

Mr. Fairbanks' Letter

Charles W. Fairbanks, the republican nominee for vice president made public his letter of acceptance September 21. In his letter, Mr. Fairbanks said:

The foreign policy of the administration has been conservative, just and firm, and has made for the advancement of peace. Time and events have given us a larger place in international affairs. While we have enlarged our foreign commerce, we have increased our prestige abroad, not with the sword, but with the peaceful agency of enlightened diplomacy.

Events in the far east suggest the wisdom and necessity of a continuance of the present foreign policy. We have maintained exact neutrality between Russia and Japan. At the beginning of the war between them they assented to the suggestion made by the administration limiting the zone of hostilities. This tends to preserve the open door in the orient, so important and so much desired in the expansion of our commerce. It is the policy of the administration, predicated upon the soundest national prudence, to settle and remove by treaty, so far as possible, those international differences which lead to future friction.

We favor the adjustment of international disagreements by an appeal to reason, rather than to arms.

The convention wisely declared in favor of "protection which guards and develops our industries," and that "the measure of protection should always, at least, equal the difference in the cost of production at home and abroad."

This principle was embodied in the platform of the convention which first nominated Abraham Lincoln and it has continued to be one of the cardinal doctrines of the republican party during the forty-four years which have elapsed since then.

The democratic convention which lately assembled at St. Louis denounced "protection as a robbery of the many to enrich the few" and favored a "revision and gradual reduction of the tariff."

The issue is thus distinctly made. It is by no means a new one, for while the republican party has uniformly adhered to the policy of protection, the democratic party has been consistent in its opposition.

A revision of duties should be made only when conditions have so changed that the public interest demands their alteration, and they should be so revised as to preserve and not destroy the protective principle.

A revision and reduction by those who regard the tariff as a robbery must awaken serious apprehension among all whose capital is employed or who are engaged at labor in the various enterprises throughout the country, which depend in large measure upon the maintenance of the protective system. A revision of the tariff along revenue lines means the increased importation of the products of foreign manufacture which come into competition with our domestic production. It means a loss to the American wage-earners and to American capital. This is, therefore, not a theoretical question which is presented to them,

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but is one of immediate and practical moment. It can be settled by them and by them only.

Commercial reciprocity with foreign countries, "consistent with the principles of protection," has long been one of the well-recognized policies of the republican party. The present administration, secured a treaty of reciprocity with Cuba, which promises to give up control of a large share of the commerce of that island.

The platform appropriately recognizes combinations of capital and labor as the outgrowth of our economic development, and as entitled to the equal protection and subject to the like restrictions of the law.

The administration has enforced the Sherman anti-trust act, which was of republican origin, in cases where combinations have been formed in violation of its provisions. The law, which was regarded as ineffective by a democratic administration, has been invoked by the president against combinations in restraint of wholesome commerce, and it has been upheld by the courts.

The congress last year enacted a law to expedite the hearing and determination of suits arising under the anti-trust and interstate commerce acts, so that the ends of justice might not be defeated by delay. It created the department of commerce and labor, with authority to obtain necessary information with respect to the creation and operation of corporations engaged in interstate commerce. It also amended the interstate commerce law so as effectually to abolish the pernicious system of rebates under which large shippers could crush their smaller competitors. These are important, practical steps, taken by a republican president and a republican congress for the protection of the people against the encroachments of combined capital.

Sound money is so vital to our welfare, so important to our industrial development, that we should let its open enemies or negative friends know that we abate nothing of our determination to uphold and defend it.

The president's course in Panama merits the most generous approval. He dealt with a delicate and difficult situation clearly within our national rights in such a way as to make possible the early completion of an isthmian canal which has long been demanded in the interest of our commerce and the national defense.

The administration in the Philippines has been dictated by a broad sense of duty. It has not been subversive of our national ideals, but has been in conformity with the best traditions of the republic.

The archipelago came to the United States as the result of a war, and it became the duty of the administration to enforce the laws there as elsewhere, to maintain the national sovereignty, and to inaugurate civil government.

Our opponents say the Philippine policy does not pay. They should not forget that the United States did not go to war with Spain for dollars and cents. They should remember that when it comes to a matter of duty, the United States does not consider the cost. When the history of our country is written, it will be found that there is no brighter page, or one which will yield more pleasure and satisfaction in its contemplation, than the one which tells of our discharge of the responsibilities growing out of the war with Spain. The archipelago belongs to the United States. Its title is vested in this government by virtue of the treaty of the constitution, and the responsibility of administration rests upon us, not as a matter of sentiment, but as a duty imposed by the obligations of the law.

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