des Moines, August 25, 1886. Senator William B. Allison was temporary chairman, and A. K. Bailey of Winneshiek County, temporary secretary. Congressman William P. Hepburn was permanent chairman, and A. K. Bailey, permanent secretary. The following ticket was nominated:

Secretary of State, Frank D. Jackson, Butler County.

Auditor of State, James A. Lyons, Guthrie County.

Treasurer of State, Voltaire P. Twombly, Van Buren County.

Attorney-General, Andrew J. Baker, Appanoose County.

Clerk of Supreme Court, Gilbert B. Pray, Hamilton County.

Reporter of Supreme Court, Ezra C. Ebersole, Tama County.

The following platform was adopted:

First. We renew our adhesion to the principles of Republicanism as enunciated in the national Republican platform of 1884.

Second. The eighteen months just passed have proven the unfitness of the Democratic party for national control. It promised to reduce the expenscs of the government; it has increased, in the session just ended, the appropriations by forty-six millions of dollars. It promised to advance civil service reform; it undoes that promise by crippling the efficiency of the commission having that reform in charge. It promised that the expressed will of the people should be obeyed; it presents a record of a larger number of presidential vetoes in eight months of congressional session that has aggregated under all preceding administrations since our government was instituted. It promised reduction in number of government officials; it presents as the fulfillment of such promise, an increase in the number of government employecs at Washington. It promised tariff reform; it has proven its inability under the pressure of presidential and cabinet influence to agree upon such a

measure, much less pass it to enactment. It presents the spectacle of an administration which has utterly failed to redeem any of the numerous pledges upon which the people were deceived into placing it in power.

Third. We declare the administration of President Cleveland to have justly merited the censure which it received at the hands of Congress in the passage, by over two-thirds vote of each branch of Congress, of the resolution compelling the payment upon the interest bearing debt of the increasing surplus in the treasury. We condemn the pocket veto of this resolution by the President as in violation of the expressed will of the people and preventing its passage over an open veto. And we commend the action of the Republican administrations in applying such surplus to the rapid reduction of the indebtedness of the government.

Fourth. We demand that the public domain, including forfeited and unearned lands within the limits of grants made to railroads and other corporations, shall be disposed of only to actual settlers in limited quantities provided by law. We condemn the vetoes of President Cleveland, whereby congressional aid was prevented for the relief of the settlers on lands known as the Des Moines River Land Grant, from the cruel and oppressive wrongs committed on those settlers, for which aid the legislature of Iowa had vigorously and repeatedly petitioned. We sincerely deplore the failure of the Democratic House of Representatives to pass over such veto this bill which the Republican Senate had already passed over such veto. We condemn the neglect and inaction of the Democratic House of Representatives, whereby the bill passed by a Republican Senate for the resumption of unearned lands within the limits of the Sioux City & Saint Paul Railway Company failed of enactment at the last session of Congress. We are opposed to the acquisition of public lands or any part thereof by non-resident aliens.

Fifth. Resolved, That we arraign the Democratic majority in the national House of Representatives for its wanton desertion of the interests of the producers of the Northwest, as illustrated in their refusal to aid them by meeting the questions in controversy between the common carriers and the shippers of the country by the prompt passage of the bill passed by the Senate and known as the Cullom Bill, the substantial principles of which we recognize as being in harmony with the declarations of the platform of the Republican State Convention of Iowa at its last session, and the joint resolution of instructions to our congressional delegation passed by the Twenty-first General Assembly of this state, and as offering a degree of relief not afforded by any other proposed legislation.

Sixth. To the people of our adjacent territory of Dakota, we extend the assurance of our co-operation and support in their efforts for admission to the sisterhood of states; and we respectfully but earnestly urge our senators and representatives in Congress to continue to labor to the best of their ability and power to secure for Dakota Territory the

place to which her population, industry, and intelligence entitle her as a state in the American Union. And we arraign the Democratic party for its unjust, undemocratic and bitterly sectional hostility to the admission of Dakota as a sister state.

Seventh. Time does not bar the claims of soldiers who subdued the Rebellion, nor the gratitude and justice of the country toward them. Therefore we demand such modification of the pension laws and the passage of such others as shall secure equal treatment to all soldiers entitled to pensions by commencing payment from date of disability; and the granting of pensions to all such soldiers as are disabled from securing support by their own labor, without reference to the date when such disability occurred. And we condemn the present Democratic administration for vetoing the pension bills passed by Congress for the relief of such soldiers, their widows, and orphans, and for the removal of Union soldiers from office and the appointing Rebel soldiers and sympathizers in their stead; and are in favor of a law granting pensions to all soldiers of the Mexican War who are not laboring under political disabilities.

Eighth. We denounce the abuse of the elective privilege which in the southern section of our country and in many cities of the North, continue to make elections a mockery and delusion, and the fraud and suppression which continually defeat the popular will and prevent fair and proper representation. And we insist upon the right of every American citizen to freely cast his ballot and to have the same honestly counted and truly declared.

Ninth. The Republican party, standing for that principle of equal citizenship to which is due the superiority of this over all other nations, and recognizing the necessity of protecting labor against the aggression of capital, heartily endorses every legitimate effort of organized labor to secure equal and exact justice between labor and capital.

Tenth. We demand protection for American labor against competition with pauper labor abroad, and against the product of convict and imported contract labor at home.

Eleventh. The Republican party of Iowa, ever sympathetic with the just aspirations of the nations for freedom, and gratefully mindful of the faithful services of Irishmen to this Republic, heartily sympathize with the people of Ireland in their efforts for the recovery of their home legislature. That we extend to William E. Gladstone and to Charles Stewart Parnell congratulations on their grand achievements of the recent past, and hope that the immediate future will crown their efforts with a full measure of success.

Twelfth. That the laws for the suppression of intemperance were enacted as a part of the general legislation of our state, in obedience to the will of the majority. That we behold with alarm the continued efforts of the Democratic party of Iowa to encourage resistance to these laws and to inflame the passions of the lawless classes in regard to them, thereby menacing social order and leading to the perpetration

of murder and other crimes and outrages. While fully recognizing the right of the people to agitate for the repeal of these or any other laws, which time may prove ineffectual for the beneficent purposes of their enactment, we insist that these and all other laws of this state shall be faithfully and fearlessly enforced.

Thirteenth. We declare it to be the duty of all public officials honestly and conscientiously to guard the public treasury against all improper and unauthorized drafts from whatever directions, and that no official is or can be justified in drawing or accepting salaries or fees unearned by him or to which he is not entitled.

The convention also adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the State Central Committee is hereby charged with the consideration of the matter of representation of Iowa in the Republican Anti-Saloon Convention to be held at Chicago, and is authorized to accredit delegates thereto.

The following delegates were appointed by the State Central Committee to attend the Republican Anti-Saloon Convention held at Chicago, September 16, 1886:

Delegates at large—William Larrabee, Dr. E. R. Hutchins, Aaron Kimball, James F. Wilson, Phil Schaller, J. W. McDill, P. M. Sutton, Joseph M. Beck.

First District—John S. Woolson, W. E. Blake, L. W. Myers, Winfield Smouse.

Second District—Royal Matthews, Dr. J. C. Shrader, Hiram Price, J. N. W. Rumble.

Third District—A. M. Whaley, Calvin Yoran, Jacob Rich, H. C. Hemenway.

Fourth District—B. F. Wright, A. F. Hofer, E. H. Hurd, L. G. Fellow.

Fifth District—S. A. Marine, R. E. Sears, W. M. Beardshear, T. L. Dows.

Sixth District—J. B. Grinnell, Ben McCoy, Frank T. Campbell, A. H. Hamilton.

Seventh District—J. S. Clarkson, J. A. T. Hull, C. D. Bevington, M. A. Dashiell.

Eighth District—T. E. Clark, W. S. Dungan, Francis Varga, Lyman Evans.

Ninth District—Lafe Young, T. M. C. Logan, B. F. Clayton, Platt Wicks.

Tenth District—J. Fred Meyers, J. P. Anderson, J. P. Dolliver, Albert Head.

Eleventh District—John Brennan, G. L. Dobson, James N. Miller, F. L. Dennis.¹

¹*Iowa State Register*, Des Moines, August 26, 1886. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

Republican State Central Committee, 1886:

Charles Beardsley, Des Moines County, Chairman.

First District—E. W. Tatlock, Louisa County.

Second District—H. S. Fairall, Johnson County.

Third District—M. H. Harmon, Buchanan County.

Fourth District—T. W. Burdick, Winneshiek County.

Fifth District—B. Murphy, Benton County.

Sixth District—J. P. Early, Monroe County.

Seventh District—S. P. Ayres, Marion County.

Eighth District—D. D. Gregory, Union County.

Ninth District—John Herriott, Guthrie County.

Tenth District—A. D. Clark, Kossuth County.

Eleventh District—P. R. Bailey, O'Brien County.

