

PEOPLE'S PLATFORM.

Adopted by the Convention at Omaha Nebraska, July 4, 1892.

Assembled upon the one hundred and sixtieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the People's Party of America, in their first national convention, invoking upon their action the blessings of Almighty God, puts forth in the name, and on behalf of the people of the country, the following preamble and declaration of principles:

The conditions which surround us best justify our co-operation; we meet in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, political and material ruin. Corruption dominates the ballot box, the legislatures, the Congress, and touches even the ermine of the bench. The people are demoralized; most of the states have been compelled to isolate the voters at the polling places to prevent universal intimidation or bribery. The newspapers are largely subsidized or muzzled; public opinion silenced; business prostrated; our homes covered with mortgages; labor impoverished; and the land concentrating in the hands of the capitalists. The urban workmen are denied the right of organization for self-protection; imported pauperized labor beats down their wages; a hired army, unrecognized by our law, is established to shoot them down; and they are rapidly degenerating into European conditions. The fruits of the toil of millions are boldly stolen to build up colossal fortunes for a few, unprecedented in the history of mankind, and the possessors of these in turn despise the republic and endanger liberty. From the same prolific womb of governmental injustice we breed the two great classes—tramps and millionaires.

The national power to create money is appropriated to enrich bondholders; a vast public debt, payable in legal tender currency, has been funded into gold-bearing bonds, thereby adding millions to the burdens of the people.

Silver, which has been accepted as coin since the dawn of history, has been demoralized to add to the purchasing power of gold, by decreasing the value of all forms of property, as well as human labor, and the supply of currency is purposely abridged to fatten usurers, bankrupt enterprise, and enslave industry. A vast conspiracy against mankind has been organized on two continents, and it is rapidly taking possession of the world. If not met and overthrown at once it forebodes terrible social convulsions, the destruction of civilization, or the establishment of an absolute despotism. We have witnessed for more than a quarter of a century the struggles of the two great political parties for power and plunder, while grievous wrongs have been inflicted upon the suffering people. We charge that the controlling influence dominating both these parties have permitted the existing dreadful conditions to develop, without serious effort to prevent or restrain them.

Neither do they now promise us any substantial reform. They have agreed together to ignore, in the coming campaign, every issue but one. They propose to drown the outcries of a plundered people with the uproar of a sham battle over the tariff; so that capitalists, corporations, national banks, rings, trusts, watered stock, the demoralization of silver, and the oppressions of the usurers may all be lost sight of. They propose to sacrifice our homes, lives and children on the altar of Mammon; to destroy the multitude in order to secure corruption for the millionaires. Assembled on the anniversary of the birthday of the nation, and filled with the spirit of the grand generation of men, who established our independence, we seek to restore the government of the Republic to the hands of "the plain people," with whose class it originated. We assert our purposes to be identical with the purpose of the national constitution:—"to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty ourselves and our posterity."

We declare that this republic can only endure as a free government while built upon the love of the whole people for each other and for the nation; that it cannot be pinned together by bayonets, that the civil war is over and that every passion and resentment which grew out of it must die with it; and that we must be in fact, as we are in name, one united brotherhood. Our country finds itself confronted by conditions for which there is no precedent in the history of the world. Our annual agricultural productions amount to billions of dollars in value, which must within a few weeks or months be exchanged for billions of dollars of commodities consumed in their production; the existing currency supply is wholly inadequate to make this exchange. The results are falling prices, the formation of combines and rings, and the impoverishment of the producing class. We pledge ourselves that if given power we will labor to correct these evils by wise and reasonable legislation, in accordance with the terms of our platform.

We believe that the powers of government—in other words, of the people—should be expanded (as in the case of the postal service) as rapidly and as far as the good sense of an intelligent people, and the teachings of experience, shall justify; to the end that oppression, injustice and poverty shall eventually cease in the land.

While our sympathies as a party of reform are naturally upon the side of every proposition which will tend to make men intelligent, virtuous and temperate, we nevertheless regard these questions—important as they are—as secondary to the great issues now pressing for solution; and upon which not only our individual prosperity, but the very existence of free institutions depends; and we ask all men to first help us to determine whether we are to have a republic to administer, before we differ as to the conditions upon which it is to be administered; believing that the forces of reform this day organized will never cease to move forward until every wrong is righted and equal privileges established for all the men and women of this country.

