

motion of a common prosperity. To that end we favor all measures which may be necessary to facilitate intimate intercourse and promote commerce between the United States and neighbors to the south of us, and such international understandings as may be practicable and suitable to accomplish these ends.

"We commend the action of the democratic administration in holding the Pan-American financial conference at Washington, in May, 1915, and organizing the International High commission which represented the United States in the recent meeting of representatives of Latin-American republics at Buenos Aires, in April, 1916, which have so greatly promoted the friendly relations between the people of the western hemisphere.

MEXICAN POLICY

"The Monroe doctrine is reasserted, as the principle of democratic faith. That doctrine guarantees the independent republics of the two Americas against aggression from another continent. It implies as well the more scrupulous regard upon our part for the sovereignty of each of them. The want of a stable, responsible government in Mexico, capable of repressing and punishing marauders and bandit bands, who have not only taken the lives and seized and destroyed the property of American citizens in that country, but have insolently invaded our soil, made war upon and murdered our people thereon, has rendered it necessary temporarily to occupy, by our armed forces, a portion of the territory of that friendly state. Until, by the restoration of law and order therein, a repetition of such incursions is improbable the necessity for their remaining will continue. Intervention, implying as it does military subjugation, is revolting to the people of the United States, notwithstanding the provocation to that course has been great and should be resorted to, if at all, only as a last resort. The stubborn resistance of the President and his advisers to every demand and suggestion to enter upon it is creditable alike to them and to the people in whose name he speaks.

MERCHANT MARINE

Immediate provision should be made for the development of the carrying trade of the United States. Our foreign commerce has in the past been subject to many unnecessary and vexatious obstacles, in the way of legislation of republican congresses. Until the recent democratic tariff legislation, it was hampered by unreasonable burdens of taxation. Until the recent banking legislation, it had at its disposal few of the necessary instrumentalities of international credit and exchange. Until the formulation of the pending act to promote the construction of a merchant marine, it lacked even the prospect of adequate carriage by sea. We heartily endorse the purposes and policy of the pending shipping bill, and favor all such additional measures of constructive or remedial legislation as may be necessary to restore our flag to the seas and to provide further facilities for our foreign commerce, particularly such laws as may be made to remove unfair conditions of competition in the dealings of American merchants and producers with competitors in foreign markets.

CONSERVATION

"For the safeguarding and quickening of the life of our own people we favor the conservation and development of the natural resources of the country through a policy which shall be positive rather than negative—a policy which shall not withhold such resources from development, but which, while permitting and encouraging their use, shall prevent both waste and monopoly in their exploitation, and we earnestly favor the passage of acts which will accomplish these objects and we reaffirm the declaration of the platform of 1912 on this subject.

"The policy of reclaiming our arid lands should be steadily adhered to.

ADMINISTRATION AND THE FARMER

"We favor the vigorous prosecution of investigations and plans to render agriculture more profitable and country life more healthful, comfortable and attractive, and we believe that this should be a dominant aim of the nation as well as of the states. With all its recent improvement, farming still lags behind other occupations in development as a business and the advantages of an advancing civilization have not accrued to rural communities in a fair proportion. Much has been accomplished in this field under the present administration—far more than under any previous administrations. In

the federal reserve act of the last congress and the rural credits act of the present congress, the machinery has been created which will make credit available to the farmer, constantly and readily, and he has at last been put upon a footing of equality with the merchant and the manufacturer in securing the capital necessary to carry on his enterprises. Grades and standards necessary to the intelligent and successful conduct of the business of agriculture have also been established or are in the course of being established by law. The long needed cotton futures act, passed by the Sixty-third congress, has now been in successful operation for nearly two years. A grain grades bill, long needed, and a permissive warehouse bill, intended to provide better storage facilities and to enable the farmer to obtain certificates upon which he may secure advances of money, have been passed by the house of representatives, have been favorably reported to the senate and will probably become law during the present session of congress. Both houses have passed a good roads measure, which will be of far-reaching benefit to all agricultural communities. Above all, the most extraordinary and significant progress has been made under the direction of the department of agriculture in extending and perfecting practical farm demonstration work, which is so rapidly substituting scientific for empirical farming. But it is also necessary that rural activities should be better directed through co-operation and organization, that unfair methods of competition should be eliminated and the conditions requisite for the just, orderly and economical marketing of farm products created.

