

# CAMPAIGN'S KEYNOTE

Sounded by the Democratic Leader in His Speech at Indianapolis.

## PARAMOUNT ISSUE IS IMPERIALISM

Policy in the Philippines Exhaustively Discussed by Bryan.

## PEOPLE GOVERNED MUST CONSENT

Or the Government Is Not on Lines Authorized by the Principles of the American Republic—Appeal to the Fathers.

Following is the speech delivered by Mr. Bryan at Indianapolis to the committee which notified him of his nomination for the presidency by the Democratic convention at Kansas City.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Notification Committee: I shall, at an early day, and in a more formal manner, accept the nomination which you tender, and I shall at that time discuss the various questions covered by the Democratic platform. It may not be out of place, however, to submit a few observations at this time upon the general character of the contest before us, and upon the question which is declared to be of paramount importance in this campaign.

When I say that the contest of 1900 is a contest between Democracy on the one hand and plutocracy on the other I do not mean to say that all our opponents have deliberately chosen to give to organized wealth a predominant influence in the affairs of the government. I do not mean to say that the Republican party is dominated by those influences which constantly tend to elevate pecuniary considerations and ignore human rights.

In 1850 Lincoln said that the Republican party believed in the man and the dollar, and that in case of conflict it believed in the man before the dollar. This is the proper relation which should exist between the two. Man, the handiwork of God, comes first, money, the handiwork of man, is of inferior importance. Man is the master, money the servant, but upon all important questions today Republican legislation tends to make money the master and man the servant.

The maxim of Jefferson, "equal rights to all and special privileges to none," and the doctrine of Lincoln that this should be a government "of the people, by the people and for the people," are being disregarded, and the instrumentalities of government are being used to advance the interests of those who are in a position to secure favors from the government.

Our whole history encourages their resistance. If it is right for the United States to hold the Philippine Islands permanently and to imitate European empire in the government of colonies the Republican party ought to state its position and defend it, but it must expect the subject races to protest against such a policy and to resist to the extent of their ability. The Philippines do not belong to us as they do to the Americans now living.

Our opponents, conscious of the weakness of their cause, seek to confuse imperialism with expansion, and have even dared to claim Jefferson as a supporter of their policy. Jefferson spoke so freely and fearlessly of the acquisition of territory that we have been prompt to express our sympathy with those who were fighting for civil liberty.

When the president, supported by a practically unanimous vote of the house and senate, entered upon the war with Spain for the purpose of aiding the struggling patriots of Cuba, the country, without regard to party, applauded. Although the Democrats recognized that the administration would necessarily gain a political advantage from the conduct of a war which, in every nature of the case, must soon end in a complete victory, they vied with the Republicans in the support which they gave to the president.

I was among the number of those who believed it better to ratify the treaty and end the war, release the volunteers, remove the excuse for war expenditures, and then give to the Philippines the independence which might be forced from Spain by a new treaty. In view of the criticism which may be aroused in some quarters I take this occasion to restate the reasons given at that time.

But whatever difference of opinion may have existed as to the best method of opposing the colonial policy there never was any difference as to the great importance of the question, and there is no difference now as to the course to be pursued. The title of Spain being extinguished we are at liberty to deal with the Philippines according to American principles.

The Bacon resolution, introduced a month before hostilities broke out at Manila, promised independence to the Philippines on the same terms that we promised to the Cubans. I supported this resolution and believe that its adoption prior to the breaking out of hostilities would have prevented bloodshed, and that its adoption at any subsequent time would have ended hostilities.

Some one has said that a truth once spoken can never be recalled. But if it were possible to obliterate every word written or spoken in defense of the principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence a war of conquest would still leave its legacy of national hatred for it was God himself who placed in every human heart the love of liberty.

Those who would have this nation enter upon a career of empire must consider not only the effect of imperialism on the Philippines, but they must also consider its effect upon our own nation. We cannot repudiate the principle of self-government in the Philippines without weakening that principle here.

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temporary and preparatory, and the chief security a citizen of a territory has found in the fact that he enjoys the same constitutional guarantees, and is subject to the same general laws as a citizen of a state.

What is our title to the Philippine Islands? Do we hold them by treaty or by conquest? Did we buy them or did we take them? Did we purchase the people? If not, how did we secure title to them?

Let us consider briefly, the reasons which have been given in support of an imperialistic policy. Some say that it is our duty to hold the Philippine Islands. But duty is not an argument; it is a conclusion. To ascertain what our duty is in any emergency we must apply well settled and generally accepted principles.

Let us consider briefly, the reasons which have been given in support of an imperialistic policy. Some say that it is our duty to hold the Philippine Islands. But duty is not an argument; it is a conclusion.

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