NATIONAL (GREENBACK) PARTY, 1886

The National (Greenback) State Convention was held in Des Moines, July 1, 1886. H. U. Funk of Audubon County was temporary chairman and W. J. Brown of Hamilton County, temporary secretary. A committee was appointed to confer with a like committee from the Democratic State Convention, which was in session in Des Moines at the same time, to consider a fusion of the tickets of the two parties.

W. H. Robb of Union County was permanent chairman and C. Vincent of Fremont County, permanent secretary. The committee on fusion reported they had agreed to furnish the candidates for treasurer of state, and for clerk of the Supreme Court, allowing the other four places to be filled by the Democratic party, and the report was adopted.

The two places were then filled as follows:

Treasurer of State, Daniel Campbell, Monona County.

Clerk of Supreme Court, William Theophilus, Howard County.

The convention then accepted the Democratic nominees for the other four places on the ticket.

The following platform was adopted:

Once more the National party of Iowa calls attention to the unjust legislation from which the people suffer, and demands relief.

A false, partial, and cruel financial system now forces the millions into usurious debts to monied men and banking houses, and then allows the lenders to contract the currency, crowd down all property values, foreclose mortgages, close factories, and drive products into the highways. This arbitrary financial despotism has already produced incipient revolution, while strikes and universal organization for the protection

of labor indicate great unrest. The process of inflating the value of the dollar and all bonds, mortgages, and other money obligations, while crowding down the value of farm crops, labor, and property generally has been greatly facilitated by cornering about one-third of the money of the country in the United States Treasury—a policy adopted by the Republican party and continued by the present administration, despite the fact that nearly two hundred millions of the war bonds are payable and drawing interest. Congress seems indifferent to the ruin resulting, and spends much of its time passing relief bills for private individuals while the millions suffer.

We call upon the mortgaged farmers, manufacturers, and business men of Iowa, and upon the working men to rise up and save the farms, workshops, and business houses from confiscation and the labor market from destruction, to unite with us to change this mad policy and compel Congress to do its duty.

The English plan has been adopted for our ruin, as was exposed by "The Hazard Circular," published by Hazard, an English capitalist, and circulated confidentially as early as 1862 among the bankers and capitalists of this country. It was as follows:

"Slavery is likely to be abolished by the war power and chattel slavery be destroyed. This, I and my European friends are in favor of, for slavery is but the owning of labor and carries with it the care for the laborer; while the European plan, led in by England, is capital control of labor, by controlling wages. This can be done by controlling the money. The great debt that capitalists will see to is made out of this war must be used as a measure to control the volume of money. To accomplish this they (the bonds) must be used as a banking basis. We are now waiting to get the secretary of the treasury to make this recommendation to Congress. It will not do to allow the greenback, as it is called, to circulate as money any length of time for we cannot control them. But we can control the bonds and through them the bank issues."

We denounce the present money system which enables a few men to borrow the credit of the people at one per cent and reloan the same back to them at enormous rates of interest, and demand the issuance of lawful money, which, instead of being loaned to banks on bonded security, shall be loaned to the people under an equitable and safe system on ample security, as the school fund of Iowa is now loaned and at a rate not to exceed three per cent. In the language of Lincoln: "Labor being prior to and independent of capital, deserves much the higher consideration." The right of the laborer to enjoy the fruits of his toil is necessary to the maintenance of that equality and wealth upon which the permanence of our political fabric depends. This country cannot remain free under laws that create colossal fortunes for the few and widespread poverty for the many. We call upon all labor organizations and all patriots in every station of life to assist us to restore labor to that position which its importance demands. We realize

that labor is the motive power, manual labor the engineer to keep the car of progress moving forward, yet it claims less consideration at the hands of lawmakers than non-producers, speculators, and bankers. We heartily endorse the demands made of Congress by the last general assembly of the Knights of Labor and pledge ourselves to aid by voice and vote their adoption into law.

We condemn the Republican party of the state of Iowa for opposing every measure introduced in the last legislature, advocated by the labor organizations, in violation of their previous party pledges.

We demand such laws as will insure speedy payment of the wages to the employee in mines, factories, and workshops in the lawful money of the country and the complete abolition of the truck store system. A free government can exist only with free homes, and we condemn that policy that permits vast tracts of land to be owned by any individual or corporation. We denounce the policy of permitting foreigners who owe no allegiance to the flag of our country from acquiring title to real estate in this country, and we demand that all forfeited or unearned lands, granted to railroad or other corporations, be reclaimed and opened for homesteads for the people.

While all cattle leases in Oklahoma and the Indian Territory, generally have been decided illegal, the cattle syndicates (despite a feint to drive them out) still practically own and govern the Indian Territory while honest settlers are expelled by the army. We demand the reversal of this un-American and inhuman policy.

The great corporate monopolies which control money, transportation, and public intelligence, should be brought to a sense of justice by the adoption of laws which will prohibit extortionate rates for the use of money, and prevent overcharges by railroads for transportation and of telegraph lines for intelligence, securing legal rights and privileges to all.

We do not favor appropriations to build a canal between the Mississippi River and Chicago, which would be closed for nearly half the year and too slow for use the other half, and demand instead the money be appropriated to build a double track steel railroad and telegraph line from Omaha to tidewater on the Atlantic coast, and that the defaulting subsidized Pacific railroads be taken by foreclosure, thus giving a transcontinental route of incalculable value.

We demand a graduated income tax.

Physical characteristics like color of the skin, sex, locality of birth, can have no connection whatever with questions of human rights among civilized people. We demand the abolition of the Railroad Commission. We are in favor of the use of all practical means for the suppression of intemperance. The barbarous use of bayonets to expel Auditor Brown from office, and the enormous expense to which the state has been put to try him are not the result so much of irregularities on the part of Auditor Brown as the result of the action of the Republican

bosses not to tolerate a man who would expose rotten corporations as was his duty under the law.²

National (Greenback) State Central Committee, 1886:

J. Bellangee, Polk County, Chairman.

W. S. Gaston, Secretary.

- First District—William Hanna, Louisa County.
- Second District—Samuel Sinnet, Muscatine County.
- Third District—L. W. Hutchison, Bremer County.
- Fourth District—L. H. Weller, Chickasaw County.
- Fifth District—L. S. Wood, Linn County.
- Sixth District—S. Kirkpatrick, Wapello County.
- Seventh District—J. Bellangee, Polk County.
- Eighth District—J. A. Ray, Decatur County.
- Ninth District—L. J. Genung, Mills County.
- Tenth District—D. H. Jackson, Greene County.
- Eleventh District—A. S. Wooster, Monona County.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, 1886

The Democratic State Convention met in Des Moines, June 30 and July 1, 1886. A. R. McCoy of Clinton was temporary chairman and C. W. Miller of Waverly, secretary. G. W. Bell of Hamilton County was permanent chairman, and J. J. Franey of Pottawattamie County, permanent secretary.

A committee was appointed to confer with a like committee from the National (Greenback) Convention, which was in session in Des Moines at the same time, to consider a fusion of the tickets of the two parties. The committee reported the agreement was for the Greenbackers to take the two positions of treasurer of state and clerk of the Supreme Court, and the Democrats to take the remaining four places, and the report was adopted.

The Greenbackers having selected the nominees for those two places, the convention completed the ticket as follows:

- Secretary of State, Cato Sells, Black Hawk County.
- Auditor of State, Paul Guelich, Des Moines County.
- Treasurer of State, Daniel Campbell, Monona County.
- Attorney-General, C. H. Mackey, Keokuk County.
- Clerk of Supreme Court, William Theophilus, Howard County.
- Reporter of Supreme Court, F. P. Bradley, Audubon County.

The following platform was adopted:

²The Iowa State Register, Des Moines, July 2, 1886. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

The Democracy of Iowa in convention assembled announces the following platform of principles:

That the clean, pure, and honest administration of Grover Cleveland is a matter of just pride for every American citizen without distinction of party, and we most cordially and heartily approve and applaud the noble, determined, and successful efforts of the President in the interests of good government, and we pledge him our continual support in all such efforts.

That the noble and manly efforts of Gladstone in behalf of representative government for Ireland commands our unqualified approval.

That we most heartily express our appreciation of the services of all Union soldiers and sailors and recommend the fullest recognition of their services in defense of our country by ample and liberal pension laws, making allowances to all who received injuries or disabilities in the service and to those dependent upon them. To that end we condemn private bills and special legislation which favor a few to the detriment of the many, and favor general laws that will enable the pension bureau to bestow the government bounty upon all meritorious claimants.

That to impose taxes for any other purpose than the raising of necessary revenue for the support of the government is unconstitutional and wholly inconsistent with our boasted freedom. We, therefore, call upon Congress for the immediate revision of our tariff laws, to a revenue basis, to the end that every industry and every section may enjoy perfect equality under the law.

That we insist that the surplus revenue accumulated in the treasury of the United States, not needed to defray the current expenses of the government and meet the appropriations made by Congress, be applied in the payment of the public debt.

That the public lands are a trust held by the government as the heritage of its people, and that they should under no circumstances be alienated from its citizens nor made the subject of barter and sale for speculative purposes, but should be had for actual settlers who purpose by their own labor to build up in our country a home. We demand the immediate and unconditional pre-emption of all unearned railroad land grants.

