

Whereas, There are many subjects affecting alike all the States and Territories represented upon this floor not immediately connected with the great subject of the artificial fertilization of land by irrigation; therefore,

Resolved, That the industrial, commercial, agricultural and financial development of the States and Territories west of the Missouri river be made the special order of business for consideration in committee of the whole on Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock, until the adjournment of the convention.

Tenth: Your committee further recommends that all resolutions offered to this convention shall be in writing, and shall first be read by the secretary of the convention, and that all motions shall be submitted in writing on demand of the chair.

Eleventh: Your committee recommends that all papers and essays offered to be read in this convention shall first be submitted to the board of vice-presidents for their consideration and shall be read only upon their recommendation to that effect.

Signed by all members of the committee present.

HENRY BLACKMAN, Oregon.
W. W. PARDEE, Colorado.
WILLIAM HINTON, Wyoming.
C. S. TRIPLET, Kansas.
E. C. HELFICH, Idaho.
S. D. GRAVES, Nebraska.
O. P. CRISHOLM, Montana.
C. W. IRISH, Nevada.
J. C. ARMSTRONG, Utah.
W. H. MILLS, California.

Correct: C. W. IRISH, President of the Committee.

Attest: W. F. PERKINS, Secretary.

The following resolution was also submitted by the committee on order of business:

Resolved, That all persons reported to the convention by the committee on credentials as accredited delegates shall be entitled to participate in all the debates and other proceedings of the convention, but the final adoption of any resolution, memorial or authoritative expression of this convention shall be by call of the States and Territories represented here, and upon such final vote no State or Territory shall be entitled to cast more than thirty votes, and the affirmative and negative vote of any State or Territory answering to roll call shall be announced by the chairman of the various delegations.

The report was adopted and a committee named to escort the president to the chair.

PRESIDENT WRIGHT.

On assuming his place on the platform President Wright said:

Gentlemen of this Congress:—I need not tell you that I esteem my promotion to this position of chairman of this congress as a very great honor. I am deeply impressed with its importance. I believe it to be a pioneer step in a movement which is almost without parallel in importance. Systems of irrigation have been developed in the various States and Territories which are serving a very good purpose, and which have met the great end of developing large areas of Territory, so as to make them worth millions, where formerly they were worth but thousands; but this is comparatively a new movement. It has no forerunner; it is an entirely new movement in many respects. In the first place we are outlining a policy to be pursued with reference to the so-called arid public lands of all the States and Territories. It means more.

In the States and Territories there has been granted to individuals and corporations the right to go to the various streams and to construct canals and to divert waters and to apply them to the lands for which they were intended, but this is more. It is, first, the adoption of a policy by the United States government with respect to the arid lands within these States and Territories. But that is only a small portion of the programme which is to be carried out, and we cannot expect here, it seems to me, to develop this system in its entirety. We are only seeking, as I understand it, here at this congress, to outline a plan and policy which shall be submitted to the general government for its adoption. That I understand to be the purpose of our meeting here, that we shall advise the general government with respect to a course to be pursued with reference to the arid public lands within the States and Territories. Now, that is but a small portion of the work which is in prospect. The adoption of the wisest and best system of irrigation for the irrigation of these lands, when once this general feature has been attended to, is the next step to be considered, and that, it seems to me, is one of the most important that can possibly be addressed to the human mind. We have within these various States and Territories a domain of arid lands which are well capable of supporting a greater population than is now living east of the Mississippi river. Now that is an astonishing statement, and yet the slightest examination will prove it to be true. In outlining a policy, then, which is to govern this vast new empire about to be created, I believe this to be the pioneer step out of which must grow the greatest results to this government—the irrigation of these arid public lands of the States and Territories.

There must first, then, be this recommendation to the general government as to the policy to be pursued by it, as to the manner in which this cession of public lands may be made, if at all; and there may be difficulty in convincing the Congress of the United States that this policy of ceding to the States and Territories these public lands within the various States and Territories, that may work such magnitude, is the best policy. That is something that this convention ought to consider maturely, because the subject when presented there will be presented to men who have never given it any thought whatever, or nearly so. There are some of course from this coast who have given it mature consideration, but there are others who have never given it the slightest consideration; and when it comes to the proposition of ceding so many millions of acres to the various States and Territories it may meet with determined opposition. It seems to me that the plan to be made and carried out, and the course to be pursued with reference to these arid lands, when it comes to the point of their being ceded to the various States and Territories, ought to be very maturely considered, and those who may have this subject in hand and who may go before the Congress of the United States with this proposition and seek to have it carried out in accordance with the views of this congress, it seems to me have a very im-

portant work in hand and one in the preparation of which they ought to have the advice of this congress after the maturest consideration and deliberation. Now that is the first step to be taken.

Then there is the further step, if you please, when once the government has been convinced that it is the best policy to cede these public lands to the various States and Territories for the purpose of reclaiming them and developing them, that is of outlining a plan by which the irrigation of these lands may be effected. I do not know that this convention will care to undertake that important work. Probably as much as they will desire to undertake is simply to outline a plan and policy for the general government upon which these lands shall be ceded to the various States and Territories. It has now come to be generally acknowledged that the benefits of irrigation are so great as to be beyond any question, in all the great West. The benefits of a system of irrigation have been so firmly established as to be beyond further question; and the fact that this great domain, the public lands, may be developed into an empire of untold importance, is one which will be conceded upon the bare statement of the facts. We are all prepared—we all came here with that conviction, we believe that to be true. It will not be necessary for us to discuss the proposition as to the benefits of irrigation. We all came here convinced of its superlative benefit to the country, and we are therefore prepared to go on from that step to consider the ways and means by which it may be best accomplished.

Now, it seems to me that right here at the very basis of our work, after we dispose of the proposition, if we can do so, of how best to advise the general government with respect to these lands, there comes up the further important question, and one which ought to be considered to some extent, at least by this congress, of how best to irrigate these lands—how best to devise a system that may be successfully applied in the development of these lands by irrigation. It seems to me that this is one of the most important features which might well be considered by this congress.

I think you will not expect an extended speech from me at this time. This honor came entirely unexpected and without solicitation, I assure you, and while I have not had much experience governing the deliberations of bodies like this, I shall crave your indulgence and your assistance as we proceed with the work of this congress, and hope that we may get along harmoniously and successfully with the great work before us. I thank you, gentlemen. [Applause.]

The selecting of the committee on Platform and Resolutions was the next in order, and it was agreed that the committee should be composed of one member from each State and Territory represented, the members to be named by the respective delegations. Following is the committee:

Oregon, J. F. Johnson; New Mexico, Will Hall Poore; Texas, Morgan Jonek; Utah, Judge C. C. Goodwin; Nevada, Francis Newlands; Wyoming, Elwood Mead; Nebraska, James B. Stephenson; Montana, Hon.