

Republican Platform

Charlotte, April 14.—A platform pledging retention and enforcement of prohibition was adopted by the North Carolina Republican Convention today after the delegates had booed and hissed a proposal for State control of liquor.

The platform recorded the convention's "approval of the administration of that wise leader and profound statesman, President Herbert Hoover."

Most of the platform was directed to an attack on the policies of the Democratic State government. It promised tax reforms, economy, and repeal of the absentee ballot law.

Adoption of the platform and surprise demand from the floor for State control of whiskey, followed the keynote speech of George M. Pritchard, of Asheville, who was cheered for several minutes when he referred to the "matchless leadership of President Hoover."

Promise Tax Reform

"The people know," the document said, "that our public school system of North Carolina and the State highway organization have been shamefully converted into partisan political machines."

It promised tax reform, economy and repeal of the absentee ballot law.

The plank dealing with schools recorded the party as favoring State purchase of school text books to be furnished students "either free of charge or by loan and return, with charge only for depreciation at the end of the school year, with option to purchase at actual cost."

A non-partisan State Board of Education was also endorsed.

"Immediate and drastic reduction in the salaries and fees of all office holders, State and county," was promised.

Platform Pledges

Pledges included in the platform follow:

"We solemnly promise the people of North Carolina that, if put into power, the Republican party will in good faith carry out the following proposals which we believe will, in a large measure, repair the wrecked financial structures of our State save it from financial ruin, and inspire our people with new faith in our State government and new hope for the future.

"We promise immediate and drastic reduction in the number of office holders not only the State but in the several counties.

Would Cut Salaries

"We promise immediate elimination of all waste and extravagance in the operation of our State institutions and prison farms.

"We promise immediate reduction in the number of departments, bureaus, boards and commissions, by eliminations and consolidations.

Stop Road Waste

"We promise elimination of extravagance and waste in highway and road maintenance.

"We promise to reduce to reasonable requirements that large army of election officials, clerks and poll holders, whose compensation costs the taxpayers a vast amount of money every two years for primaries and elections.

Strict Economy

"We promise measures for strict economy in every branch of State and county government, and for the highest degree of efficiency in public officials.

"We promise to enact laws that will give back to the people the right to decide by their vote when and for what purpose new bonded indebtedness shall be created by the State, counties and municipalities.

"We promise to enact laws providing for strict budgetary control of State expenditures under a system that will keep the State budget always in balance by proper adjustment of State expenses to State revenues and incomes.

Would Tax Stocks

"We promise to repeal the act of the legislature of 1923 which re-imposed stock in foreign corporations from taxation. This act has worked a discrimination against the domestic corporations and caused many of them to surrender their State charters and to become foreign corporations, to the detriment of our State and great loss to our treasury.

Sales Tax Unnecessary

"We believe that if the tax reforms and policies of economy proposed in this platform are made effective, a sales tax in any form will be rendered unnecessary.

"We favor a constitutional amendment to authorize increase in the rate of taxation of individual and corporate incomes in the higher brackets.

Wealth Exemptions

"We believe there is too much

wealth exempted from taxation by law in North Carolina, and that if this wealth, with the vast amount of other valuable property that has been kept concealed, is made to bear a just proportion of the tax burden, our tax and revenue problem will be in a large measure solved. We favor laws that will place all wealth, tangible as well as intangible, upon the tax books to the end that the property of the rich shall be taxed alike with the property of the less favored.

"We believe that the present tax value of land, farms and homes, constitutes a rank injustice and positive fraud upon land owners of the State. We believe that tax books should be made to speak the truth with respect to every item placed upon them, and we promise the immediate enactment of laws that will reduce land values and that will fix the values of all classes of property for taxation purposes at not more than their actual market value.

Favor School Support

"We favor reform in the present system of taxation so that land shall bear only its just proportion of the tax burden, and we demand that land shall be relieved of all taxes necessary for the maintenance and operation of our public schools for the six months term provided by the constitution of our State, and we promise to enact the necessary laws to bring about this relief.

"We condemn as grossly unjust the present law providing for tax foreclosures by actions in court which entail enormous fees and expenses to be charged against the property. This law legalizes unconscionable graft; is a disgrace to the State and a cruel burden upon distressed taxpayers. We promise immediate repeal of this law.