That recognizing in the industry and morality the standard of individual and national greatness, and the foundation of purity and happiness in the home would secure to the laborer a participation in the fruits of his toil, and a share to the family and home in the refining influences of advancing civilization. We therefore call upon all who may have at heart the greatest good to the greatest number to join with us in securing by unprejudiced legislation just recognition of the rights of the toiler and the protection of the individual laborers by proper, equitable, and honorable safeguards against the present and threatened encroachments of monopoly corporations.

We sternly denounce the betrayal of the interests of the miners of Iowa by the last Republican legislature and its shameless violation of

the pledges given by its platform and party leaders, as shown by the defeat of the measure of relief demanded by the miners of the state.

The only safe foundation for a free representative government is in equal representation in our legislative councils. We denounce the action of the Republican majority in the last General Assembly in the passage of the congressional reapportionment and legislative redistricting bills as a bold, corrupt, and despotic disfranchisement of large bodies of our people in order to perpetuate the power in the hands of the Republican party and to shield it from just and certain defeat which its partisan mismanagement so surely invites. A party so lost to all sense of justice and decency, so oblivious to the rights of a free people and the principles of popular government, is wholly unfit to be trusted with further political power.

That wherever a public officer is shown to have been corrupt or have violated the law in his official position, we call for his prompt conviction and severe punishment. No long continued dishonest and illegal practices can be accepted as a shield or palliation of guilt. Recent disclosures of Republican maladministration, corruption, defiance of law and abuse of power, call loudly for punishment of many guilty men, and for driving from power the party which has so disgraced and debauched the administration of public affairs in Iowa.

That we favor the repeal of the present prohibitory liquor law of this state and the enactment in lieu thereof of a law securing to each county and municipal corporation the right to determine for itself the prohibition or the licensing of the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, providing by proper legislation for the enforcement of prohibition where prohibition is adopted, and where license is adopted for a license fee of not less than \$500 with such legislative restrictions as will promote sobriety and suppress free whisky.

We cordially invite all persons believing in the foregoing principles to unite in overthrowing the party in power in this state.³

The venerable Barlow Granger of Polk County offered the following resolution which was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The citizens of Iowa have ever cherished and held in grateful remembrance the veterans of the War with Mexico, who placed the "Lone Star" on our country's flag and added the state of California to the dominion protected by the Stars and Stripes, and

Whereas, As they fall from the ranks and leave the number of our heroes living to join the legions of our heroes dead, we cling with increased gratitude to those who yet remain; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Democracy of Iowa in convention assembled, hereby pledge our hearty sympathy and support to the veterans of the Mexican War, and we will use our best endeavor to the end that Iowa may not fall behind the proud record of our sister states in welcoming

³*Dubuque Daily Herald*, July 2, 1886. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

among us the veterans of that war, and we hereby tender our hearty sympathy and aid to the national gathering of Mexican heroes to be held in Des Moines on August 20 of this year, to the end that it may not only be an occasion of proud and glorious memories to them, but an example to all that patriotism and bravery finds with the citizens of Iowa the most grateful hospitality, welcome, and good cheer.⁴

Democratic State Central Committee, 1886:

L. G. Kinne, Tama County, Chairman.

Alex. Charles, Linn County, Secretary.

First District—Charles D. Fullen, Jefferson County.

Second District—A. P. McGuirk, Scott County.

Third District—Cato Sells, Black Hawk County.

Fourth District—M. J. Carter, Winneshiek County.

Fifth District—Alex. Charles, Linn County.

Sixth District—P. G. Ballingall, Wapello County.

Seventh District—T. R. North, Dallas County.

Eighth District—E. H. Hunter, Adams County.

Ninth District—D. A. Farrell, Mills County.

Tenth District—M. Miller, Carroll County.

Eleventh District—William Harker, O'Brien County.

THE UNION LABOR PARTY, 1887

The State Convention of the Union Labor party was held at Marshalltown on June 9, 1887. M. J. Cain of Poweshiek County was temporary chairman and J. R. Sovereign of Cass County, temporary secretary. E. S. Wicklin of Dubuque County was permanent chairman. Thirty-nine counties were represented.

The following ticket was nominated:

Governor, M. J. Cain, Poweshiek County.

Lieutenant-Governor, J. R. Sovereign, Cass County.

Judge of Supreme Court, M. J. Jones, Davis County.

Superintendent of Public Instruction, Ernest Hanan, Chickasaw County.⁵

The convention endorsed the entire platform adopted by the Cincinnati Union Labor Conference of February 22, 1887.

The Cincinnati platform was as follows:

The delegates of various industrial and reform political organizations have assembled from thirty-one states and territories on this anniversary of the birth of the Father of his Country, to view the situation of public affairs and advise proper action.

⁴*The Iowa State Register*, Des Moines, July 2, 1886. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

⁵Because of the death of Ernest Hanan, S. L. Tipton of Carroll County was substituted by the State Committee. (See *Iowa Tribune*, November 2, 1887, in the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

A general discontent prevails on the part of the wealth-producers; farmers are suffering from a poverty which has forced most of them to mortgage their estates, and prices of products are so low as to offer no relief except through bankruptcy. Laborers are sinking into greater and greater dependence; strikes are resorted to without bringing relief, because of the inability of employers in most cases to pay living wages, while more and more are driven into the streets. Business men find collections almost impossible, meantime hundreds of millions of idle public money, which is needed for relief is locked up in the United States Treasury in grim mockery of the distress. Land monopoly flourishes as never before, and more and more owners of the soil are daily becoming tenants. Great transportation corporations still succeed in extorting their profits upon watered stock through unjust charges.

The United States Senate has become an open scandal, its seats being purchased by the rich in open defiance of the popular will.

A trifling fisheries dispute is seized upon as an excuse for squandering public money upon unnecessary military preparations which are designed to breed a spirit of war, to ape European despotism, and to empty the treasury without paying the public debt.

Under these and other alarming conditions we appeal to the people of this whole country to come out of old party organizations whose indifference to the public welfare is responsible for this distress, and help us to organize a new political party not sectional, but national, whose members shall be called Commoners, whose object shall be to repeal all class laws in favor of the rich, and to relieve the distress of our industries by establishing the following principles:

First. Every human being possesses a natural inalienable right to sufficient land for self support, and we desire to secure to every industrious citizen a home, as the highest result of free institutions. To this end we demand a graduated land tax on all large estates, especially those held for speculative or tenant purposes; the reclamation of all unearned land grants; the immediate opening of Oklahoma to homestead settlement, the purchase of all unoccupied Indian lands, and the settlement of the various tribes upon lands in severality; also laws preventing corporations from acquiring real estate beyond the requirements of their business, and alien ownership of land. The systems of irrigation in states and territories, where necessary, should be under such public control as shall secure the free and equitable use of water and franchises to the people.

Second. The means of communication and transportation should be owned or controlled by the people, as is the United States postal service, and equitable rates everywhere established.

Third. The establishment of a national monetary system in the interest of the producer, instead of the speculator and usurer, by which a circulating medium in necessary quantity and full legal tender shall be issued directly to the people, without the intervention of banks, or loaned to citizens upon ample security at a low rate of interest, to re-

lieve them from the extortions of usury, and enable them to control the money supply. Postal savings banks should be established. While we have free coinage of gold, we should have free coinage of silver. We demand the prompt payment of the national debt, and condemn the further issue of interest-bearing bonds, either by the national government, or by states, territories, counties or municipalities.

Fourth. Arbitration should take the place of strikes and other injurious methods of settling labor disputes; the letting of convict labor to contractors be prohibited; the contract system be abolished in public works; the hours of labor in industrial establishments be reduced, commensurate with the increase of production by labor-saving machinery; employes be protected from bodily injury; equal pay be given for equal work of both sexes, and labor, agricultural and co-operative associations be fostered and incorporated by law. The foundation of a republic is the intelligence of its citizens, and children who are driven into workshops, mines, and factories are deprived of education which should be secured to all by proper legislation. We desire to see labor organizations extend throughout all civilized countries until it shall be impossible for despots to array the working men of one country in war against their brothers of another country.

Fifth. In appreciation of the services of United States soldiers and sailors, we demand for them justice before charity. The purposely depreciated money paid them during the war should be made equal in value to gold paid the bondholders. The soldier was promised coin or its equivalent, and paid in depreciated paper. The bondholder loaned the government depreciated paper, and contracted to take it back, but was paid in gold.

Sixth. A graded income tax is the most equitable system of taxation, placing the burden of government on those who can best afford to pay, instead of laying it on the farmers and producers, and exempting millionaire bondholders and corporations.

Seventh. The capture of the United States Senate by millionaires and tools of corporations who have no sympathy with free institutions, threatens the very existence of the Republic. We demand a constitutional amendment making United States senators elective by a direct vote of the people.

Eighth. Such state and national laws should be passed as shall effectually exclude from America the Mongolian slave and Asiatic competition.

Ninth. The employment of bodies of armed men by private corporations should be prohibited.

Tenth. Justice knows no sex, race, or color, but treats all with absolute impartiality.

