

Waterways

DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

Water furnishes the cheapest means of transportation and the national government having the control of navigable waters should improve them to their fullest capacity. We earnestly favor the immediate adoption of a liberal and comprehensive plan for improving every water course in the union, which is justified by the needs of commerce, and to secure that end, we favor when practicable, the connection of the great lakes with the navigable rivers and with the Gulf through the Mississippi river, and the navigable rivers with each other, and the rivers, bays and sounds of our coasts with each other by artificial canals, with a view to perfecting a system of inland waterways, to be navigable by vessels of standard draught.

We favor the co-ordination of the various services of the government connected with waterways in one service for the purpose of aiding in the completion of such a system of inland waterways, and we favor the creation of a fund ample for continuous work, which shall be conducted under the direction of a commission of experts to be authorized by law.

REPUBLICAN PLATFORM

In line with the splendid undertaking is the further duty, equally imperative, to enter upon a systematic improvement upon a large and comprehensive plan, just to all portions of the country, of the waterways; harbors and great lakes, whose natural adaptability to the increasing traffic of the land is one of the greatest gifts of a benign Providence.

Philippines

DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

We condemn the experiment in imperialism as an inexcusable blunder which has involved us in an enormous expense, brought us weakness instead of strength, and laid our nation open to the charge of abandoning a fundamental doctrine of self-government. We favor an immediate declaration of the nation's purpose to recognize the independence of the Philippine Islands as soon as a stable government can be established, such independence to be guaranteed by us as we guarantee the independence of Cuba, until the neutralization of the islands can be secured by treaty with other powers. In recognizing the independence of the Philippines our government should retain such land as may be necessary for coaling stations and naval bases.

REPUBLICAN PLATFORM

In the Philippines, insurrection has been suppressed, law established and life and property made secure. Education and practical experience are there advancing the capacity of the people for government and the policies of McKinley and Roosevelt are leading the inhabitants step by step to ever increasing measure of home rule.

Grazing Lands

DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

The establishment of rules and regulations, if any such are necessary, in relation to free grazing lands upon the public lands outside of forest or other reservations, until the same shall eventually be disposed of, should be left to the people of the states respectively in which lands may be situated.

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 national resources in timber, coal, iron and oil against monopolistic control, the development of our waterways for navigation 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.

We insist upon a policy of administration of our forest reserves which shall relieve it of the abuses which have arisen thereunder and which shall, as far as practicable, conform to the police regulations of the several states where they are located, which shall enable homesteaders as of right to occupy and acquire title to all portions thereof which are especially adapted to agriculture and which shall furnish a system of timber sales available as well to the private citizen as to the larger manufacturer and consumer.

REPUBLICAN PLATFORM

We indorse the movement inaugurated by the administration for the conservation of natural resources; we approve all measures to prevent the waste of timber; we recommend the work now going on for the reclamation of arid lands and reaffirm the republican policy of the free distribution of the available areas of the public domain to the landless settler. No obligation of the future is more insistent and none will result in greater blessings to posterity.

Post Roads

Concerning post roads the democratic platform says:

We favor federal aid to state and local authorities in the construction and maintenance of postroads.

On this same subject the republican platform says:

Among those whose welfare is as vital to the welfare of the whole country as that of the wage earner is the American farmer. The prosperity of the country rests peculiarly upon the prosperity of agriculture. The republican party during the last twelve years has accomplished extraordinary work in bringing the resources of the national government to the aid of the farmer, not only in advancing agriculture itself, but in increasing the conveniences of country life. Free rural mail delivery has been established; it now reaches millions of our citizens, and we favor its extension until

every community in the land receives the full benefits of the postal service. We recognize the social and economic advantages of good country roads, maintained more and more largely at public expense and less and less at the expense of abutting owner. In this work we commend the growing practice of state aid, and we approve the efforts of the national agricultural department by experiments and otherwise to make clear to the public the best methods of road construction.

[The above comparison of the two platforms is taken from the Denver News.]