

DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

Formal Declaration of Principles of the Democratic Party as Set Forth by the Denver Convention.

Following is the Democratic national platform:

We, the representatives of the Democrats of the United States in national convention assembled, affirm our belief in, and pledge our loyalty to the principles of the party.

We rejoice at the increasing signs of an awakening throughout the country. The various investigations have traced graft and political corruption to the representatives of predatory wealth and laid bare the unscrupulous methods by which they have debauched elections and preyed upon a defenseless public through the subservient officials whom through have raised to place and power.

The conscience of the nation is now aroused to free the government from the grip of those who have made it a business asset of the favor seeking corporations; it must become again a people's government, and be administered in all its departments according to the Jeffersonian maxim of "Equal rights to all and special privileges to none."

"Shall the people rule?" is the overshadowing issue which manifests itself in all the questions now under discussion.

The Injunction Plank.

The courts of justice are the bulwark of our liberties and we yield to none in our purpose to maintain their dignity. Our party has given to the bench a long line of distinguished judges who have added to the respect and confidence in which this department must be jealously maintained. We resent the attempt of the Republican party to raise a false issue respecting the judiciary. It is an unjust reflection upon a great body of our citizens to assume that they lack respect for the courts.

It is the function of the courts to interpret the laws which the people create, and if the laws appear to work economical, social or political injustice, it is our duty to change them.

The only basis upon which the integrity of our courts can stand is that of unwavering justice and protection of life, personal liberty and property. If judicial processes may be abused, we should guard them against abuse.

Law Should Be Modified.

Experience has proven the necessity of a modification of the present law relating to injunctions and we reiterate the pledge of our national platforms of 1896 and 1904 in favor of the measure which passed the United States Senate in 1896 but which a Republican Congress has ever since refused to enact, relating to contempt in Federal courts and providing for trial by jury in cases of indirect contempt.

Questions of judicial practice have arisen especially in connection with industrial disputes. We deem that the parties to all judicial proceedings should be treated with rigid impartiality and that injunctions should not issue in any cases in which injunctions would not issue if no industrial dispute were involved.

The expanding organization of industry makes it essential that there should be no abridgement of the right of wage-earners and producers to organize for the protection of wages and the improvement of labor conditions to the end that such labor organizations and their members should not be regarded as illegal combinations in restraint of trade.

We favor the eight-hour day on all government work.

We pledge the Democratic party to the enactment of a law by Congress, as far as the Federal jurisdiction extends, for a general employer's liability act covering injury to body, or loss of life of employes.

We pledge the Democratic party to the enactment of a law creating a department of labor, represented separately in the President's Cabinet, which department shall include the subject of mines and mining.

The Railroad Plank.

We assert the right of Congress to exercise complete control over inter-State commerce and the right of each State to exercise just as complete control over commerce within its borders.

We demand such enlargement of the powers of the inter-State commerce commission as may be necessary to enable it to protect persons and places from discrimination and extortion and to compel the railroads to perform their duties as common carriers. We favor the efficient supervision and rate regulation of railroads engaged in inter-State commerce. To this end we recommend the physical valuation of the railroads by the inter-State commerce commission, such valuation to take into consideration the original cost of construction and all elements of value that will render the valuation made fair and just. We favor such legislation as will prohibit the railroads from engaging in business which brings them into competition with their shippers, also legislation which will assure such reduction in transportation rates as conditions will permit, care being taken to avoid reduction that would compel a reduction in wages, prevent adequate service or do injustice to legitimate investments.

We heartily approve the laws prohibiting the pass and the rebate, and we favor any further necessary legislation to restrain, correct and prevent such abuses.

Tariff.

We welcome the belated promise of

tariff reform now affected by the Republican party in tardy recognition of the righteousness of the Democratic position on this question; but those people cannot safely entrust the execution of this important work to a party which is so deeply obligated to the highly protected interests as is the Republican party. We call attention to the significant fact that the promised relief was postponed until after the coming election—an election to succeed in which the Republican party must have that same support from beneficiaries of the high protective tariff as it has always heretofore received from them; and to the further fact that during years of uninterrupted power no action whatever has been taken by the Republican Congress to correct the admittedly existing tariff inequities.