Eleventh. Excessive wealth, resulting in luxury and idleness on the one hand, and excessive toil and poverty on the other, leads to intem-

perance and vice. The measures of reform here demanded will prove to be the scientific solution of the temperance question.⁶

On state issues the convention adopted the following platform:

We demand the abolition of the Iowa Railroad Commission and the enactment of laws limiting the maximum freight charges and reducing the passenger rates to two cents a mile on all first class roads.

We demand the prompt payment of the state debt and the reduction of the legal rate of interest.

A free government must rest upon free homes. We denounce the policy which permits large tracts of land to be held unused by individuals or corporations, and insist that foreigners shall not be permitted to acquire title to real estate in Iowa.

We demand that mortgage owners shall be compelled to pay taxes upon their mortgages where recorded, and that mortgagors be released to that extent.

We arraign the monopolists who controlled the last legislature for their unscrupulous truculency to corporate interests and their base betrayal of platform pledges. They voted down the following important bills. (Some eight or ten, including the Cassatt Bill, Lien Land Bill, etc.)

They gerrymandered this state into congressional, senatorial, and legislative districts, and have given a minority of the voters the control of the legislature and the election of United States senators.

This state is now represented in the United States Senate by monopolists who betray their constituents at every turn. The next legislature will elect a United States senator. We appeal to the voters to elect only anti-monopolists to the legislature in order to secure representation in the Senate.

We invite every lover of his country to unite with us in organizing this new party designed to reform our laws and relieve all the industrial classes.⁷

THE PROHIBITION PARTY, 1887

The State Convention of the Prohibition party met in Des Moines on July 14, 1887. There were only a few delegates in attendance. E. W. Brady of Davenport called the convention to order. Rev. D. R. Dungan was temporary chairman and E. W. Brady temporary secretary. Phineas Caldwell of Harrison County was permanent chairman.

The following ticket was nominated:

Governor, V. G. Farnham, Plymouth County.

⁶*Iowa Tribune*, Des Moines, March 2, 1887. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

⁷*Iowa State Register*, Des Moines, June 10, 1887, and the *Marshall Statesman*, Marshalltown, June 10, 1887. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

Lieutenant-Governor, William C. Caldwell, Harrison County.
Judge of Supreme Court, Charles H. Lewis, Woodbury County.
Superintendent of Public Instruction, S. N. Fellows,⁸ Johnson County.

The following platform was adopted:

The Prohibition party of Iowa, in convention at Des Moines, July 14, 1887, submits to the candid judgment of all men the following statement of facts and principles as the basis of their action:

First. We acknowledge Almighty God as the rightful sovereign of all men, from whom the just powers of government are derived, and to whose laws human enactments should conform as an absolute condition of peace, prosperity, and happiness.

Second. We demand the earliest possible prohibition of the liquor traffic, by both state and national constitutions, and the repeal of all crime-fostering license and tax systems.

Third. The rum power must be vanquished by a political organization. Those entrusted with the enforcement of prohibitory laws must not only be in sympathy with the principles, but sustained by a party unconditionally committed to the doctrine of prohibition, and whose dominance depends upon its faithful enforcement. Prohibitory enactments forced upon an unwilling party is prohibition in the hands of its enemies.

Fourth. Both of the old parties having failed to commit themselves to prohibition, and having courted the favor of the liquor interests by requesting the resignation of prohibition officials and appointing avowed enemies of prohibition as officials in anti-prohibition districts, it follows that men of those parties who seek prohibition must seek it elsewhere. A separate party, untrammled by fear and asking no favor from the saloon, is an imperative necessity.

Fifth. We insist upon a faithful enforcement in every public school of the state, in letter and in spirit, of the law requiring instruction in regard to the effects of alcohol and other narcotics upon the human system.

Sixth. We demand for the voters of Iowa a fair count of the ballots cast by Prohibitionists as well as other voters, for upon this rests our liberties as a people and a nation.

Seventh. We favor a general reduction in railway passenger fares to not more than two cents per mile, and all progressive legislation in regard to railroads.

Eighth. We extend cordial sympathy to the wageworkers of our country in all lawful efforts to better their condition. We favor measures like the establishment of postal savings banks, reservation of public lands for actual settlers, and the prohibition of the importation of paupers, and the employment of child labor. We denounce anarchists

⁸The names of Charles H. Lewis for judge of the Supreme Court and of S. N. Fellows for superintendent of public instruction do not appear in the election returns. (See "Iowa Official Register," 1888.)

as the enemies of society and stand with the laboring man in favor of social order and the overthrow of its enemies.

Ninth. We favor the granting of liberal pensions to all disabled soldiers and sailors of the Union Army and Navy that have been honorably discharged; and their widows and orphans.

Tenth. We regard the spirit of anarchy which proceeds from the saloon and the notorious election frauds in Ohio in 1883, and in Michigan during the present year, as an occasion for the gravest indignation and alarm. The political change which the country needs is not a change from one worn-out party controlled by the office seekers to another of the same kind, but the gathering of the better elements of society in a party which is devoted to present issues and dominated by moral ideas.

Eleventh. Believing in the civil and political equality of the sexes, that they should not be taxed without representation, and that the ballot in the hands of woman is her right for protection, and would prove a powerful ally for the abolition of the liquor traffic, the execution of law, the promotion of reform in civil affairs, and the removal of corruption in public life, we favor and demand the submission of the question of equal suffrage to a popular vote.

Twelfth. The welfare of the community and the laws of God require further safeguards for the civil and Christian Sabbath not inconsistent with the rights of those who observe the Seventh Day, and for the protection of virtue and the purity of the family.

Thirteenth. We declare ourselves in favor of strengthening by amendments and enforcing the prohibitory laws.

Fourteenth. We denounce the officers of the law that screen violators of the prohibitory liquor laws of Iowa and aid such criminals in escaping punishment.⁹

Prohibition State Central Committee, 1887:

E. W. Brady, Davenport.

Isaac Boddy, Cherokee.

L. P. Anderson, Malvern.

A. T. Nichols, Mount Vernon.

L. Woodworth, Fort Dodge.

Prof. D. R. Dungan, Des Moines.

J. B. Bartley, Chariton.

Townsend Murphy, Newton.

George Prindle, McGregor.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, 1887

The Republican State Convention met in Des Moines on August 24, 1887. John Brennan of Woodbury County was temporary chairman and D. D. Donnan of Clayton County, tempor-

⁹*Iowa State Register*, Des Moines, July 15, 1887. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

ary secretary. The permanent chairman was David B. Henderson of Dubuque. The following ticket was nominated:

Governor, William Larrabee, Fayette County.

Lieutenant-Governor, J. A. T. Hull, Polk County.

Judge of Supreme Court, Gifford S. Robinson, Buena Vista County.

Superintendent of Public Instruction, Henry Sabin, Clinton County.

The following platform was adopted:

First. The Republicans of Iowa accept as settled the old issues and conclusive results of the war, and hail with patriotic satisfaction all sincere evidences of returning fraternity and reunion. The new issues raised in the South since the war against the right of every freeman to cast his vote unmolested and have it honestly counted, and against the right of majority rule in the state and nation, are yet to be settled.

Second. We deny that the suffrage is a purely local question for each state to regulate in whole or suppress in part as it chooses. The suppression of the votes of the black men in the South is not only a wrong to them. It is also in a national sense, in the election of Congress and president, a bold and successful method to make one southern vote count for as much as two northern votes, therefore a wrong which reaches into every neighborhood and to every voter in the land. It is also used to degrade the Negroes of the South into a servile form of cheap labor with which free labor everywhere will soon be brought in competition.

Third. We continue to favor a protective tariff for the upbuilding of American industries and the development of all our resources as a nation. We also favor it for the protection of American labor, and in such degree as will maintain to such labor the advantage of the difference between the wages of workingmen in Europe and America. We believe the tariff should be revised and reduced wherever this policy will allow and the public interest approve. The strictest honesty, economy, and retrenchment should be required and followed in the expenditure of all public money, and we declare for all possible and practicable reduction of taxation, both national and state. We favor the revision of the revenue laws of the state to the end that taxation may be equitable on all kinds of property.

Fourth. We are opposed to criminal and vicious immigration of all kinds, to threaten the public welfare and disturb the social peace, and to all pauper immigration and convict or coolie labor, or to the contract of prison labor by the state, to bring unfair competition to American workingmen. We favor such legislation in the state as will protect miners and all other laborers in their full rights, as to compensation, protection of life, hours of labor, and freedom of trade. All public lands should be held, and all unearned land grants reclaimed, for actual settlers. Nonresident aliens should not be allowed to acquire titles to land in this country.

Fifth. The civil service law, enacted by the Republican party, and

now so flagrantly disobeyed and violated by the Democratic administration, should be maintained and improved in all ways to insure its enforcement and increase its efficiency. The sole tests upon all incumbents of office or applicants for place in the detail service of the government should be honesty, competency, and fidelity, with the single exception that, when all other qualifications are equal, the Union soldier shall have the preference.