"We approve the democratic administration for having emphatically directed attention for the first time to the essential interests of agriculture involved in farm marketing and finance, for creating the office of markets and rural organizations in connection with the department of agriculture and for extending the co-operative machinery necessary for conveying information to farmers by means of demonstrations. We favor continued liberal provision not only for the benefit of production, but also for the study and solution of problems of farm marketing and finance and for the extension of existing agencies for improving country life.

GOOD ROADS

"The happiness, comfort and prosperity of rural life and the development of the city are alike conserved by the construction of public highways. We therefore favor national aid in the construction of post roads and roads for military purposes.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT

"We hold that the life, health and strength of the men, women and children of the nation are its greatest asset and that in the conservation of these the federal government, wherever it acts as the employer of labor, should both on its own account and as an example put into effect the following principles of just employment:

"First—A living wage for all employees.

"Second—A working day not to exceed eight hours, with one day of rest in seven.

"Third—The adoption of safety appliances and the establishment of thoroughly sanitary conditions of labor.

"Fourth—Adequate compensation for industrial accidents.

"Fifth—The standard of the 'uniform child labor law' wherever minors are employed.

"Sixth—Such provisions for decency, comfort and health in the employment of women as should be accorded the mothers of the race.

"Seventh—An equitable retirement law providing for the retirement of superannuated and disabled employees of the civil service to the end that a higher standard of efficiency may be maintained. We believe also that the adoption of similar principles should be urged and applied in the legislation of the states with regard to labor within their borders, and that through every possible agency the life and health of the people of the nation should be conserved.

LABOR

"We declare our faith in the Seamen's act passed by the democratic congress and we promise our earnest continuance of its enforcement.

"We favor the speedy enactment of an effective child labor law and the regulation of the shipment of prison-made goods in interstate commerce.

"We favor the creation of a federal bureau of safety in the department of labor to gather facts concerning industrial hazards, and to recom-

mend legislation to prevent the maiming and killing of human beings.

"We favor the extension of the powers and functions of the federal bureau of mines.

"We favor the development upon a systematic scale of the means already begun under the present administration to assist laborers throughout the nation to seek and obtain employment, and the extension by the federal government of the same assistance and encouragement as is now given to agricultural training.

"We heartily commend our newly established department of labor for its excellent record in settling industrial strikes by personal advice and through conciliating agents.

PUBLIC HEALTH

"We favor a thorough reconsideration of the means and methods by which the federal government handles questions of public health to the end that human life may be conserved by the elimination of loathsome disease, by the improvement of sanitation and the diffusion of a knowledge of disease prevention.

"We favor establishment by the federal government of tuberculosis sanitariums for needy tubercular patients.

SENATE RULES

"We favor such an alteration of the rules of procedure of the senate of the United States as will permit the prompt transaction of the nation's legislative business.

ECONOMY AND THE BUDGET

"We demand careful economy in all expenditures for the support of the government, and to that end favor a return by the house of representatives to its former practice of initiating and preparing all appropriation bills through a single committee chosen from its membership in order that responsibility may be centered, expenditures standardized and made uniform, and waste and duplication in the public service as much as possible avoided. We favor this as a practicable first step toward a budget system.

CIVIL SERVICE

"We reaffirm our declarations for the rigid enforcement of the civil service laws.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

"We heartily endorse the provisions of the bill recently passed by the house of representatives, further promoting self-government in the Philippine islands as being in fulfillment of the policy declared by the democratic party in its last national platform, and we reiterate our endorsement of the purpose of ultimate independence for the Philippine islands, expressed in the preamble of that measure.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE

"We recommend the extension of franchise to the women of the country by the states upon the same terms as to men.

PROTECTION OF CITIZENS

"We again declare the policy that the sacred rights of American citizenship must be preserved at home and abroad, and that no treaty with any other government shall receive the sanction of our government which does not expressly recognize the absolute equality of all our citizens, irrespective of race, creed or previous nationality, and which does not recognize the right of expatriation. The American government should protect American citizens in their rights, not only at home, but abroad, and any country having a government should be held to strict accountability for any wrongs done them, either to person or property. At the earliest practical opportunity our country should strive earnestly for peace among the warring nations of Europe and seek to bring about the adoption of the fundamental principles of justice and humanity, that all men shall enjoy equality of rights and freedom from discrimination in the lands wherein they dwell.

PRISON REFORM

"We demand that the modern principles of prison reform be applied in our federal penal system. We favor such work for prisoners as shall give them training in remunerative occupations, so that they may make an honest living when released from prison; the setting apart of the net wages of the prisoners to be paid to his dependent family or to be reserved for his own use upon his release; the liberal extension of the principles of the federal parole law with due regard both to the welfare of the prisoners and the

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