

In approaching a campaign in which national issues are not involved, we restrict our declaration of principles to matters of state and local concern.

The most important question before the people is the growth of public service corporations and their absorption of privileges from the public, which are used by them without public accounting or supervision, and, in large part, without adequate return to the people.

For the purpose of conserving the rights of private property, both individual and corporate, and at the same time protecting the interests of the whole people from the encroachments of great aggregations of capital enjoying monopolistic privileges without accountability to the people and based upon public grants, and for the equalizing among all classes of citizens of the public burdens necessary to be borne, we demand:

1. That all property shall be appraised by assessing boards whose members shall be in session for at least a part of each year, whose proceedings and deliberations shall be open to the public, that power be given to employ a representative to present the interests of the public in hearings before these boards, and that in making assessments all properties shall be appraised at not less than their salable value.

2. That the present laws for assessing the property of steam railroads be so changed that these properties must be assessed at not less than their salable value as going concerns, and that the present evasion of just taxation by the railroad companies be prevented.

3. That the acceptance of free passes or other favors from railroads by public officers or employes shall be adequate ground for vacating the offices held by them.

4. That all public service corporations be required by law to make sworn public reports, and that the power of visitation and public report over such corporations be given to the proper state and local auditing officers to the end that the true value of the privileges held by them may be made plain to the people.

5. That fraud in party primaries, when held under general election law, should be prevented by joint primaries, held at the same time and place and using a single ballot for all parties, and be conducted by the officers authorized to conduct general elections, and that the provisions govern-

ing general elections should apply to primary elections.

6. That until United States senators can be elected by popular vote, nominations for senators be made by state conventions.

7. That no renewal, or extension of time, of any street railroad or other public service franchise shall be valid until the ordinance providing for it be ratified at a special election called therefor after its passage by the municipal council.

We call upon all democratic candidates for the legislature to secure, so far as they can, the enactment of these principles into law, as we believe them necessary for the protection of the rights and interests of all the people.

We instruct our delegates to the state convention to make every effort to secure the embodiment of the foregoing principles in the platform there to be adopted.

BRITISH RECONCENTRATION.

From the London Times of April 22, 1901.

Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, chairman of the committee of the South African women and children distress fund, writes on behalf of the committee, April 20: We venture to appeal once again to the British public on behalf of suffering non-combatants. There are undoubtedly many persons who have not yet realized that under the special circumstances under which the war has been carried on, a very large proportion of the women and children of the two colonies, covering an area far exceeding that of the British isles, have perforce been swept away out of their homes and collected into large camps, where they have entirely to depend for maintenance upon the military authorities, whose hands and resources are already fully occupied with the necessary provision of the troops. Of these circumstances it has been an inevitable consequence that their hardships have become terrible. This distress has touched the hearts of those who have seen it. We read, for instance, in the Times of March 25, of a general at Belfast, who, though not a rich man, handed £50 from his own pocket to the women's camp there. It is difficult to give any very precise information, but we may quote from an eye-witness, who says, speaking of the children: "In one tent I saw a six-months' baby gasping its life out on its mother's knee. The doctor had given it powders in the morning, but it had taken nothing since; there were also two or three others drooping and sick in the tent.

In the next, a child recovering from the measles, sent back from the hospital before it could walk, lay stretched on the ground, white and wan, while three or four others were lying about. In another a dear little chap of four had nothing left of him but his great brown eyes and white teeth; from which the lips were drawn back, too thin to close. I cannot describe what it is to see these children lying about in a state of collapse. It is just exactly like faded flowers thrown away. And one has to stand and look on at such misery, and be able to do nothing."

Though many of the officers in charge of the different places are really kind and do what they can to help, frequently the women are in want of almost the absolute necessities of life. In some cases there is so little fuel that on many days people cannot cook at all their scanty rations of raw meat, meal and coffee; while we learn that clothing is very scarce, some women having made petticoats out of thick, rough brown blankets, and nearly all the children have nothing left but a thin print frock; while shoes and stockings are long since worn out. Some of those who have recently come into the camps are shortly expecting their confinement, and yet they have to sit all day upon the bare ground, drenched with storms, or try to rest within their tents, while the sun pours down through their single canvas and the temperature reaches 105 degrees, or even 110 degrees; and with the winter, which is shortly coming on, we fear that their sufferings from the cold will be even more intense than the hardships which they have endured in consequence of the excessive heat. Most of them have no mattress on which to lie down, and are subject to any inhumanity of the weather. Of course, anything like privacy is out of the question, and there are few, if any, of us who can realize what it is to spend months with very rare chances of washing either body or clothes from scarcity of water and total absence of soap. With the full sanction of Sir Alfred Milner and Lord Kitchener our representative, Miss Hobhouse, has been able to do something to alleviate the worst cases of distress, and the military authorities have shown themselves willing to adopt some of the various suggestions which her woman's wit has enabled her to put forward on behalf of her suffering sisters. For instance, in one camp where the only supply of water was impure, they consented to allow a railway boiler to be used to boil