"We promise to enact laws that will renew the confidence of our people in the banks of our State and that will prevent wholesale failure of banks, such as has been witnessed in this State within the past two years. Banks should be confined strictly to banking operations. We promise a system of State supervision of banks that will be intelligent, thorough, painstaking and positive. Banking institutions obtain their franchises and charters to do business from the people, through proper public officials, and should always be subject to whatever reasonable regulations are made, for the protection of the people. The time to close a bank is the moment it becomes insolvent, and no consideration whatsoever, political or otherwise, can justify public officials in permitting insolvent banks to remain open until all of the assets and deposits therein have been dissipated and wasted. We promise the people that the banking laws of this State shall be strengthened to the extent necessary to insure stability and honesty in the banking business, and to guarantee the greatest degree of security and safety to the people.

Public Schools

"We promise that our public schools shall be taken out of politics and that they shall be operated under a uniform system throughout the State.

"We further promise that our public schools which are near and dear to the hearts of the people shall be properly supported and their efficiency increased. We believe that a great saving can be effected in the operation and maintenance of our public schools and other State educational institutions by the elimination of non-essentials and unnecessary waste, and by enforcing a policy of strict economy.

Text Books

"We believe that all text books used in the public schools of our State should be standardized and made uniform, and that they should be furnished and, where practicable, printed by the State, and that the expenses of unnecessary changes in text books on the burdens upon the people incident to these changes should be eliminated. Books for use in our public schools should be furnished by the State, either free of charge absolutely, or by loan and return, with charge only for depreciation at the end of the school year, with option to purchase at actual cost.

"We demand that the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Auditor, Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Attorney General, who are constitutional officers, selected for other duties, should not be ex-officio members of and constitute the State Board of Education, but to the contrary, this board should be non-partisan and composed of experienced business men and educators, whose official duties should be to

manage, direct and control the public school system of the State, and further empower and directed to equalize and apportion the funds provided by law for school and maintenance.

"That the State Superintendent of Public Instruction should not be an elective constitutional officer but to the contrary, he should be appointed by the State Board of Education, and thereby remove this position from partisan politics.

"We demand that all of our State educational institutions shall be amply provided for and supported by the State, and that our public school teachers who have rendered heroic service to the State shall be paid salaries commensurate with the grade and character of work they are required to perform, without any discrimination between the payment of their salaries and the salaries of other public officials and employes of the State.

Chain Stores

"We favor laws that will restrict by constitutional taxation, the menace of chain stores, and give back to the merchants and business men of our State the opportunity to do business and earn a living free from the crushing competition of alien non-taxpayers. We believe that if this condition is not soon remedied, our local independent merchants will be driven out of business and that our people will be helpless and hopelessly in the hands of a foreign monopoly.

Prohibition

"We hope for a capable, courageous, sober, and virile nation, and therefore pledge ourselves to the retention and strict enforcement of the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and all laws enacted for its enforcement; and we pledge ourselves to the impeachment and discharge of every public official and peace officer who becomes drunk in public, or while in the discharge of any of his official duties, and his prompt prosecution in the criminal courts.

Election Laws

"The most sacred possession of a citizen in a free government is the right to cast a free and untrammelled ballot and to have that ballot honestly counted. This right is seriously abridged in North Carolina by the partisan election laws on our statute books, and by the corruption and fraudulent practices which these laws make possible. These laws and the abuses practiced under them are violations of every principle of free government, and we shall never cease protest against them as un-American and unpatriotic.

"We advocate, and if placed in power will enact, fair and impartial election laws that will restore to the people of this State the right to a free vote and voice in their government, and that will guarantee to every citizen all the sacred rights and privileges of citizenship.

Absentee Law

"We favor the immediate repeal of the absentee voters law and favor a system of registration under the supervision of two registrars, who shall be of different political parties, and one election judge.

Highway Transportation

"We demand that all automotive vehicles and individuals, using the highways of our State for transportation for hire shall pay a tax commensurate with the benefit derived from such use, and that will eliminate the present system of unjust discrimination against railroads and other transportation companies.

Labor

"The Republican party has always undertaken to protect the laboring man and will continue to do so and to advocate always for him just returns for his labor, wholesome conditions under which to work, and fair compensation for all injuries sustained in the course of his employment.