We declare, therefore,

UNION OF THE PEOPLE.

First, That the union of the labor forces of the United States this day consummated, shall be permanent and perpetual; may its spirit enter into all hearts for the salvation of the republic and the uplifting of mankind.

Second, Wealth belongs to him who creates it; and every dollar taken from industry, without an equivalent, is robbery. "If any man will not work neither shall he eat." The interests of rural and civic labor are the same; their enemies are identical.

Third, We believe that the time has come when the railroad corporations will either own the people or the people must own the railroads; and should the government enter upon the work of owning and managing the railroads, we should favor an amendment to the constitution by which all persons engaged in the government service shall be protected by civil service regulations of the most rigid character, so as to prevent the increase of the power of the national administration by the use of such additional government employees.

FINANCE.

We demand a national currency, safe, sound and flexible; issued by the general government only; a full legal tender for all debts public and private; and that

without the use of banking corporations; a just equitable and efficient means of distribution direct to the people, at a tax not to exceed 2 per cent per annum, to be provided as set forth in the sub-treasury plan of the Farmers' Alliance, or some better system; also by payments in discharge of its obligations for public improvements.

We demand free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1.

We demand that the amount of circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than \$50 per capita.

We demand a graduated income tax.

We believe that the money of the country should be kept, as much as possible, in the hands of the people; and hence we demand that all state and national revenues shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government, economically and honestly administered.

We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people and the facilitation of exchange.

TRANSPORTATION.

Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity; the government should own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people.

The telegraph and telephone, like the postoffice system, being a necessity, for the transmission of news, should be owned and operated by the government in the interests of the people.

LANDS.

The land, including all natural resources of wealth, is the heritage of the people, and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes; and alien ownership of land should be prohibited. All land now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs, and all lands now owned by aliens, should be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only.

RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were offered independent of the platform, and were adopted, as expressive of the sentiments of the convention:

Resolved, That we demand a free ballot and a fair count in all elections, and pledge ourselves to secure to it every legal voter without federal intervention, through the adoption by the states of the unperverted Australian secret ballot system.

Resolved, That the revenue derived from a graduated income tax should be applied to the reduction of the burden of taxation now levied upon the domestic industries of this country.

Resolved, That we pledge our support to fair and liberal pensions to ex-Union soldiers and sailors.

Resolved, That we condemn the fallacy of protecting American labor under the present system, which opens our ports to the pauper and criminal classes of the world, and crowds out our wage-earners and we denounce the present ineffective law against contract labor, and demand the further restriction of undesirable immigration.

Resolved, That we cordially sympathize with the efforts of organized workmen to shorten the hours of labor and demand a rigid enforcement of the existing eight-hour law on government work, and ask that a penalty clause be added to said law.

Resolved, That we regard the maintenance of a large standing army of mercenaries, known as the Pinkerton system, as a menace to our liberties, and we demand its abolition, and we condemn the recent invasion of the Territory of Wyoming by the hired assassins of Plutocracy, assisted by Federal officers.

Resolved, That we commend to the thoughtful consideration of the people and the reform press, the legislative system known as the Initiative and Referendum.

Resolved, That we favor a constitutional provision limiting the office of a president and vice president to one term, and providing for the election of the senators by a direct vote of the people.

Resolved, That we oppose any subsidy or national aid to any private corporation for any purpose.

H. E. TABERNACK, Chairman, Marshall, Illinois.

J. H. TURNER, Secretary, Georgia.

LAWRENCE McFARLAND, Secretary, New York.

M. C. RANKIN, Treasurer, Terre Haute, Indiana.

Our State Platform.

We, the People's Independent party of the state of Nebraska, reaffirm the principles laid down in the national platform adopted at Omaha, July 4, 1892. We emphasize the demand for free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the present ratio 16 to 1. We brand as treason to labor in every field, and to labor in every field, and to the best interests of the whole country, the unconditional repeal by congress of the purchasing clause of the Sherman act. We demand both state and national laws for the encouragement and promotion of the irrigation of our arid and semi-arid lands.