Sixth. We are unable to give the commendation of good citizens to the administration of Grover Cleveland. In its discrimination against, and its shameful abuse of Union soldiers, and the preference it has constantly shown to the men who fought to destroy the Union; in its despotic use of the executive power to veto bills passed by Congress, for the relief of Union soldiers and the Des Moines River land settlers; in its attempt to reverse the verdict of the war by a surrender of the Rebel battle flags; in its failure to reduce the surplus or decrease taxation; and for its broken promises to the people and its inefficient discharge of the public service, we are compelled to denounce it as being unpatriotic, unworthy, a disappointment to the country, and a fresh proof of the incapacity of the Democratic party to conduct successfully the affairs of the nation.

Seventh. The theory of public regulation and control of railways and other corporations, first enacted into law in this state, and by the state carried up to the approval of the Supreme Court of the United States, we maintain with increasing favor. We approve the principles of the interstate commerce law, and favor such amendments thereto as will make it still more protective of the interests of the people, and such state legislation as will apply its principles to this state. We further ask that the next legislature shall abolish the free pass in all its forms, and that it shall, after thorough and unsparing investigation, so revise and amend the laws forming the railroad code of the state as will secure to the people all possible protection from corporation monopoly and extortion, as will increase the efficiency and the usefulness of the Railway Commission, and as will secure all fair and possible reduction in freights and fares, believing that the first-class roads of the state can afford to reduce passenger fares to two cents a mile. We are opposed to all unjust discriminations between persons and places, and also to any railroad policy or legislation which will tend to injure our agricultural, industrial, or commercial interests, or that will aid in building up outside cities and interests at the expense of the cities and towns of our own state. We are also opposed to granting any form of exclusive rights by which any corporation will be protected from legitimate and honorable competition, and established as a monopoly regardless of public interests. We favor such legislation as will relieve the people of the state from the extortion of the school book monopoly.

Eighth. This government, saved from destruction by treason by the patriotism and valor of the Union soldiers, can not afford in justice

or honor to deal less than justly with them. It should cordially and promptly bestow as an obligation of the government, and not as a charity, liberal pensions to all disabled or dependent soldiers, and to the dependent widows and parents of soldiers, thus preventing any suffering and want from coming to those to whom the nation owes a debt it can never repay.

Ninth. Iowa has no compromise to hold with the saloon. We declare in favor of the faithful and vigorous enforcement in all parts of the state of the prohibitory law. The pharmacy law and county permit law should be so amended as to prevent the drug store or wholesale liquor store from becoming in any manner the substitute or successor of the saloon.

Tenth. We express our sympathy with all people struggling for liberty and home rule, whether it be the Irish people, led by Gladstone and Parnell, seeking to escape from a long time oppression, or the people of Dakota or other territories in this country, deprived of home rule by the partisan injustice of the Democratic party.

Eleventh. We approve of the state administration of public affairs in Iowa, and especially commend Governor Larrabee for his courageous defense of the people from the extortion of railway monopolies and for his protest in behalf of Iowa against Cleveland's attempted surrender of the Rebel battle flags.¹⁰

Republican State Central Committee, 1887:

Charles Beardsley, Des Moines County, Chairman.

First District—E. W. Fatlock, Louisa County.

Second District—H. S. Sperry, Johnson County.

Third District—W. D. Evans, Franklin County.

Fourth District—J. L. Whitley, Mitchell County.

Fifth District—S. C. Leland, Tama County.

Sixth District—A. W. Swalm, Mahaska County.

Seventh District—James A. King, Story County.

Eighth District—Lewis Miles, Wayne County.

Ninth District—A. L. Harvey, Harrison County.

Tenth District—A. D. Bicknell, Humboldt County.

Eleventh District—A. C. Parker, Clay County.

THE UNION LABOR AND GREENBACK PARTIES, 1887

A State Convention of the Union Labor and Greenback parties met in Des Moines on August 31, 1887. Henry S. Wilcox was temporary chairman and E. Brownell of Madison County, secretary. M. L. Wheat was permanent chairman and Henry S. Wilcox, permanent secretary. Forty-seven counties were represented. No ticket was nominated. The committee on resolu-

¹⁰*The Iowa State Register*. Des Moines, August 25, 1887. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

tions, through E. H. Gillett, reported the following address which was adopted:

To the farmers and laboring men of the state of Iowa: The Union Labor and Greenback parties of Iowa, in convention assembled, submit the following address and resolutions for your consideration:

We are about to again choose members of the legislature, governor and other officials, and the legislature chosen will select a United States senator.

It is the duty of the whole people to act thoughtfully and earnestly in this emergency.

The Republican party has controlled the legislature of Iowa for about a quarter of a century, and under the manipulations of lobbyists and monopolists, the following among other important bills were voted down by the last General Assembly:

The nonresident alien land bill, the Cassatt screen bill, the bill to abolish truck stores, the bill for a more just system of taxation and assessments, the bill to reduce interest, the bill to compel the mortgage owner to pay his share of taxes, the bill to prohibit free passes to state officials, the bill providing for the election of railroad commissioners by a popular vote, and to empower them to fix maximum rates for transportation. They gerrymandered this state into congressional, senatorial, and legislative districts, and have given a minority of the voters the control of the legislature and the election of United States senator.

The reforms aimed at by these bills have all been promised repeatedly by the Republican party in its state platforms—promises made only to deceive voters. That party is again before the people making the same seductive pledges; but those who annually violate their word must not be longer trusted.

The farmers and other producers of Iowa are suffering more than ever before from unjust legislation and for want of needed laws.

The rural districts of this rich state are actually losing population, notwithstanding the state is less than fifty years old.

The burdens of taxes, interest, debt, and official salaries are constantly increasing, while general values are constantly decreasing, in spite of the unceasing toil of the people.

The financial system of contraction and money hoarding is producing its natural inevitable result, in first mortgaging and then bankrupting the country.

“Dear money, cheap labor, and cheap produce” has been the motto of Congress and the Iowa legislature until at least three-fourths of the farms of the state are mortgaged to nonresidents at high rates of interest, and our farmers are practical serfs.

The railroad system, which should be the greatest blessing of civilization, a help to all industries, has become, through stock watering, rebates, and enormous charges, an actual curse. Other abuses too numer-

ous to mention are making conditions actually intolerable and no longer endurable.

Believing as we do that the farmers and laborers of Iowa now realize their desperate condition, and are only prevented from a united and successful effort to overthrow their enemies by party prejudice and party spirit, and that by placing a ticket in the field this convention could not hope to secure immediate relief, and that it is possible to unite the people in one grand nonpartisan effort that shall sweep the state, therefore

Resolved, That we endorse, ratify, and adopt the Union Labor platforms adopted at Cincinnati and Marshalltown.

Second. We recommend to the farmers and other industrial classes of Iowa to immediately call a state convention, which shall be independent and nonpartisan, for the purpose of nominating an independent ticket, to be followed by similar movements in the senatorial and congressional districts; and in the event such a ticket is placed before the people which shall be satisfactory to the State Committee selected by this convention, we pledge it our hearty support and respectfully urge the Union Labor and Greenback voters and the farmers and business men of the state to earnestly support the action of such independent convention.¹¹

The "farmers and other industrial classes of Iowa" failing to follow the recommendation made in this "address" to call another state convention to nominate an independent ticket, the Union Labor and Greenback State Committee published a request on October 4 to the "Union Labor, Greenback and other Anti-Monopoly voters of Iowa" to support the ticket nominated at Marshalltown on June 2.

Union Labor and Greenback State Central Committee, 1887:

R. L. Stewart, Polk County, Chairman.

First District—William Hanna, Louisa County.

Second District—Dr. Lindley, Scott County.

Third District—

Fourth District—W. R. Mead, Howard County.

Fifth District—J. Geiger, Cedar County.

Sixth District—D. W. Hamilton, Keokuk County.

Seventh District—R. L. Stewart, Polk County.

Eighth District—J. L. Brown, Taylor County.

Ninth District—William Homeger, Adair County.

Tenth District—George Wilmot, Boone County.

Eleventh District—Alf. Wooster, Monona County.

¹¹*Iowa Tribune*, Des Moines, September 7, 1887. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa)

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, 1887

The State Convention of the Democratic party met in Des Moines on September 1, 1887. W. W. Dodge of Burlington was temporary chairman and John C. Kelly of Woodbury County, temporary secretary. Cato Sells of Black Hawk County was permanent chairman.

The following ticket was nominated:

Governor, Thomas J. Anderson, Marion County.

Lieutenant-Governor, James M. Elder, Hancock County.

Judge of Supreme Court, Charles S. Fogg, Guthrie County.

Superintendent of Public Instruction, H. W. Sawyer, Fremont County.