Agriculture

"We recognize as well, established as a fact that the welfare of all of our people rests in its finality on the uninterrupted prosperity of our farmers, and we therefore pledge our party to exert every reasonable effort to improve the general condition of the agricultural interests of our State."

Seventyfive farmers from eight counties inspected 126 head of beef cattle fed at the Caledonia Prison farm this winter, says J. B. Britt, Halifax county agent. A meeting was held at the farm on the day the cattle were shipped.

Two mutual exchanges have been organized by Gaston county farmers in recent weeks. One will market poultry and be affiliated with the State exchange.

News And Comment From Washington

Washington, D. C.—They called it a "harmony dinner," the banquet given in Washington in honor of Jefferson's birthday on April 13, under the sponsorship and guidance of the Democratic National Committee. The "harmony" that existed among Democratic leaders after the banquet was over was very much after the fashion of that which results in a hornet's nest when somebody hits it a rousing whack with an elm club.

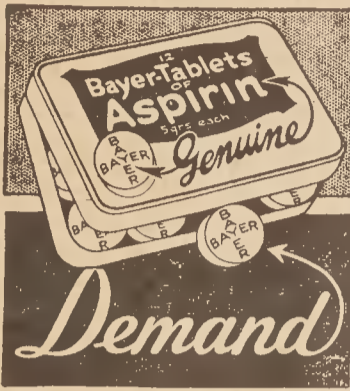
The wielder of the metaphorical club in this instance was the Honorable Alfred Emanuel Smith, late Governor of New York, and still later defeated candidate for President. Governor Smith was down for the principal speech, in spite of the fact that Governor Ritchie, Governor Byrd, Governor Cox and many other notables were on the program. And he certainly made it! Before he had spoken five minutes it was obvious that in writing his address he had before him a copy of the speech Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt had made a week previously over a radio hook-up, and that he was answering it point by point. "I can not escape the conclusion that one of the essentials of a national program of restoration must be to restore purchasing power to the farming half of the country," said Governor Roosevelt. "It is a perfectly easy thing to say we must restore the purchasing power of the farmer. Fine! Of course we must. But how are we going to do it? I would sooner have a short handshake with the fellow who knows how to do it than listen for a week to the fellow who knows how to tell you what the trouble is." Thus retorted Governor Smith. "People suggest that a huge expenditure of public funds by the Federal government (Governor Smith made that suggestion in his Jackson Day speech) and by state and local governments will completely solve the unemployment problem. Let us admit frankly that it will be only a stop gap," said Governor Roosevelt. "Exception to this (a Federal bond issue for public work) has recently been taken by a prominent Democrat on the theory that it is a stop gap. Whoever said it was anything else? It is at least better than nothing." So responded Governor Smith, his last sentence sounding a good deal like a first landing on the point of a chin.

There were similar parallels all the way through Governor Smith's talk, but it is not necessary to set them all out. What Roosevelt said is sufficiently indicated by the Smith declamations. "This is no time for demagogues," the Happy Warrior declared. "At a time like this there is always the temptation to some men to stir up class prejudice, to stir up the bitterness of the rich against the poor and the poor against the rich. Against that effort, I set myself uncompromisingly. I will take off my coat and fight to the end against any candidate who proceeds in any demagogic appeal to the masses of the working people in this country to destroy this government by setting class against class, and rich against poor." Bold words, my masters! And nobody had the least doubt against whom they were directed. As a "harmony dinner" the Jefferson Day banquet was what the unregenerate, in the language of the street, might call a WOW!

But Governor Smith did not give his entire time to castigating Governor Roosevelt. Having inenaceably demonstrated that in his opinion the "D" in the middle of the Executive's name stands for "Demagogue," Governor Smith passed on to outlining the remedies he would apply for the relief of the present business situation if he were the boss. He would take the tariff entirely out of the hands of Congress and make it the job of a commission to fix rates, a method of tariff construction that has been tried several times in the past and always abandoned. And he would declare an extension of the debt moratorium for twenty years with a palliating proviso that in the meantime whenever any debtor nation should buy a dollar's worth of goods in American markets, that nation should be credited 25c on its debt. This idea of a scheme for the restoration of American prosperity has at least the merit of ingenuity. Nobody else ever thought of it before—and nobody probably will ever think of it again after the memory of this remarkable dinner begins to fade.

