

government, economically and honestly administered.

(E.) We demand postal savings banks to be established by the government, for the safe deposit of earnings by the people and to facilitate exchange.

#### TRANSPORTATION.

Transportation being the means of exchange and public necessity, the government should own the railroads in the interest of the people. The telegraph, telephone, like the postoffice being a necessity for the transmission of news, should be owned and operated by the government in the interest of the people.

#### LAND.

Land, including all natural resources of wealth, is the heritage of the people and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes, and alien ownership of land should be prohibited. All land now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs, and all lands now owned by aliens should be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only.

Mr. Branch of Georgia read the platform proper, the strong sentences picturing graphically the ruin of the country unless there was reform, were well received and met approbation, but when the sentence relating to government ownership of transportation in the people's interest was reached there was a demonstration which interrupted his progress by ex-Senator Van Wyck, in the front of the hall, leading the Nebraska delegation and the convention. The reading of nearly every plank in the platform proper was received with more or less applause. The free silver plank was enthusiastically greeted with cheers and the waving of hats, and the government ownership of railroads again got a tumultuous greeting in which it was noticeable that Nebraska, Georgia, Kansas and Texas led the applause and cries of "Amen" were heard from all parts of the house. The paragraph favoring governmental control of telephone and telegraph lines was cheered loudly.

The completion of the reading of the platform was warmly greeted and put through by unanimous consent.

Then the convention broke over all restraint and went wild. Delegates arose in their chairs, cheering and waving coats, hats and fans and throwing things in the air. Several delegates seized Mr. Branch of Georgia, Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, and trotted him down the main aisle on their shoulders. A number of delegates seized the uprights used to hold the placards designating the places of the delegations, and rushed with them to the platform, forming a cordon above the whole platform. Banners were also borne there. The frontier county of Nebraska bore a placard inscribed, "What is home without a mortgage. Don't all speak at once." A picture of a settler's cabin was a part of it, and on the reverse side was one big gold piece inscribed, "Twenty dollars, 1892," the portrait device on the coin being a money lender with a long, avicious nose and a noticeable lack of chin.

The Tennesseans' banner pledged 80,000 votes to the new party. Virginia had George Washington for its exam-

ple. The banners and placards were rushed down from the stage and an impromptu procession, to which new adherents were constantly received, started around the body of the hall in which the delegates sat, drummers heading the marching.

Taubeneck had, during the latter part of the scene following the adoption of the platform, been in despair, seeking to get an opportunity to make himself heard. He was on a chair wildly waving a telegram just received. A surmise that the dispatch was from Gresham spread like wildfire and from all over the hall people ran to get information from Taubeneck, while others became excited and added to the confusion by howling down neighbors. The people on the stage were noisiest, and Ingersoll of Kansas, regardless of the rapping of the chairman's gavel, excitedly rushed up and vehemently warned them to keep quiet.

"I have," said he, "just received a telegram from Dr. Hauser of Indiana. In order that you may know what credit to place in it, I will tell you who he is. He is the present candidate for lieutenant-governor on the People's party ticket, and author of the celebrated work: 'Is Marriage a Failure?' (Laughter.) This is the telegram:

'I have seen Gresham. If unanimous, he will not decline.'

The audience arose en masse, 'Gresham! Gresham! Three cheers for Gresham! Hurrah for Gresham!' rang through the hall for several seconds, and the words were accompanied by wild manifestations of enthusiasm. Mr. Brown resentfully yelled: "I do not propose to stampede the convention with the aid of the gallery. That is an old party trick."

Hisses, loud and long continued, greeted this statement, and again Chairman Louck interferred, shouting, "This is a disgrace to the convention." Instantly Robert Schilling of Wisconsin sprang to his feet. "No gentleman has a right to insult the chairman of the national committee and our convention," he said, amid ringing cheers. "No one has the right to so insult us by making charges and fraudulent insinuations against the party's chairman."

Indescribable confusion followed and indiscriminations were hurled back and forth by the two factions. Then Mrs. Lease elbowed her way to the front and shouted in her stentorian voice:

"I, too, have received a message. I am authorized to say that if the nomination is tendered unanimously, even General Harrison will decline." (Derisive laughter.)

At this point the opposers of Gresham made a clever move to prevent his name carrying the convention by storm. Paul Vandervoort of Nebraska, who is bitterly opposed to Gresham, having been removed from office by Gresham when the latter was postmaster-general, claimed recognition. With remarkable dexterity he shifted his position and assumed the role of a Gresham enthusiast.

"If it is true," said he, "that Walter Q. Gresham will accept on the platform of the People's party I will support him with all my heart and second his nomination in this convention."

After some more discussion an adjournment was taken till 8 o'clock.

#### EVENING SESSION.

The delegates were prompt in arriving for the night session and all were nervous and expectant.

The first business was the reading by the chairman of a branch of resolution committee of the supplement to the platform, as follows:

#### MORE PLANKS.

Other questions have been presented for our consideration. We hereby submit the following, not as a part of the platform of the People's party, but as a resolution expressive of the sentiment of this committee. We demand a free ballot and a fair count in all elections, and pledge ourselves to secure it to every legal voter without Federal intervention through the adoption by States of unperverted Australian or secret ballot system.

The revenue derived from the graduated income tax should be applied to the reduction of the burden of taxation, now levied upon the domestic industries of the country.

We pledge our support to fair and liberal pensions to ex-Union soldiers and sailors.

We condemn the fallacy of protecting American labor under the present system, which opens our ports to the pauper and criminal classes of the world and crowds out our wage earners; and we denounce the present ineffective laws against contract labor and demand further restriction to undesirable immigration.

We cordially sympathize with the efforts of organized working men to shorten the hours of labor and demand a rigid enforcement of the existing eight-hour law on government work, and ask a penalty clause to be added to said law.

We regard the maintenance of the large standing army of mercenaries known as the Pinkerton system as a menace to our liberties, and demand its abolition; and we condemn the recent invasion of the Territory of Wyoming by hired assassins of plutocracy, assisted by Federal officers.

We commend to the thoughtful consideration of the people and the reform press of the legislative system known as the initiative and referendum.

We favor a constitutional provision limiting the office of President and Vice President to one term and providing for the election of senators of the United States to the direct vote of the people.

We oppose any subsidy or national aid to any private corporation for any purpose.

The immigration plank and anti-Pinkerton plank were loudly cheered. When the first paragraph relating to the force bill and Australian ballot system was read, a delegate moved to lay it on the table. They already had the St. Louis platform, he said. The motion was beaten decisively on a vote.

A motion supplementary was promptly seconded, and it was adopted before some protestants could get a hearing. They protested against any "gag" law, and moved a reconsideration, but on its being put to a vote it was defeated, though the delegates from Ohio and Missouri protested against this method of counting, and demanded the call of States en votes.