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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 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 tugged 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.

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 discuss 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 denounces 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 Pituocracy, 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. TAUBENSK, Chairman, Marshall, Illinois. J. H. TURNER, Secretary, Georgia. LAWRENCE McFARLAND, Secretary, New York. M. C. RANKIN, Treasurer, Terre Haute, Indiana.

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ODD LITTLE ISLE OF MAN.

Smaller Than Some American Ranches. It Has Home-Rule.

The Isle of Man is only thirty-three miles long and twelve wide, so that it is not great labor to get over it, says a correspondent of the Richmond Dispatch, and, as two railroads run—one North to South and the other East to West—you can see how convenient it is to the visitor. Douglas, Port Erin, Peel and Ramsey are the chief towns. The Isle of Man, while belonging to the British crown, is neither English, Scotch, Irish nor Welsh, but is a separate country, with a home-rule government and a language of its own, but yet with great loyalty to the imperial government and devotion to the sovereign, for everywhere you go you see pictures of the royal family. The government is known as the "house of keys" and consists of seven four members, elected every seven years; but no person has a vote unless he possesses real estate of the value of £40, or occupation of the value of £60 per year, and women are also entitled to vote. The court of Tynwald, presided over by the lieutenant governor, is composed of the council, which embraces the bishop, attorney general, two judges, the clerk of the rolls, water bailiff and the vicar general. This council and the house of keys are the active government of the great Isle of Man. There is one feature of special interest in reference to the laws, and that is that all laws passed by the house of keys are sent for the royal assent, and when that has been secured then the law must be formally read in the English and Manx languages on Tynwald hill in the open air, where the council and the keys united form a Tynwald court, before they become laws. This form of reading the law at Tynwald is the oldest style on record; was old in 1417 and has been continued ever since. The 5th day of July in each year is the day of public proclamation of the laws passed by the house of keys.

The coat of arms of this isle is three legs of a man in a circle. The motto, translated, reads: "Whithersoever thrown, I shall stand. The Manxmen apparently rather enjoy the three-legged crest, for everywhere you turn your face, whether at a steambath, a railroad, a coach, a flag or on the windows of the stores, there you see the three legs.

I had read of the Manx cats without tails and thought it a joke; but, sure enough, the cats here are without tails and I saw several without that graceful member. Some ladies of our party who had not seen the Manx cat were rather doubtful of the truth of our report and we had to accompany them to the house where the cat lived, and after a close examination came away believers in the tailless cat. I don't think pussy is improved by the absence of the tail. Some people say this strange act of nature extends to the dogs also.

The Manx language, like the ancient language of Ireland, is fast passing away, and in a generation it will be one of the dead languages, enjoyed only by scholars. I met an old woman on the side of a mountain selling milk, cakes and ginger ale, and after asking some questions about the locality I learned from her that the children were not learning the Manx language, and that only the middle-aged and old people spoke it. She said her children only spoke the English. I was anxious to get a book in Manx, but could not find one in the stores. The old woman referred to showed me an old bible in Manx, which I tried to buy, but she said no money could buy her bible. It had belonged to her father.

WOMAN'S WAYS.

Women have recently been appointed to clerkships in the bank of England, after passing preliminary examinations. Confidential Friend, rushing in—Oh, Madeline, the hour is long passed, and the bridegroom has not arrived. Madeline—Well, thank heaven, my dress got here!

Little Girl—Did you ever dream of being in heaven? Little Boy—No, not exactly; but I dreamed once that I was right in the middle of a big apple dumpling.

Old Gravelly—If you do not care to be my wife, perhaps the prospects of being a rich young widow might tempt you. Minnie, eagerly—Oh, Mr. Gravelly! If I were only sure I could trust you.

There are three women doctors—Alice Mitchell, Helen Knight and Frances G. Deane—now among the sanitary corps of the New York board of health, and it is agreed that the board is all the healthier for their work.

"You don't mean to say you gave living pictures at the church fair?" "O yes, We advertised them well, too, and the house was crowded." "What pictures did you give?" "O, just a lot of flower pieces. With living flowers, you know."

A widower at Rondout, N. Y., aged 60 years, was married a day or two ago to a woman of 2. As a romantic incident of this wedding, it is stated that the bride was first introduced to the groom by the latter's son, who at the time was in love with her.

Corean women carry the children on their backs like the Japanese, and their system is a simple one. The child rests on a strap of cloth, the ends of which go over the mother's shoulder and cross her breast; the child's legs cling around her waist.

"Now tell me what the trouble is," said a mother to her little girl whom she had been obliged to take out of church because of a violent fit of weeping. "He called me," said the child between her sobs, "a simple little cross-eyed thing." The child was cross-eyed, and the minister had just given out the hymn: "Simply to Thy Cross I cling."

There was a curious spectacle at a school election in Westchester county, N. Y., when a score of Italian women, most of them with a babe in one arm and a ticket in the unoccupied hand, marched to the polls and voted. An incident of the same election was the successful challenging of a minister's wife on the ground that she was childless and paid no rent. She and her husband occupy a parsonage provided by the congregation.

DON'TS OF DRESS.

Don't hold up silks and display rags. Don't wear a sailor hat with a silk dress. Don't use pins where stitches would do.

Don't wear striped material if you are tall. Don't wear tan shoes if you have big feet.

Don't wear a white petticoat unless it is white. Don't dress more fashionably than becomingly.

Don't imagine that beauty will atone for untidiness. Don't buy common boots—they are not economical.

Don't trim good material with common trimmings. Don't wear big sleeves and big hats if you are short.

Don't expect great bargains to turn out great savings. Don't jump into your clothes and expect to look dressed.

Don't dress your head at the expense of your hands and feet. Don't wear feathers in your hat and patches on your boots.

Don't achieve the grotesque while attempting the original. Don't pinch your waist. Fat, like murder, will out—somewhere.

Don't forget that dress was made for woman, not woman for dress. Don't put powder on your cheeks without looking in the glass afterward.

Don't forget that although veils are becoming to most faces, feet veiled in lace stockings do not look well in the street.

Don't emulate the ostrich; the new flower in your hat does not divert attention from the ragged condition of your skirt lining.

WOMEN VOTERS.

In Norway women have school suffrage. In Finland women vote for all elective officers.

In Sweden women vote for all elective officers except representatives. In Delaware suffrage is exercised by women in several municipalities.

Women have municipal suffrage in Cape Colony, which rules 1,000,000 square miles. Municipal woman suffrage rules in New Zealand, and at parliamentary elections also.

In the United States twenty-eight states and territories have given women some form of suffrage. Petitions are being circulated in South Australia asking that women be given the suffrage of both houses of parliament.

Iceland, in the North Atlantic, the Isle of Man (between England and Ireland), and P. teairn island, in the South Pacific have full woman suffrage.

In the Dominion of Canada women have municipal suffrage in every province and also in the Northwest territories. In Ontario they vote for all executive officers except in the election of members of the legislature and parliament.

New York's Jewels.

New York's public schools now teach nearly 237,000 children, and there is still a demand for new buildings to hold many more thousands.