There were other speakers at the banquet, but nobody seems to remember what they said. Al Smith completely stole the show. Among those who did not speak, being recorded simply "among those present," was John M. Garner. He sat at the head table, as his position as the man who holds the highest office any Democrat has held since Woodrow Wilson entitled him to do.

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But nobody called on him to speak and no speaker made any reference to him. Considering the fact that three weeks ago his name was on every tongue and he seemed on the way to a party hero, if not indeed to be the party's nominee for President, it was really pathetic. As an eminent Democratic newspaper correspondent wrote: "There never was a better illustration that the faster they climb the farther they fall."

Since this letter seems to have drifted mainly into the current of personal politics, it may as well be concluded along the same line by the observation that the entry in New York City, who presumably make a living fomenting and handling political bets, are now giving odds of 6 to 5 to Governor Roosevelt as the Democratic nominee, in spite of Governor Smith's onslaught upon him. Incidentally, these same gentlemen are offering odds on the re-election of President Hoover and there is money at 2 to 1 that the next President will not be a Democrat. The betting odds on John M. Garner are 4 1-2 to 1 against his nomination, 6 to 1 against Governor Ritchie and 7 to 1 against Newton D. Baker. So, if you have anything left from playing the Wall Street game, here is another chance to dispose of your money.

Three Diseases Most Necessary To Control

The State Board of Health, since launching its Immunization Campaign recently, has received many letters of praise and endorsement of their action from prominent physicians throughout the State. A letter just received from Dr. J. D. Highsmith at Fayetteville is typical.

Dr. Highsmith says, "Three diseases most necessary to be controlled are small pox, diphtheria, and typhoid fever. For centuries small pox was the scourge of the world and this disease alone killed sixty million people in Europe in the 18th century. At present its ravages have been thoroughly checked in the enlightened parts of the world, though ignorant people still suffer from it. The two chief factors which have helped to free us from this plague are quarantine and vaccination. Whether to be vaccinated or not is no longer a matter of debate. The fact that millions of people in the army and navy have been vaccinated without a single disaster shows how safely the operation can be done."

Dr. Highsmith goes on further to say, "Only a few years ago we were filled with consternation when diphtheria broke out in a community for it meant almost certain death to all children attacked. At one time, it was thought that strict isolation and quarantining of those affected and exposed would control the disease but it has been found that the only sure method of control is by the use of toxin-antitoxin as a vaccine."

Dr. Highsmith states further, "Typhoid fever is another disease that may be thoroughly prevented by vaccination. In the recent Great War, typhoid was practically unknown in the armies in which the preventive treatments were given to the soldiers. The evidence that vaccination does afford protection in

each of the above diseases is so overwhelming that only those who do not know the facts, or those whose prejudice is so great that they refuse to see the facts object to the operation."

Under the State Board of Health Immunization Campaign it is planned to carry out the immunization for each disease at a cost of twenty-five cents for each series of treatments. Already, Pasquotank, Yancey and Lincoln counties have signed contracts for the campaign and it is expected several other counties will avail themselves of this great health measure within the next few weeks.

Postmasters Named By President Hoover

Washington, April 29.—A flock of North Carolina postmasters, longer than the list stated for service in cities in states like New York and Illinois, was transmitted to the senate today by the President. The new appointments will first be scrutinized by Senator Bailey, who is a member of the postoffice committee.

The postmasters named today were:

Chapel Hill, Robert D. Herndon, Columbia R. Ray Cohoon, Draper, Joseph S. Mitchell, Drexel, Frank L. Smith; Gates, O. O. Freeman; Grover, Thomas S. Keeter; Jonesboro, Charles M. Rosser; King's Mountain, James S. Ware; Laurel Hill, Christopher C. Sneed; Mars-hville, Joseph B. Harrell, Montreat, Elmer D. Lansing, Pinehurst, Frank Dudgeon; Pineville, Benjamin F. Griffin; Salemburg, Lucile L. White; Stantonsburg, Annie L. Stanton; Pilot Mountain, William E. Kreeger; Varina, James R. Beal.



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