We favor immediate revision of the tariff by the reduction of import duties. Articles entering into competition with trust controlled products should be placed upon the free list; and material reductions should be made in the tariff upon the necessities of life, especially upon articles competing with such American manufactures as are sold abroad more cheaply than at home; and graduate reductions should be made in such other schedules as may be necessary to restore the tariff to a revenue basis.

Existing duties have given to the manufacturers of paper a shelter behind which they have organized combinations to raise the price of pulp and of paper, thus imposing a tax upon the spread of knowledge. We demand the immediate repeal of the tariff on pulp paper, lumber, timbers and that these articles be placed upon the free list.

Publicity of Campaign Contributions.

We demand Federal legislation forever terminating the partnership which has existed between corporations of the country and the Republican party under the expressed or implied agreement that in return for the contributions of great sums of money wherewith to purchase elections they should be allowed to continue substantially unmolested in their efforts to encroach upon the rights of the people.

Any reasonable doubt as to the existence of this relation has been forever dispelled by the sworn testimony of witnesses examined in the insurance investigation in New York, and the open admission unchallenged by the Republican national committee of a single individual, that he himself at the personal request of the Republican candidate for the presidency raised over a quarter of a million of dollars to be used in a single State during the closing hours of the last campaign. In order that this practice shall be stopped for all time, we demand the passage of a statute punishing with imprisonment any officer of a corporation who shall either contribute on behalf of, or consent to the contribution by a corporation of any money or thing of value to be used in furthering the election of a President and Vice President of the United States or of any member of the Congress thereof.

We denounce the action of the Republican party, having complete control of the Federal government, for its failure to pass the bill introduced in the last Congress to compel the publication of the names of contributors and the amounts contributed toward campaign funds, and point to the evidence of their insincerity when they sought by an absolutely irrelevant and impossible amendment to defeat the passage of the bill.

The Rights of the States.

Believing with Jefferson in "the support of the State governments in all their rights as the most competent administration for our domestic concerns and the surest bulwark against anti-republican tendencies" and in "the preservation of the general government in its whole constitutional vigor, as the sheet-anchor of our peace at home and safety abroad," we are opposed to the centralization implied in these suggestions, now frequently made, that the powers of the general government should be extended by judicial construction.

Economy in Administration.

The Republican Congress in session just ended has made appropriations amounting to \$1,008,000,000, exceeding the total expenditures of the past fiscal year by \$90,000,000 and leaving a deficit of more than \$60,000,000 for the fiscal year. We denounce the needless waste of the people's money which has resulted in this appalling increase as a shameful violation of all prudent conditions of government, as no less than a crime against the millions of working men and women from whose earnings the great proportion of these colossal sums must be extorted through excessive tariff exactions and other indirect methods.

Pensions.

We favor a generous pension policy both as a matter of justice to the surviving veterans and their dependents and because it tends to relieve the country of the necessity of maintaining a large standing army.

Natural Resources.

We repeat the demand for internal development and for the conservation of our natural resources, contained in previous platforms, the enforcement of which Mr. Roosevelt has vainly sought from a reluctant party and to that end we insist upon the preservation, protection and replacement of needed forests, the preservation of the public domain for home seekers, the protection of the natural resources in timber, coal, iron and oil against monopolistic control, the development of our waterways for naviga-

tion and every other useful purpose, including the irrigation of arid lands, the reclamation of swamp lands, the clarification of streams, the development of water power and the preservation of electric power generated by this natural force from the control of monopoly; and to such end, we urge the exercise of all powers, national, State and municipal, both separately and in co-operation.

Panama Canal.

We believe the Panama canal will prove of great value to our country, and favor its speedy completion.