We demand that congress shall speedily pass a law by which the federal courts will be prevented from suspending the operation of a state law at the dictation of corporations.

We demand a liberal service pension to all honorably discharged union soldiers and sailors of the late war.

We declare for municipal ownership of street cars, gas and electric light plants and water works.

We demand compulsory arbitration of all controversies between employers and employees.

We heartily approve the course of Senator William V. Allen and Congressmen W. A. McKeighan and O. M. Kem for their fidelity and loyalty to our entire interests, and we compliment Congressman W. J. Bryan, who, though elected as a Democrat, has given strong support to many of our reform measures.

We demand a more economical administration of our state government, and a more strict accountability of moneys appropriated and expended.

We reiterate our demand for a maximum freight rate law or the enforcement of the one now on our statute books.

We demand the amendment of our state constitution by the adoption of what are properly known as the initiative and referendum.

We demand the enforcement of the present law for the investment of our permanent school fund as directed, and not through bond investment companies, at a loss to said fund or profit to speculators and money sharks.

We demand that all officers, both state and county, be paid a reasonable salary, in accordance with the labor to be performed and the amount of skill required, and that all fees be turned into the general fund for state and county purposes.

We commend to the favorable consideration of the state the building of what is known as the Gulf & Interstate railroad, now under process of construction.

We demand that immediate steps be taken for the relief of the drought sufferers of our state, and that some means be devised to give them employment and wages.

Having stated our demands, we cordially invite all persons who are in sympathy with them to co-operate with us, regardless of former party affiliations.

RUSSIA'S DYING RULER.

LIFE'S PENDULUM STILL IN THE BALANCE.

DEEP CONCERN FELT IN EUROPE.

Private Dispatches From Livadia State That the Czar's Condition Is More Critical Than at Any Time Since His Illness, While an Official Report From Paris Notes a Slight Improvement.

LONDON, Oct. 22.—The reports today in regard to the illness of the czar of Russia are more conflicting than they have been at any time this month. Private advices from Livadia declare that the czar's condition is more critical than ever and that death may come within the next twenty-four hours—in fact, that the physicians privately express the belief that his majesty is not likely to survive over Sunday. From Paris, on the contrary, comes the positive statement that at a council of ministers to-day, Premier Dupuy notified those present that he was in receipt of telegraphic advices stating that there was a slight improvement in the czar's condition.

St. Petersburg advices of this morning say that prayers are being offered up to-day throughout the Russian empire for the recovery of the czar, and it is also stated that great impatience is manifested at the scantiness of official news sent out in regard to the condition of his majesty. Early this afternoon a dispatch from St. Petersburg announced that the latest reports received there from Livadia stated that although the czar was still alive he was steadily weakening.

A striking fact in connection with the czar's illness is the difference of opinion regarding the exact nature of the malady from which he is suffering. The Paris Figaro, for instance, declares that the symptoms disagree with the usual symptoms of kidney diseases, and states that there is a conflicting side to the czar's illness which has perplexed his physicians. The Figaro adds that one of the czar's sisters, a fortnight ago, received an official communication stating that the czar was suffering from a tumor below the left kidney, respecting which the doctors disagreed. Professor Zacharin, being convinced that it was cancerous and impossible to operate upon, and that being his ground for recently informing the czar that he could not possibly live, as the disease was incurable. While Professor Leyden was more optimistic and after a careful study of the symptoms of the czar's trouble, expressed the belief that it was true that a tumor existed, but added that it was of a benign nature and curable.

The Paris Figaro charges that the czar has been badly cursed and that the arrangements for his care were quite of a primitive nature. It does not give its authority for making the latter assertion, but the statement is somewhat unkind as it is known that the czar's most assiduous nurse has been the czarina, who, according to rumor, has been breaking down under the strain of attending continually upon her dying husband.

THE CZARINA'S HEALTH BROKEN.

