

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 pauperized labor beats down their wages; a hireling 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 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.

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; and 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.

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-soldiers and sailors.

Resolved, That we condemn the failure of protecting American labor under the present system, which opens up the pauper and criminal classes of the world, and crowds out our wages, 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 ingmen 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; we demand its abolition, and we condemn the recent invasion of the Territory of Wyoming by the hired assassins of plutocracy, assisted by Federal troops.

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

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

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

H. E. TAYLOR, Chairman, Marshall, Illinois.

J. H. TURNER, Secretary, Georgia.

LAWRENCE McFARLAND, Secretary, York.

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

ADMIRAL GHERARDI RETIRES

He Leaves a Noble Record Behind of Forty-Eight Years' Service.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 12.—At noon today there was placed on the retired list the commandant of the New York navy yard, Admiral Bancroft Gherardi, one of the few old war commanders now in the naval service, and known in naval parlance as "Sea-going admiral." He leaves behind him a career of distinction, of hard fighting and severe sea duty without a blemish. His total active service amounts to forty-eight years and five months, and twenty years and eight months of that service were spent at sea.

Striker Worden Guilty of Murder

WOODLAND, Cal., Nov. 12.—Salem Worden, one of the American Railway union men charged with having wrecked a Southern Pacific train during the strike in July last, causing the death of Engineer Clark and four United States soldiers, was convicted of murder in the first degree yesterday. The jury offered no recommendation. The penalty is death or life imprisonment. The other accused train wreckers will be promptly tried.

No Bond Issue

WASHINGTON, Nov. 12.—The report telegraphed from New York and published in the morning papers that another \$50,000,000 bond issue had been determined upon is without foundation, but Secretary Carlisle has not changed in the least his policy with respect to the issue of bonds, and if it is found necessary to issue bonds to maintain credit they will be issued without the least haste. The present conditions do not warrant such action.

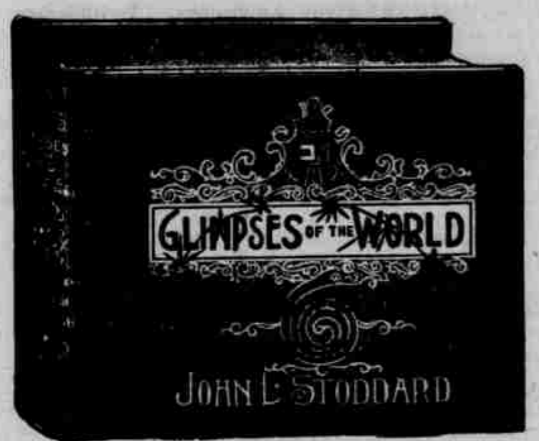
Chicago's Mayorality Contest Dismissed

CHICAGO, Nov. 12.—Judge Scott today dismissed the petition for election contest case of George Swift against Mayor Hopkins. He closed the contest in the lower court over the mayorality election of December, but Attorney J. S. M. representing Swift, the Republican contestant, gave notice of appeal.

A Big St. Louis Firm Impugned

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Nov. 12.—The Continental National bank of this city today entered an attachment against the Seigel gas fixture company, one of the largest in the city for \$19,534, the face of notes issued by the stock in trade of the company which the bank alleges its suit is being disposed of tently.

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We have made arrangements to furnish our friends and patrons with these unrivaled works, which have hitherto been sold only for cash, at reduced prices and on terms within the reach of all.

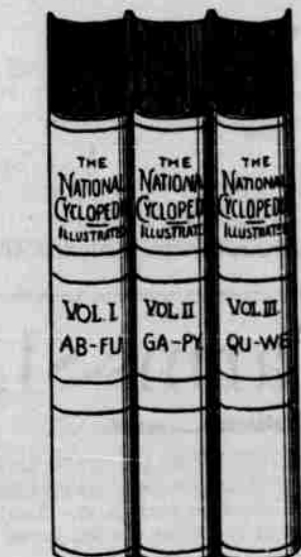
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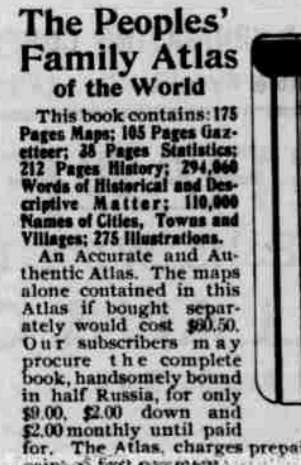


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...of your life... you are down in your... that heart you can not... have a feeling that there... wrong. You don't like to see... hunger and crime stalking the... You say it is the fault of these... people, but you do not say it will... impulse that comes of a complete... conviction. You do not approve of... the open bribery of congress by which... a few get millions they never earn... which means that the many, who are... poor, lose millions they are entitled... I say there are times when you... think things on these lines that you... would not for considerable have your... party associates know. They think... the same things but keep it to themselves... You are afraid to be outspoken... in your thoughts, as it would subject... you to ridicule and probably financial... loss. It takes a hero to defy public... opinion for truth's sake. And so you... go on supporting a system you do not... like, supporting a party because you... are not able to brave the ridicule of... friends, support a tyranny because you... do not know just how to change it. A... little study of reform books will do... wonders for you, my friend. Just try it.—Coming Nation.