

upon the president which he is sworn to discharge, and, truth to tell, President Wilson shows no reluctance in discharging his duties and exercising his powers to the utmost.

When he was elected governor of New Jersey he declared that he had been elected leader of the people of that state. When he was elected president he declared that he had become, ipso facto, leader of the people of the United States. In both declarations he was correct, but even leadership has its limitations.

I am willing to follow where he leads so long as he is in the White House and so long as he does not ask us to repudiate a plain platform declaration.

Under our system a national convention is the grand inquest of a political party, the highest authority for the declaration of party principles, higher than president or congressional caucuses; indeed, higher than president and congressional caucuses combined.

The fathers also devolved upon congress certain duties which we are sworn to discharge faithfully and well, duties which we cannot shirk or fail to discharge without self-stultification and the condemnation of the people and of our own consciences.

**A QUESTION OF DUTIES**

The president discharges his duties. The question is, Have we the wisdom, the courage and the patriotism to discharge ours? If not, we should make way for men imbued with the spirit of '76, to the end that we may transmit our priceless heritage of liberty to our children and our children's children unimpaired.

The declaration in favor of free tolls for our coastwise trade was writ large in the Baltimore platform. It is in these words:

"We favor the exemption from toll

of American ships engaged in coastwise trade passing through the canal.

"We also favor legislation forbidding the use of the Panama canal by ships owned or controlled by railroad carriers engaged in transportation competitive with the canal."

The proponents of the repeal at first, with far more zeal than discretion, asserted that that plank was inserted in the platform surreptitiously and without any consideration. But that would have blasted so many reputations that the men who were on the platform committee—particularly the eleven men on the subcommittee which reported the tolls plank to the full committee—refused to rest under that false and foolish charge and told the truth about it in self-defense, and the truth is the tolls plank was introduced in the usual way and was fully discussed—not only discussed, but amended and agreed to in its amended form by the full committee and then by the whole convention.

We went to the people on that platform containing the free tolls plank; headed by President Wilson himself we all indorsed it; standing on it we appealed to the voters of the land for their support, and they, responding to our Macedonian cry for help, enabled us to sweep the land from sea to sea by amazing majorities in the electoral college. And now it is proposed that we reward their faith in us and their support of us by repudiating one of the planks of that platform on which we achieved that astounding victory, a plank so clear that there could be no misunderstanding about it, no possible misconstruction of it. I refuse absolutely to be a party to any such performance. Tell it not in Gath, proclaim it not in the streets of Ashalon that the democratic party will not keep faith with a confiding public.

**PEACE WITH HONOR ONLY**

We must earnestly desire peace with all nations; we will buy peace from none. In the memorable words of the immortal Pinckney, "Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute." When we were a feeble folk, with only five or six millions of people and with very little wealth, the high-souled Jefferson scornfully refused to pay tribute to the pirates of the Barbary coast, and, though a life-long lover of peace, sent American men-of-war to shell them out of their holes.

Now, being the richest and most powerful nation on the globe, with a population of 100,000,000 souls—the very flower of the human race—we are asked to grant to Great Britain, whom we defied and defeated in our infancy, and whom we defied again and defeated again in our early youth in the war of 1812—properly called "our second war of independence"—concessions grounded in injustice and humiliating in character—claims for which concessions had been abandoned by Great Britain until Senator Elihu Root made a speech upholding the contentions of that foreign power—contentions which had been flatly rejected by a president of the United States and his secretary of state.

There is no tale in the Arabian Nights or even in Munchausen so utterly incredible as that historic fact. Why should we grant Great Britain a demand which she had abandoned prior to that widely bruited senatorial speech? No sufficient reason has ever been vouchsafed to us, and none ever will be, because it is an impossibility in nature. Yes, we desire peace with all nations; but it is the sort of peace which Disraeli boasted he returned with from the congress of Berlin to London, "peace with honor," for securing which he was made an earl and further distinguished by the

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