The following platform was adopted:

First. We commend the fidelity of President Cleveland to the obligations of his high trust and congratulate the country upon the economy, courage, honesty, and patriotism of his administration. We cordially approve the public land policy of the President. Unearned land grants to the extent of millions of acres have been restored to the public domain and reserved for actual settlers only, and the attempts of cattle syndicates to enclose and appropriate large tracts of public land to their own uses have been defeated. A continuance of the Democratic administration is a guaranty that not another acre shall be granted to speculators or corporations. The civil service of the country has been placed upon a business basis and federal officials no longer neglect the duties of their office for the manipulation of party politics. The public debt has been steadily reduced and we favor a continuance of the policy of applying surplus revenues to the payment of the debt as rapidly as possible. We commend the efficiency, liberality, and impartiality of the Pension Department in the adjustment of claims under present laws, and we favor such further legislation as will make generous provision for Union soldiers and sailors, surrounding the same with such safeguards and restrictions as will prevent abuse by any who are not entitled to the bounty of the government.

Second. We call upon Congress for the immediate revision of our tariff laws to a revenue basis, to the end that every industry and every section may enjoy perfect equality under the law. And we favor the retention of the internal revenue tax on intoxicating liquors and tobacco, and protest against the proposed reduction for the purpose of continuing the present high tariff on the necessaries of life.

Third. We are in favor of continuing the time-honored policy of the Democratic party of welcoming to our shores the liberty-loving people of all lands who come here to conform to our laws and institutions and become citizens of this country, but insist that stringent regulations be adopted and enforced to exclude pauper, vicious and criminal classes.

Fourth. That the noble and manly efforts of Gladstone, Parnell, and their associates in behalf of the cause of representative government for Ireland commands our unqualified approval.

Fifth. We commend the action of the Democratic members of the Twenty-first General Assembly in supporting the Cassatt bill and the bill against the holding of lands by nonresident aliens, and we pledge our candidates to the support of these measures in the next legislature.

Sixth. The vigorous prosecution of faithless officials and those who have corrupted them now being conducted by Democratic prosecuting officers in New York and Chicago is a hopeful sign of a reform of public morals, and we believe the same measure of justice visited upon bribery of local boards should be visited upon the same offense when committed in state and national legislatures.

Seventh. We favor such legislation by Congress as will make all corporations for purposes of litigation, residents and citizens of the state in which they do business.

Eighth. We are opposed to all sumptuary legislation and in favor of the repeal of the present prohibitory liquor law, and the substitution in its stead of a local option and carefully guarded license law with a minimum license fee of five hundred dollars for the better control of the liquor traffic.

Ninth. We believe that the railroad companies are public corporations and therefore subject to public control. We demand such legislation by Congress and the state legislature as will apply to state and interstate transportation of freights and passengers the principles of the Reagan bill, viz.: All rates shall be reasonable and shall be made public. No discriminations against individuals or localities. No rebates or drawbacks. The same charge for the same service to all persons and no higher charge for a less than for a greater service. Prohibition of pooling in every form. Equal facilities and opportunities to all shippers. We oppose the free transportation of any and favor the cheap transportation of all. We believe that the first-class roads can profitably carry passengers at two cents per mile and we demand a law restricting them to such a charge. We are opposed to special tribunals for the settlement of railroad questions, and especially to such tribunals having power to suspend the laws of the land. We therefore favor the abolition of all such tribunals, and believe that the ordinary courts of the country should be vested with full power to enforce the just obligations of the companies and to award adequate damages to persons injured by their violation.

Tenth. Every citizen of the state is entitled to vote and his vote should be as effective as the vote of any other citizen. We denounce as in violation of this inherent right and as a practical disfranchisement of the majority of our people the infamous gerrymander made by the Republicans in the last General Assembly by which a small minority of the people were vested with the full control of the lawmaking power and we pledge our best endeavors to restore the representation

according to population and the right of the majority to rule. We cordially invite the co-operation with us of all persons in accordance with these principles in our endeavor to carry them into effect.

Resolved, That we favor such legislation as will grant to employees of corporations liberty to buy of whom they please.¹²

Democratic State Central Committee, 1887:

E. H. Hunter, Chairman.

C. D. Fullen, Secretary.

First District—Charles D. Fullen, Jefferson County.

Second District—Sam Cohn, Muscatine County.

Third District—J. J. Dunn, Dubuque County.

Fourth District—M. J. Carter, Winneshiek County.

Fifth District—John Baum, Benton County.

Sixth District—P. G. Ballingall, Wapello County.

Seventh District—J. B. Elliott, Marion County.

Eighth District—Ed W. Hyatt, Adams County.

Ninth District—C. S. Wyland, Shelby County.

Tenth District—G. W. Hyatt, Webster County.

Eleventh District—G. B. Healy, Woodbury County.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, 1888, FIRST CONVENTION

The State Convention to select delegates to the Republican National Convention was held in Des Moines on March 21, 1888. J. P. Dolliver of Webster County was temporary chairman and P. H. Bristow of Polk County was temporary secretary. The permanent officers were, president, Governor William Larrabee, secretary, William M. Walker of Van Buren County.

The following delegates to the Republican National Convention at Chicago were selected:

At large—David B. Henderson, Dubuque County; James S. Clarkson, Polk County; Jonathan P. Dolliver, Webster County; George D. Perkins, Woodbury County.

First District—James F. Wilson, Jefferson County; John N. Irwin, Lee County.

Second District—Milton Remley, Johnson County; James T. Lane, Scott County.

Third District—J. D. Newcomer, Hardin County; E. A. Dawson, Bremer County.

Fourth District—Thomas Updegraff, Clayton County; John D. Glass, Cerro Gordo County.

Fifth District—H. H. Rood, Linn County; W. A. Hunter, Benton County.

¹²*Iowa State Register*, Des Moines, September 2, 1887. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

Sixth District—George M. Christian, Poweshiek County; J. P. Early, Monroe County.

Seventh District—D. A. Bigelow, Story County; T. J. Caldwell, Dallas County.

Eighth District—W. P. Hepburn, Page County; F. M. Drake, Appanoose County.

Ninth District—Smith McPherson, Montgomery County; W. J. Davis, Shelby County.

Tenth District—G. W. Hanna, Kossuth County; W. L. Culbertson, Carroll County.

Eleventh District—F. H. Helsell, Buena Vista County; E. C. Brown, O'Brien County.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Realizing that at this time, on the eve of the meeting of the National Convention, a platform of principles by the Republicans of this state is not required further than a declaration of reaffirmation of the past announced positions of the party, yet the Republicans of Iowa improve this opportunity to declare:

That, with unanimity and enthusiasm, we present the name of William B. Allison to the National Convention for the nomination for the office of president of the United States. And we do this not from a feeling of state pride, but from a profound conviction that we are acting in obedience to an obligation now resting upon Republicans everywhere to urge the selection only of the strongest and best candidate. His quarter of a century of service in both branches of Congress has been conspicuous for loyalty to the Republic, for fidelity to the principles that underlie the government, for profound knowledge of the material resources and needs of the nation, for great wisdom and skill in finance, for a broad and prudent statesmanship. In party counsels he has been the foe of faction; with all the leadership of the party the wise and trusted counsellor; to the opposition the fearless but ever courteous foe. He is in the full vigor of his mental and physical powers, genial, affable, and approachable; never acting from passion, rarely from impulse, but uniformly from calm consideration and judgment; pure in thought and speech and purpose, the embodiment of personal and official integrity, he presents a rare combination of all the elements for a strong party candidate and a wise, popular, and honored executive; and we commend his name to the judgment of the Republicans of the nation.¹³

THE PROHIBITION PARTY, 1888

The Prohibition State Convention met in Des Moines on April 26, 1888. The temporary officers were Rev. John A. Nash of Polk County, chairman, and O. T. Nichols of Tama County, sec-

¹³*Iowa State Register*, Des Moines, March 22, 1888. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

retary, and the temporary organization was made permanent. The attendance was small. Following are the delegates appointed to attend the Prohibition National Convention:

At large—V. G. Farnham, Plymouth County; James Mickelwait, Mills County; D. R. Dungan, Polk County; E. W. Brady, Scott County.

First District—J. L. Scott, Henry County; Mrs. C. A. Durham, Des Moines County.

Second District—W. A. McGinnis, Jackson County; A. B. Brady, Scott County.

Third District—J. L. Adams, Dubuque County; E. B. Lamb, Butler County.

Fourth District—J. W. Rogers, Fayette County; A. Thompson, Cerro Gordo County.

Fifth District—Malcom Smith, Linn County; William Stewart, Linn County.

Sixth District—William Sharon, Davis County; H. Bliss, Poweshiek County.

Seventh District—J. Pennington, Polk County; G. G. Black, Warren County.

Eighth District—J. A. Reed, Page County; S. A. Gilley, Ringgold County.

Ninth District—W. C. Caldwell, Harrison County; T. F. Thickston, Pottawattamie County.

Tenth District—J. C. Lorbeer, Humboldt County; D. Harvey, Boone County.

Eleventh District—J. Stickel, Sac County; W. Whitfield, Woodbury County.

The following ticket was nominated:

Secretary of State, James Mickelwait, Mills County.

Auditor of State, Malcom Smith, Linn County.

Treasurer of State, E. O. Sharpe, Polk County.

Following is the platform adopted:

We acknowledge Almighty God as the rightful sovereign of all men, from whom the just powers of government are derived, and to whose laws human enactments should conform as an absolute condition of peace, prosperity, and happiness.

