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WKU Moot Congress

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WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE NORMAL COMMONWEALTH

PLATFORM

We, the students of Western Kentucky State Normal School Moot Commonwealth representing the citizens of our communities, in convention assembled, pledge ourselves to nominate candidates for the various offices of this Commonwealth pledged to the provisions of this platform.

First—We favor the enactment of such legislation as is deemed beneficial to our labor organizations, farmers' societies and pools.

Second—We believe in the enactment of such laws, as will enable the "Railroad Commission" to make a proportional adjustment of cars to meet the demands of all shipping points and shipping interests.

Third—We favor the enactment of a law to protect the farmers from adulterated field seed, and demand that the government protect them from ignorant and unscrupulous dealers in all farm products.

Fourth—Inasmuch as the liquor traffic is one of the most destructive to the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and happiness, we unreservedly indorse the county as the unit in all liquor legislation and pledge ourselves to the enactment of such legislation as will gradually but ultimately drive the traffic from our commonwealth, and demand the election of such municipal, county and state officers as will rigidly enforce these laws.

Fifth—We believe in the conservation of all our natural resources, forests, minerals, rivers, and soils, and pledge ourselves to such legislation as will prevent the exhaustion of the forests and coal and the erosion of our soils by the indiscriminate cutting of
limit the size of campaign funds in both primary and regular elections, and provide for the publicity of such funds under oath both before and after elections; the prohibition of corporations from contributing to campaign funds; and the passage of stringent laws against vote buying and vote selling.

Twelfth—We believe in the conservation of human resources and the establishment of industrial justice in all departments of labor, therefore, we demand such laws as will reduce to a minimum, accidents, diseases, involuntary unemployment, and other existing evils to our industries; the prohibition of child labor and night labor for women. The establishment of an eight hour-day law for laboring women and young persons and one whole day in each week for rest; a rigid inspection of all mines, factories, mills, shops, and foundries by government officials with a report of same regularly made to the public.

Thirteenth—We oppose double taxation and favor a thorough revision of the tax laws which will equally distribute the burdens of taxation and not only retain the capital now invested but invite the investment of other capital in the state. We favor the submission to the people of a constitutional amendment enlarging the powers of the General Assembly in the matter of taxation and making each additional law, when passed, effectual only when submitted to and approved by a majority of the people who vote upon the same.

Fourteenth—Believing in the democratic principle that all power of government should be held as near to the people as is possible, we favor such a change in the Constitution as to provide for the initiative, referendum, and the recall of corrupt, incompetent, or unfaithful legislative and executive officers, and judicial decisions, but not the recall of judges.

Fifteenth—Inasmuch as the public school system is the foundation of a free government and the bulwark of a Republic, and inasmuch as intelligence is the only factor in a Commonwealth that makes for efficiency, and that ignorance is the thing that wastes we unqualifiedly endorse any legislation that will increase the
timber on the headwaters of the rivers and preserve our water supply without contamination; and demand the enactment of additional laws to prevent our mineral and timber resources from being wasted or absorbed by the privileged interests of this, or any other state.

Sixth—We favor the passage of such legislation as will abolish the abominable and character destroying white slave traffic which is corroding the life of our cities.

Seventh—Believing in the fundamental principles of a representative democracy as laid down by the founders of this government, that all power is inherent in the people and that there should be no discrimination on account of class, section, or political affiliation we therefore denounce the present apportionment of the state in congressional, judicial, and legislative districts and declare in favor of a fair and impartial redistricting of the state.

Eight—We favor either the creation of a competent and effective public utilities commission or the grant to the railroad commission of the power to regulate such utilities, and with power to make a physical valuation of such properties.

Ninth—Believing that our legislature should be free from all corrupt lobbying and improper methods used to influence legislation, we demand the passage of such a law as will provide adequate punishment for such practices, and, if this cannot otherwise be accomplished, we favor such measures as will place more directly in the hands of the people the power to change this evil.

Tenth—We demand the passage of a law providing for bipartisan control of the penal and charitable institutions, and the abolition of contract convict labor; and we denounce the present system of hiring out the children of the Reform School for the benefit of whose morals and education that institution was originally established.

Eleventh—We believe that the right of the people to express their sentiments upon public matters to be one of the most sacred possessed by freemen and demand such a reform of the elective laws as will insure fair and equal elections; the passage of a corrupt-practices act which shall
efficiency of our school system and will blot from our State the awful calamity of ignorance. We, therefore, favor any laws that will increase the efficiency of the schools, the teachers and the equipment of the public schools and also pledge ourselves to a liberal support of the State's agency for making well-trained and efficient teachers, as well as to the support of the State University. We believe that the schools should contribute a social service to the community life of our rural sections by the teaching of Agriculture and Domestic Science and Arts in the rural schools as soon as conditions will justify such a course.

Sixteenth—We favor better salaries for the teachers and County Superintendents, and pledge ourselves to support an efficient system of Supervision for all schools especially for the rural schools, and demand a progressive policy in the administration of all school matters. We demand the passage of laws providing for compulsory payment of teachers at the end of each month; and inasmuch as the County Teachers' Institutes are held for the instruction of the community, as well as for the teachers, we believe that they should be held at the expense of the State, and that the teacher should receive his stated salary while attending the Institute, whether his school has commenced or not.

By Committee on Resolutions,
EDGAR SANDERS,
Chairman.

ZELLA PELLY,
Secretary.