Banking.

The panic of 1907, coming without any legitimate excuse, when the Republican party had for a decade been in complete control of the Federal government, furnishes additional proof that it is either unwilling or incompetent to protect the interests of the general public. It has so linked the country to Wall Street that the sins of the speculators are visited upon the whole people.

Income Tax.

We favor an income tax as part of our revenue system and we urge the submission of a constitutional amendment specifically authorizing Congress to levy and collect a tax upon individual and corporate incomes to the end that wealth may bear its proportionate share of the burdens of the Federal government.

The Navy.

The constitutional provision that a navy shall be provided and maintained means an adequate navy and we believe that the interests of this country would be best served by having a navy sufficient to defend the coasts of this country and protect American citizens wherever their rights may be in jeopardy.

Popular Election of Senators.

We favor the election of United States Senators by direct vote of the people and regard this reform as the gateway to other national reforms.

Minor Issues.

Other planks in the platform call for an immediate declaration of the nation's purpose to recognize the independence of the Philippines; denounce the growing increase of office holders under the Republican administration as indicating a deliberate purpose to continue the Republicans in power; demands that the House of Representatives shall again become a deliberative body, controlled by a majority of the members and not by the Speaker; favors an immediate, liberal and comprehensive plan for improving every water course in the Union; condemns the action of the present Chief Executive in using the patronage of his high office to secure the nomination of one of his Cabinet officers; pledges the party to the enactment of a law to regulate the rates and services of telegraph and telephone companies, calls for honest and rigid enforcement of the civil service laws, favors the immediate admission of Arizona and New Mexico as separate States, declares that rules and regulations in relating to free grazing lands should be left to the people of the States where the lands are situated; favors the extension of agricultural, mechanical and industrial education, believes in the upbuilding of the American merchant marine without new or additional burdens upon the people and without bounties from the public Treasury; favors the application of principles of the land laws of the United States to Hawaii, in the interest of homesteaders; demands for the people of Alaska and Porto Rico the full enjoyment of the rights and provisions of a territorial form of government; favors Federal aid in the construction and maintenance of post roads, deprecates the use of the navy for the collection of private debts and advocates the organization of all existing national public health agencies into a national bureau of public health; insists upon the full protection of our citizens at home and abroad and demands that all over the world a duly authorized passport issued by the government of the United States to an American citizen shall be proof of the fact that he is an American citizen and shall entitle him to the treatment due him as such.

Sensational War Rumor.

St. Petersburg, By Cable.—The Novoe Vremya prints a sensational story in which it reiterates the charge that Germany is preparing to fight England. It declares that the German War Office has plans prepared in detail for launching a tremendous force on the east coast of England or Scotland. It declares that the growing friendliness of England and Russia is the cause. The plan is declared to include the idea of arming German residents in England.

The Heat Wave Broken.

New York, Special.—The tropical heat spell which has enveloped New York for nearly three weeks, killing over three scores of persons and prostrating hundreds, was broken when a severe electrical storm, accompanied by hail and rain, swept over the city. Four persons died Tuesday as a result of the heat before the storm came. The temperature dropped 20 degrees within a few minutes after the storm broke, touching 71 degrees.

If we have fewer ministers, the tendency will be to make more of those we have, and by a natural law to improve the quality of the work done. The incompetent minister who is silly and pretentious brings the whole profession into disrepute, asserts the Christian Register. The sooner he is weeded out the better.

DEATH ROBBS COURT

Indicted Insurance Grafter Is Given Swift Call

THOS. D. JORDAN'S END SUDDEN

Former Comptroller of the Equitable Life Assurance Society Under Indictment For Forgery and Perjury, Drops Dead in the Wall Street Station of the Subway.