We demand the earliest possible prohibition of the liquor traffic, by both state and national constitutions, and the repeal of all crime-fostering license and tax systems.

The rum power must be vanquished by a political organization. Those entrusted with the enforcement of the prohibitory laws must not only be in sympathy with the principles, but sustained by a party unconditionally committed to the doctrine of prohibition. Prohibitory enactment forced upon an unwilling party is prohibition in the hands of its enemies.

We protest in the name of sober manhood, pleading womanhood, and neglected and starving children, against the cold-blooded attempts of unscrupulous political demagogues to shield the liquor traffic by a disgusting effort to fight another presidential campaign on the tariff issue, while the liquor problem, a thousand times more vast in importance, is sought to be ignored.

We favor a reduction of both the passenger and freight tariff on all the trunk lines of railroads in our state and all progressive railroad legislation.

We demand for the voters of Iowa a fair count of the ballots cast by Prohibitionists as well as other voters, for upon this rests our liberties as a people and a nation.

We extend cordial sympathy to the wageworkers of our country in all lawful efforts to better their condition. We favor the reservation of the public lands for actual settlers, and the prohibition of the importation of paupers, and employment of child labor.

Believing in the civil and political equality of the sexes, that they should not be taxed without representation, and that the ballot in the hands of woman is her right for protection, and would prove a powerful ally for the abolition of the liquor traffic, we favor and demand the submission of the question of equal suffrage to a popular vote.

The welfare of the community and the laws of God require further safeguards for the civil and Christian Sabbath.

We denounce the officers of the law that shield violations of the prohibitory liquor laws of Iowa and aid such criminals in escaping punishment.

We sympathize with the National W. C. T. U. and pledge them our co-operation in all departments of their work.¹⁴

Prohibition State Central Committee, 1888:

First District—J. L. Scott, Henry County.

Second District—E. W. Brady, Scott County.

Third District—J. L. Adams, Dubuque County.

Fourth District—J. W. Rodgers, Fayette County.

Fifth District—S. S. Scull, Cedar County.

Sixth District—William Sharon, Davis County.

Seventh District—Harmon Cook, Polk County.

Eighth District—R. S. Beal, Ringgold County.

Ninth District—L. P. Anderson, Mills County.

Tenth District—John Frazer, Pocahontas County.

Eleventh District—Isaac Boddy, Cherokee County.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, 1888, FIRST CONVENTION

The Democratic State Convention to select delegates to the Democratic National Convention met in Dubuque on May 2,

¹⁴*The Des Moines Leader*, April 27, 1888. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

1888. The temporary officers were J. C. Cook of Hamilton County, chairman, and H. C. Shaver of Polk County, secretary. Charles A. Clark of Linn County was permanent chairman. The following delegates to the Democratic National Convention were selected:

At large—Fred W. Lehmann, Polk County; John C. Kelly, Woodbury County; P. G. Ballingall, Wapello County; W. H. M. Pusey, Pottawattamie County.

First District—W. W. Baldwin, Des Moines County; J. D. M. Hamilton, Lee County.

Second District—Moses Bloom, Johnson County; Thomas Lambert, Jackson County.

Third District—Cato Sells, Black Hawk County; J. H. Scales, Hardin County.

Fourth District—George T. Bellamy, Chickasaw County; L. L. Ainsworth, Fayette County.

Fifth District—Charles A. Clark, Linn County; J. E. Henriques, Marshall County.

Sixth District—S. S. Caruthers, Davis County; L. J. Anderson, Poweshiek County.

Seventh District—W. H. McHenry, Sr., Polk County; A. E. Morrison, Dallas County.

Eighth District—W. S. Sproatt, Wayne County; F. S. Whitmore, Clarke County.

Ninth District—J. S. Tam, Guthrie County; D. M. Wyland, Shelby County.

Tenth District—J. J. Wilson, Kossuth County; A. B. Keith, Crawford County.

Eleventh District—T. D. Higgins, Buena Vista County; Will A. Wells, Sioux County.

The following platform was adopted:

First. The Democrats of Iowa in convention assembled endorse the administration of President Cleveland, and commend his enforcement of all laws, and his manly and courageous declaration for a reduction of useless war taxes, and his clean, honest, and economical administration of public affairs, and the liberal, prompt, and generous payment of all deserving pensions on meritorious claims.

Second. We are opposed to the exercise of the taxing power for any but public purposes, and fully and unqualifiedly declare President Cleveland's message as the views of the Iowa Democracy on the tariff question. In the interest of American homes, we demand free coats and blankets; in the interest of temperance and morality, we oppose free whisky and tobacco.

Third. In appointments to all offices, the duties of which may reflect the policies of the administration, persons should be selected whose

principles harmonize with the party having the responsibilities of such administration. But subordinates should be selected and retained for their efficiency. Levying assessments upon officeholders for partisan purposes can not be too strongly condemned and we commend to the fullest extent every effort which President Cleveland has made in the direction of the reform and elevation of the civil service.

Fourth. We again declare our opposition to all prohibitory liquor laws in state or nation.¹⁵

Democratic State Central Committee, 1888:

Edward H. Hunter, Corning, Chairman.

Charles D. Fullen, Fairfield, Secretary.

First District—Charles D. Fullen, Jefferson County.

Second District—Sam Cohn, Muscatine County.

Third District—J. J. Dunn, Dubuque County.

Fourth District—M. J. Carter, Winneshiek County.

Fifth District—John Baum, Benton County.

Sixth District—W. R. Hollingsworth, Keokuk County.

Seventh District—John B. Elliott, Marion County.

Eighth District—Edward H. Hunter, Adams County.

Ninth District—S. W. W. Streight, Cass County.

Tenth District—George W. Hyatt, Webster County.

Eleventh District—G. B. Healey, Woodbury County.

THE UNION LABOR PARTY, 1888

The Union Labor State Convention met in Marshalltown, on June 28, 1888. Temporary officers were G. V. Swearingen of Fremont County, chairman, and L. H. Griffith of Cass County, secretary, and the temporary organization was made permanent.

The following ticket was nominated:

Secretary of State, J. B. Van Court, Marshall County.

Auditor of State, C. M. Farnsworth, Winneshiek County.

Treasurer of State, James Rice, Clarke County.

Judge of Supreme Court, M. H. Jones, Davis County.

Attorney-General, D. H. Williamson, Buchanan County.

Following is the platform adopted:

Resolved, That the persistent policy of the government since 1865 has been to reduce the money circulation of the country, first, by funding hundreds of millions of legal tenders into interest-bearing bonds; again, by stopping free coinage of silver; again, by allowing national banks to withdraw circulation whenever avarice dictated; and lastly, by locking up over six hundred millions of dollars under various pretexts in the United States Treasury. Thus a money famine has been created, debts doubled, fabulous rates of interest extorted, prices of

¹⁵*The Dubuque Daily Herald*, May 3, 1888. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

labor, produce, and land reduced to zero, and farmers, business men, and manufacturers forced to discharge employees, crowd down wages of those retained, and finally to combine into countless trusts and pools to push up prices to the living point. Thus business has been driven from a cash basis to an interest-bearing note basis. The whole country has been blanketed with bonds and mortgages until European and American usurers extort annually \$1,400,000,000 upon over \$20,000,000,000 of debts. The most vital question now is, Who shall own the soil, the mortgagor or the mortgagee? The present owners must lose it unless the money-contraction debt-expansion policy is reversed. This policy was inaugurated by the Republicans and adopted and aggravated by the Democrats. The present administration has added to the mountains of idle money locked in the treasury, and rather than pay the public debt under plain provision of law, has loaned \$60,000,000 of public funds free to pet banks. Not an additional dollar of greenbacks has been issued though the Supreme Court has decided such issue constitutional. Even free coinage of silver is denied. By a recent veto the Democratic House declined to deprive the banks of the power to still further contract the currency after the Senate had voted to do so.

The platforms recently adopted at St. Louis and Chicago differ only on the question where taxes shall be reduced, while over a thousand millions of war bonds still draw interest from the many for the benefit of the few, and they propose no measures of relief.

So long as it was a question as to what class should be relieved from war taxes, the rich or the poor, both old parties agreed perfectly, and repealed the income and bank taxes, thus relieving the rich and showing where their sympathies lie. In short, Wall Street dictates the policy of the two old parties. The exchange of one for the other brings no relief, and to hide these monstrous crimes, to confuse and distract the people, they are engaged in a fruitless, perennial, and perpetual quarrel over tariff taxes and war issues.

Resolved, That we appeal to all citizens of Iowa to no longer trust their treacherous promises, to no longer eat husks at their dictation, but to come out from them forever and vote with us for the following great principles, which will bring immediate relief to our people.

We demand that all loans of money and credit by the general government to the banks be recalled at once; that the idle money in the United States Treasury be applied to pay the war debt; that legal tender money be issued in volume sufficient to pay off the balance of the bonds, and place the business of the country upon a cash basis; that popular loans upon real estate security shall be made for a time at a rate of interest not exceeding three per cent per annum, as the school fund of Iowa is now loaned.

