

PEOPLE'S PLATFORM.

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

Assembled upon the one hundred and sixteenth 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 paupered 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 enterprises, 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 draw 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 funds from 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 employes.

Fourth, 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

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. TABERNECK, 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 Congressman W. A. McKeighan and O. M. Kern 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 an amendment to 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 drouth 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.

SENATOR FAULKNER TALKS.

CHAIRMAN OF THE DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE.

CLEVELAND'S POSITION EXPLAINED.

The President Has the Same Earnest and Sincere Interest in the Success of His Party in the Present Campaign That He Has Always Had in the Past—Other Late Political News.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5.—Senator Faulkner, chairman of the Democratic congressional campaign committee, yesterday made a statement with reference to his recent call upon the president, at which the political situation was talked over.

"As chairman of the congressional committee I called upon the president. During the interview I conveyed to him all the information I had in reference to the congressional contests throughout the country, and the prospects of the Democratic party in the various states. Our conversation was confined to the outlook in pending congressional elections, and I found the president, as always, in previous conversations involving the interests of the Democratic party in the various states, manifesting the deepest concern in the information I communicated to him, and in the hopes I expressed for our success in maintaining a Democratic majority in the Fifty-fourth congress.

"He impressed me in that interview as having the same earnest and sincere interest in the results of this election, which have always characterized his utterances in the interest of Democratic principles when they were on trial before the people of this country. He clearly indicated he was satisfied with the direction given the campaign by the congressional committee, in earnestly and intelligently bringing before the voters the results of Democratic action in the endeavor of congress to redeem Democratic pledges. Of course we all recognize the fact, because Mr. Cleveland is one who does not conceal from the public his maturely formed opinions, that he had hoped for the passage of a revenue measure more in accordance with his views of the pledges of the party in its declaration at Chicago. But as he has already stated, what has been done "will certainly lighten many tariff burdens that now rest heavily upon the people," and he seemed to fully approve the course of the committee in drawing the contrast between the onerous and burdensome actions of the McKinley bill and the reductions made by the existing laws; approving fully the presentation by the committee as shown in its campaign book as well as its other literature, the difference in the condition of the treasury under his former administration and that of his successor, Mr. Harrison, and the deplorable condition of the treasury when turned over to him by his predecessor.

"You can rest assured I express my honest judgment when I say that from my conversation with the president, no man takes a deeper interest in the success of the Democratic party in the present campaign and in the anxiety of the committee to return a majority to the Fifty-fourth congress than President Cleveland."

TABLEQUAH, Ind. Ter., Oct. 29.—A courier has just arrived with information that Sheriff Proctor and a posse of Cherokees are hot on the trail of Cook and his gang of robbers, only being half an hour behind the bandits. Last night Miss Eliza Cook, a sister of the leader of the notorious gang, rode into Fort Gibson and terrorized the people of that place by shooting into houses and defying arrest. She filled the depot full of lead from her pistol. After driving the frightened citizens off the street she galloped through a squad of deputy marshals and out of town in true bandit queen style.

REINHART GIVES \$10,000 BAIL. CHICAGO, Nov. 5.—Joseph W. Reinhart, ex-president and ex-receiver of the Santa Fe railroad, who was indicted by the federal grand jury on the charge of paying rebates to shippers in violation of the interstate commerce law, gave bail in the United States district court yesterday. Mr. Reinhart's bond was for \$10,000, and it was signed by William J. Watson.

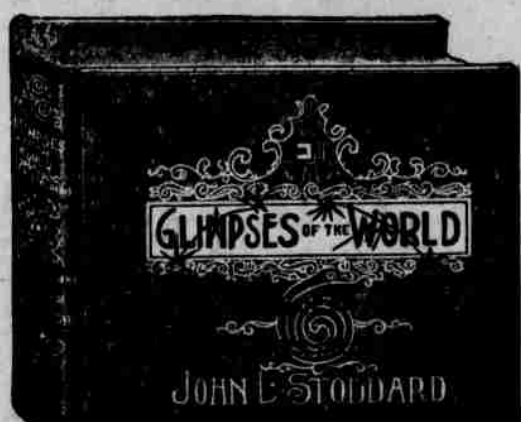
A SOLDIER WITH HIS MISTRESS. WASHINGTON, Nov. 5.—Frederick Well, a soldier in the Marine corps, shot his mistress, Annie Grandy, twice in the head last night and then killed himself in a disreputable resort, the result of a quarrel. Well had tired of the woman and had made application for a transfer of duty on board the United States steamer Minneapolis. Well is a Russian about 35 years of age.

ARKANSAS BAPTISTS ALARMED. LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Nov. 5.—The state Baptist convention in session at Lonoke last night unanimously adopted a resolution expressing alarm at the coming power of the Roman Catholic church over congress and the Federal government, and denouncing all legislation giving federal revenues in support of Roman Catholic or other sectarian schools.

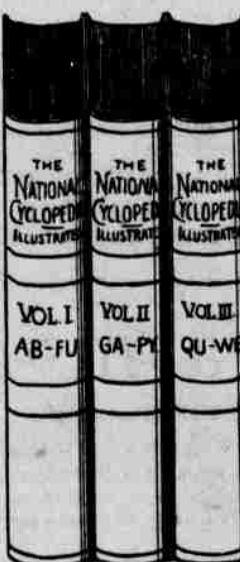
A CHOCTAW EXECUTED. CADDO, Ind. Ter., Nov. 5.—Caleb Pratt, the Choctaw who was convicted of murder last August, was shot at 2 o'clock yesterday. He was tried on a charge of murdering another Choctaw. He admitted his guilt, but held out to the very last that the killing was accidental.

HIGH SHERIFF OF CHEROKEE NATION. TABLEQUAH, Ind. Ter., Nov. 5.—Chief Harris has appointed George Wolf high sheriff of the Cherokee nation, to fill the unexpired term of High Sheriff Wash Mayes, deceased.

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