New York, Special.—Thomas D. Jordan, formerly comptroller of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, dropped dead of heart disease in the Wall Street station of the subway. His death was attended by tragic circumstances. Scores of persons saw him fall, among them Dr. F. C. Wells, a friend. Dr. Wells hurried to the side of his stricken friend, but he saw immediately that Mr. Jordan was dead. Mr. Jordan had parted from his son, Frank B. Jordan, only a moment before, and a messenger overtook the young man on the street and informed him of his father's death. The son was overcome with grief.

It was in the course of the Armstrong committee insurance investigation that Mr. Jordan's name came prominently before the public. It was brought out then that Comptroller Jordan had secured loans aggregating \$85,000 for himself and James W. Alexander, former president of the Equitable, from the Mercantile Trust Company, and that these loans had been covered up on the books of the company. This \$85,000 came to be known as the "yellow fog" fund. A desire was expressed by the Armstrong committee that Jordan appear before the committee and explain his financial management of the Equitable, but the process servers were unable to locate Mr. Jordan. His son was called before the committee and asked to tell where his father was. The young man said he did not know.

It was after the Armstrong investigation had come to a close that Jordan put in an appearance. It was then learned that he had been in Europe. As a result of the disclosures made before the Armstrong committee the grand jury found eighteen indictments for forgery and one for perjury against Jordan. Only recently Mr. Jordan appeared before Justice Goff to plead not guilty to indictments. His trial was set for the fall.

Gompers to Support Bryan.

Fairview, Lincoln, Neb., Special.—Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, will support William J. Bryan in the coming presidential campaign. In political circles this announcement overshadowed all others, even the arrival of John W. Kern, the vice presidential nominee. While Mr. Gompers' support was promised to the ticket he specifically denied any present intention of taking the stump in the coming campaign. Reports gained currency that the labor leader would speak for Bryan but he made no such announcement. He left Fairview after 15 minutes' interview with Mr. Bryan. At present it is believed there will be no need for Mr. Gompers' service in an oratorical sense, and Mr. Gompers does not expect to be called on to speak publicly in the campaign.

Republicans Ignored Labor.

The Republican convention, Gompers asserts, ignored the demands of labor, while the Democrats acknowledged them in their platform. His course, he says, is clear and he will do what is demanded of him in the interests of labor as best impressed in the platform adopted at Denver. As the situation is at present, Mr. Gompers' efforts can be better expended elsewhere than on the roster.

Mystery Baffles Police.

Troy, N. Y., Special.—Out of a maze of theories which confront the authorities who are trying to life the cloud of mystery surrounding the death of 19-year-old Hazel I. Drew, whose body was found in an old mill pond near Averill Park last Saturday nothing tangible developed that points to the murderer or the motive for the crime. No arrests have been made, although the police have closely questioned several persons whom it was thought might throw some light on the case.

Moyer Not a Candidate.

Denver, Col., Special.—Charles H. Moyer, president of the Western Federation of Miners, announces that he will not be a candidate for re-election at the convention of the union in Denver this week. It has been alleged that William D. Haywood, former secretary of the federation, will be a candidate to succeed Moyer.

News in Brief.

Mr. Taft and Senator Warner discussed the Republican plans for carrying Missouri.

The United States is inclined to establish a naval patrol to keep peace in Central America.

The wives of both Republican and Democratic candidates for President and Vice-President are experienced hostesses, and have seen much of official life.

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writes Mrs. E. Fournier of Lake Charles, La., "I used to suffer from headache, backache, side ache, pressing-down pains, and could hardly walk. At last I took Cardui, and now I feel good all the time."

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He Had the Habit.

A story is current concerning a professor who is reputed to be slightly absent-minded. The learned man had arranged to escort his wife one evening to the theatre.

"I don't like the tie you have on. I wish you would go up and put on another," said his wife.

The professor tranquilly obeyed. Moment after moment elapsed until finally the impatient wife went upstairs to learn the cause of delay. In his room she found her husband undressed and getting into bed. Habit had been too much for him when he took off his tie.—London Tit-Bits.

The paper trust sees the ax descending, but it is nimble enough to sidestep lightning, observes the Atlanta Constitution.

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