By thus supplying the country with an abundant circulating medium our mortgages will be paid, serfdom to capital abolished, and our children saved from becoming tenants to an Eastern aristocracy on the European plan, our manufacturers will be enabled to compete with for-

eign manufacturers who get money for half what bankers here demand, and thus our great industrial questions will be settled.

Whereas, The Union Labor party of Iowa recognizes with pleasure the brave stand taken by Governor Larrabee in defiance of party leaders and railroad attorneys, in favor of legislation to compel just and reasonable charges on the part of the railroads of this state; and

Whereas, The Governor has appointed for the first time, as railroad commissioners, men who sympathize with the people, and have shown their sympathy by ordering a reduction in freight rates of from twenty-five to forty per cent upon former charges, and so arranged the schedule as to protect Iowa manufacturing and business from ruinous outside competition; therefore

Resolved, That this convention endorses the present railroad commissioners for the good service they have rendered the state.

We endorse the Cincinnati platform adopted May 16, 1888, and commend to the suffrage of the people of Iowa our noble candidates for president and vice-president of the United States, Hon. A. J. Streeter and Hon. C. E. Cunningham, and also our state ticket.¹⁶

Union Labor State Central Committee, 1888:

Thomas Meredith, Chairman.

First District—William Hanna, Louisa County.

Second District—C. Walton, Muscatine County.

Third District—John Mulkern, Dubuque County.

Fourth District—L. H. Weller, Chickasaw County.

Fifth District—W. H. Calhoun, Marshall County.

Sixth District—Perry Engle, Jasper County.

Seventh District—H. C. Hargis, Polk County.

Eighth District—W. H. Robb, Union County.

Ninth District—Thomas Meredith, Cass County.

Tenth District—W. W. Gray, Webster County.

Eleventh District—Q. A. Wooster, Monona County.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, 1888, SECOND CONVENTION

The Republican State Convention met in Des Moines on August 22, 1888. The temporary officers were General J. M. Tuttle, chairman, and J. D. Newcomer of Hardin County, secretary. The permanent officers were Lafayette Young of Cass County, chairman, and Charles M. Junkin of Jefferson County, secretary.

The following ticket was nominated:

Secretary of State, Frank D. Jackson, Butler County.

Auditor of State, James A. Lyons, Guthrie County.

Treasurer of State, V. P. Twombly, Van Buren County.

Judge of Supreme Court, C. T. Granger, Allamakee County.

Attorney-General, John Y. Stone, Mills County.

¹⁶*Iowa Tribune*, Des Moines, July 4, 1888. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

Railroad Commissioners, Spencer Smith, Pottawattamie County; Frank T. Campbell, Jasper county; John Mahin, Muscatine County.

Following is the platform adopted:

First. The Republican party of Iowa in convention assembled heartily endorse the nominations of Harrison and Morton and give our cordial approval to the declaration of principles adopted by the Chicago convention.

Second. That we most heartily endorse the administration of Governor William Larrabee and commend the courage and fidelity he has displayed in standing for the rights of the people.

Third. That we declare our firm adherence to the principle of legislative control of railways and other corporations. Having been created by the government, they are of right subject to such just laws as may be enacted for their control and must obey the same. We would deal as justly with corporate as with individual interests. But we demand that the people shall be fully protected in all directions from corporate rapacity, whether arising from discriminations, trusts, combines, railways or other aggregated capital. We commend the general railway legislation of the last General Assembly and demand that all just proceedings and rates thereunder shall be promptly, impartially, and vigorously enforced.

Fourth. That we repudiate the imputation that the people of Iowa are antagonistic to the rights of capital or desire to oppress any corporation, but we demand such legislation as will develop the agricultural, industrial, and manufacturing interests of our state and at the same time render a just equivalent for capital and labor employed.

Fifth. That we congratulate the people of our state on the temperance legislation inaugurated in the Eighteenth General Assembly and on the faithful obedience of all subsequent general assemblies to the expressed will of the majority of the people, which has given to Iowa the best prohibitory law in the United States. To the credit of the Republican party for its unselfish and nonpartisan respect for the will of the people, no backward step in Iowa has been taken and none will be taken on this question, so vital to the moral welfare of all our communities. In this connection we refer with satisfaction to the large decrease in the population of our state prisons, the empty jails in so many of our counties, and the decreasing costs and expenses upon the criminal dockets of the courts.

Sixth. That we are opposed to President Cleveland's policy of destroying our silver money to favor an exclusive gold standard; but we are in favor of gold, silver, and greenbacks, and are opposed to their destruction or contraction as a circulating medium.

Seventh. That we declare that the Democratic majority in the lower house of Congress has shown its injustice in defeating the senate bill which directed the refunding to the Northern States the direct war tax, and in remitting the same which was unpaid to the United States.

This tax would have placed in the treasury of Iowa about \$400,000, and to that extent would have relieved Iowa tax payers.

Eighth. That the Republicans of Iowa renew the expression of their sympathy with the people of Dakota, the victims of Democratic partisan discrimination; and in the interest of the entire Northwest we appeal for national justice with reference to the territories.

Ninth. That we stand as ever in favor of liberal pensions to our disabled veteran soldiers and their dependents, and we denounce President Cleveland's wholesale veto of pension bills and the spirit in which they have been uttered.

Tenth. That we mourn with sincere sorrow the death of the heroic Phil Sheridan, the idol of the soldier and the pride of the nation, and we in common with all loyal people realize that in his death we have lost a patriot, a soldier, and a citizen ever true to country, to honor, and to duty.¹⁷

Republican State Central Committee, 1888:

Charles Beardsley, Des Moines County, Chairman.

First District—T. W. Tetlock, Louisa County.

Second District—L. P. Allen, Clinton County.

Third District—Edgar Pickett, Black Hawk County.

Fourth District—E. W. Wilbur, Floyd County.

Fifth District—S. C. Leland, Tama County.

Sixth District—G. M. Christian, Poweshiek County.

Seventh District—T. T. Anderson, Warren County.

Eighth District—H. T. Granger, Adams County.

Ninth District—A. L. Harvey, Harrison County.

Tenth District—A. D. Bicknell, Humboldt County.

Eleventh District—Edgar E. Mack, Buena Vista County.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY, 1888, SECOND CONVENTION

The Democratic State Convention met in Des Moines on August 29, 1888. The temporary officers were Michael F. Healy of Webster County, chairman, and Joseph Eiboeck of Polk County, secretary. The permanent officers were Frederick W. Lehmann of Polk County, chairman, and Clayton Harrington of Boone County, secretary.

The following ticket was nominated:

Secretary of State, George C. Heberling,¹⁸ Jackson County.

Auditor of State, Daniel J. Ockerson, Montgomery County.

Treasurer of State, Amos Case, Chickasaw County.

¹⁷*Iowa State Register*, Des Moines, August 23, 1888. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

¹⁸The name of George C. Heberling for secretary of state does not appear in the election returns, but the name of W. McHenry appears in its stead. (See "Iowa Official Register" for 1889.)

Judge of Supreme Court, Patrick Henry Smyth, Des Moines County.
 Attorney-General, Joseph C. Mitchell, Lucas County.

Railroad Commissioners, Peter A. Dey, Johnson County; Charles I. Lund, Kossuth County; Herman Willie, Clinton County.

Following is the platform adopted:

The Democratic party of Iowa in convention assembled proclaims the following platform of principles:

First. We approve the platform adopted by our National Convention at St. Louis and heartily endorse its nominees.

Second. The wise, patriotic, and courageous administration of President Cleveland meets our earnest approval, and the interests of the people demand that he be again placed in the highest office within their gift.

Third. We congratulate the people of Iowa upon the passage by the popular branch of Congress of the Mills Bill for a reduction of the taxes on necessities, and accept the issues between it and the Chicago platform offering free whisky. We arraign the Republican party of this state for abandoning its repeatedly expressed opinion that the inequalities of the tariff should be corrected, and also for accepting the doctrine which means a continuance of the existence of war taxation.

Fourth. The doctrine originally enunciated and always adhered to by the Democratic party, that "corporations created by state authority are subject to state control," has stood the test of many legal contests and has been uniformly sustained by the court. It is here reaffirmed as the cardinal principle of party faith. This control should be exercised intelligently and firmly, not for the purpose of depriving capital of its just, legitimate earnings, but that the public in its dealings with corporations may be protected from unjust discrimination and unreasonable exactions. Railroads, like individuals, should be held strictly amenable to the laws.

Fifth. The Democratic party now as heretofore declares itself opposed to prohibition, and strongly condemns it as injurious alike to our business interests and the cause of temperance.

The following resolution, although not a part of the platform, was adopted unanimously by a rising vote:

We recognize in the death of Phil. H. Sheridan a national loss, and hereby extend our sympathy to his bereaved family.¹⁹

¹⁹*The Dubuque Daily Herald*, August 30, 1888. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

TO OUR READERS

A title page of Vol. XIII of the ANNALS, needful to those who wish to bind the numbers, will be sent to any one requesting it.

—Editor.

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