

THE MOST IMPORTANT BUSINESS PROPOSITION EVER INVOLVED IN A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN

The following address has been issued from Chicago by the bankers' committee:

POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS VS. GUARANTY OF DEPOSITS—THIS IS THE ISSUE

One or the other is going to win in this election. This is no matter of theory, it is a fact, according to the platforms of the respective parties.

The republican platform says: "We favor the establishment of a postal savings bank system for the convenience of the people and the encouragement of thrift."

The democratic platform says: "We pledge ourselves to legislation under which the national banks shall be required to establish a guarantee fund for the prompt payment of the depositors of any insolvent national bank, under an equitable system which shall be available to all state banking institutions wishing to use it."

"We favor a postal savings bank if the guaranteed bank can not be secured, and that it be constituted so as to keep the deposited money in the communities where it is established. But we condemn the policy of the republican party in providing postal savings banks under a plan of conduct by which they will aggregate the deposits of the rural communities and re-deposit the same while under government charge in the banks of Wall Street, thus depleting the circulating medium of the producing regions and unjustly favoring the speculative markets."

So the Country Faces the Issue

Every vote will count for one or the other. The democratic platform endorses the postal savings bank, provided we can not secure a law providing for guaranty of deposits; but it stands for the guaranty of deposits as against the postal savings bank.

ARGUMENTS

Mr. Taft is in favor of the postal savings bank and opposed to the guaranteeing of deposits. He says: "The democratic party announces its adhesion to this plan, and only recommends the tried system of postal savings banks as an alternative if the new experimental panacea is not available."

Mr. Bryan stands for guaranty of deposits. He says: "Then, too, the banks must remember that the question is not merely whether depositors shall be made secure, but whether the security shall be given by the banks themselves or by the government through a postal savings bank."

"The refusal of the banks to permit the passage of a law granting security to depositors is responsible for the growth of the sentiment in favor of the government savings bank, and the sentiment will continue to grow unless something is done to satisfy the demands of the people upon this subject."

"The republican party proposes the establishment of a postal savings bank system; the democratic party prefers the guaranteed bank because it is better for the depositor and better for the banker; it gives the depositor the security which he needs and yet leaves the banking business in the hands of the banks. But the democratic platform declares for a postal savings bank if the guaranteed bank can not be secured, and in November more than ninety per cent of the voters will by their ballots demand either the guaranteed bank or the postal savings bank. Can the financiers prevent the carrying out of this demand?"

"The banker must decide, therefore, whether he will favor a postal savings bank which, in the absence of the guaranteed bank, will grow until it absorbs the banking business, or preserve the present system of banking by giving to the people, through a guaranty law, the protection which they must otherwise find in a government bank."

"The democratic plan, therefore, contemplates a less radical change than the republican plan. In his notification speech Mr. Taft charged the democrats with being socialistic in some of their remedies. The charge was not well found-

ed, but I might reply by charging him with advocating an unnecessary extension of the government's sphere of activity in the establishment of the postal savings bank, when the guaranteed bank would answer the same purpose without any considerable increase in the number of government employees. I would rather see the banks attend to the banking business than to have it transferred to the government, and because I prefer to have the banking business done by the banks rather than by the government I urge the guaranty of deposits as the easiest solution of our difficulties."

Bankers must make a choice, whether the money of the community is to be deposited in the postoffice, or whether it shall be deposited in their own banks.

Depositors must make a choice, whether they want to have their money deposited in the postoffice at 2 or 2 1/4 per cent interest, or whether it shall be deposited in a bank which is as sound as the United States treasury at the usual rates of interest.

Merchants, manufacturers and jobbers must make a choice whether the money of the community which they need in their business shall be deposited in a postal savings bank with headquarters at Washington, or whether it shall be retained in the banks of the community, for the use of the community.

All the people must decide whether the banking business shall be done by the banks safely guaranteed, or by the government.

The object of the ballot is not only to express a preference as to a candidate, but more particularly to express approval or disapproval, of measures proposed by the respective parties.

Every vote cast for Taft is for a postal savings bank.

Every vote cast for Bryan is for a well guarded guaranty of deposit law instead of a postal savings bank.

Which is in the interest of the banker? Which is in the interest of the depositor? Which is in the interest of the community?

THE BANKERS' COMMITTEE

- J. H. Albert, President Capital National Bank, Salem, Oregon.
Henry H. Bishop, Director First National Bank, Bridgeport, Connecticut.
Eugene Bloise, Cashier American National Bank, Burtlesville, Oklahoma.
H. S. Butler, Vice President Iowa National Bank, Des Moines, Iowa.
Josiah Carpenter, President Second National Bank, Manchester, New Hampshire.
A. G. Campbell, President First Natchez Bank, Natchez, Mississippi.
S. T. Catlin, President Rockville National Bank, Rockville, Indiana.
M. R. Collins, President Douglas National Bank, Douglas, Wyoming.
D. M. Drumbheller, Vice President Traders National Bank, Spokane, Washington.
Edward Echols, President National Valley Bank, Staunton, Virginia.
Charles E. Floete, President Armour State Bank, Armour, South Dakota.
Joseph B. Grant, President Holston National Bank, Knoxville, Tennessee.
Frank Golden, President Nye & Ormsby Company Bank, Reno, Nevada.
Henry B. Gray, President Peoples Savings Bank and Trust Company, Birmingham, Alabama.
P. L. Hall, President Central National Bank, Lincoln, Nebraska.
William Hasson, President First National Bank, Oil City, Pennsylvania.
Charles H. Horton, President Producers Savings Bank, Woonsocket, Rhode Island.
H. W. Jackson, Cashier Commercial National Bank, Raleigh, North Carolina, and President of the North Carolina Bankers' Association.
W. M. Kavanaugh, President Southern Trust Company, Little Rock, Arkansas.
Weston Lewis, President Maine Trust & Banking Company, Gardiner, Maine.
Robert F. Maddox, Vice President American National Bank, Atlanta, Georgia.
C. W. Melcher, President Peoples National Bank, Barre, Vermont.
W. E. Miles, President Union National Bank, Fresno, California.

- W. H. Milton, Vice President First National Bank, Marianna, Florida.
E. G. S. Miller, President German-American Bank, Buffalo, N. Y.
Michael Murphy, President Farmers & Merchants Bank, Johnstown, North Dakota.
Charles McCulloch, President Hamilton National Bank, Ft. Wayne, Indiana.
Isadore Newman, President I. Newman & Sons, Bankers, New Orleans, Louisiana, and New York.
G. L. Ramsey, President Union Bank & Trust Company, Helena, Montana.
J. S. Rice, President Union Bank & Trust Company, Houston, Texas.
J. C. Rice, President Commercial Bank, Caldwell, Idaho.
Thornton Rollins, President Maryland National Bank, Baltimore, Maryland.
H. L. Shirley, Vice President First National Bank, Breckenridge, Minn.
William H. Swift, Director Union National Bank, Wilmington, Delaware.
Moses Thatcher, President Thatcher Bros. Banking Company, Logan, Utah.
Joseph Thatcher, President Denver National Bank, Denver, Colorado.
Campbell Wells, Cashier Wells Banking Company, Platt City, Missouri.
J. C. Utterback, Cashier City National Bank, Paducah, Kentucky.
Robert J. Whalen, President Citizens Commercial Savings Bank, Flint, Michigan.
L. O. Whitnell, President City National Bank, East St. Louis, Ill.

FAILURES SINCE 1863

Table with 3 columns: Year, No., Liabilities. Data from 1863 to 1907 showing increasing numbers of failures and liabilities over time.