The Cologne Gazette asserts that the departure of Professor Mershegowski, the specialist in nervous diseases, from St. Petersburg for Livadia, was not to take part in the treatment of the czar, but to treat the czarina, who is suffering greatly from nervousness in consequence of the tremendous anxiety which she has experienced during the past few days.

The first ten days after the czar's arrival at Livadia, there was an improvement in his condition, but this was not continued, and Wednesday there was a decided turn for the worse. Thursday night the czar was so much worse that he finally decided to discontinue every preparation for removal to Crofu, and triple cordons of police and soldiers were placed about the palace, while absent members of the royal family were summoned in haste. Yesterday there was no perceptible change in the czar's condition, but the members of the family were in constant attendance and, for the first time he was unable to leave his bedroom.

In this city and in all the centers of Europe there is the deepest interest in the czar's illness, and expressions of sympathy are universal. Prayer services were held in Paris yesterday, at which President Casimir-Perier, Premier Dupuy and other notables were present.

The Paris papers write in high words of praise of the czar, but have undertones of fear for the future. The papers of Germany and Austria also comment on the outbursts against Great Britain in the Russian papers, and dread the developments of next year.

Princess Alix, the betrothed of the czarowitz, is expected to reach Livadia Monday. It is reported that a regency will be proclaimed next Friday if the czar should live that long.

Nebraska Bolters Disgusted.

OMAHA, Neb., Oct. 22.—The leaders of the Democratic element which bolted the state convention when fusion with the Populists was arranged, expressed disgust over the supreme court's decision declaring the fusion ticket the regular Democratic nominees.

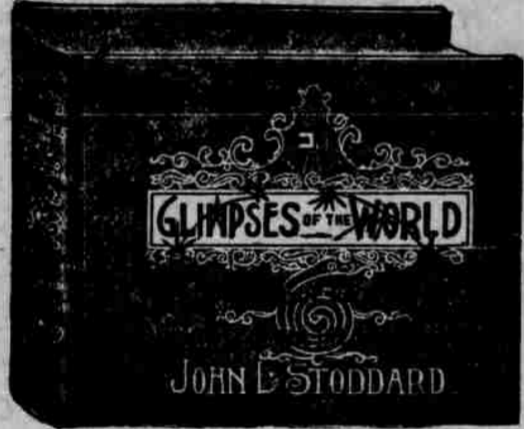
Bloomfield Bank Robbers.

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., Oct. 22.—Detective Rohan of Chicago has identified the wounded Bloomfield, Ind., bank robber, who is in jail at Sullivan, as George West, one of the most notorious safe-blowers of the West. He was captured after a desperate fight.

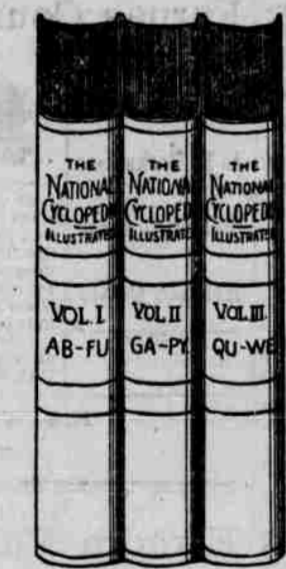
Mother and Daughters Mangled.

DORCHESTER, Neb., Oct. 22.—Mrs. Mary Sawyer and her two daughters, aged 16 and 18, were killed yesterday while driving over the Burlington tracks near here. The train men are charged with failing to conform to regulations as to speed and whistling.

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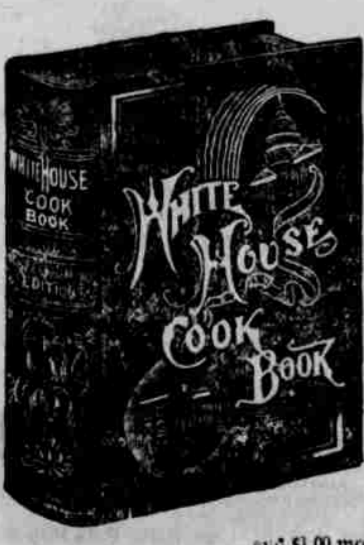


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