

AN AMERICAN PARTY.

Patriotic Citizens of Chicago Form The Independent American Citizens' Party.

Declaration of Principles, Platform and Resolutions Adopted at a Mass Convention Held in Central Music Hall.

We believe the time has come when all who love our nation and its institutions and are true to its flag, in order to be faithful to their obligations as citizens, must take concerted action as a free and independent voting phalanx in the arena of politics, with a view to meet and defeat at the ballot box those who, by the aid of partisan combinations, have corrupted our municipal, state and national governments.

We believe that a crisis is upon us which threatens the overthrow of popular government; that a military ecclesiasticism such as marked the medieval ages, supported by the imperialism of dishonestly acquired wealth, has gained control of our political machinery and that it is being used for the aggrandizement of un-American institutions and to compel the recognition of the right of a foreign power to dictate our municipal, state and national politics.

Our flag, too, is dishonored at home and abroad and our institutions are attacked, our legislative bodies are corrupted, our courts of justice are intimidated and used to clear the guilty and condemn the righteous, our senators are made afraid, our representatives are coerced, our constitution undermined and might, not right, has become the predominating principle of the old political parties while that dangerous trinity foreign to true American citizenship, the arch enemy of freedom and good government—plunder, hypocrisy and sham—hold high carnival with public trusts and divert from constitutional channels an impoverished people's money.

ONLY TRUE AMERICANS WANTED. We believe the time has come when in order to meet the danger that threatens our institutions America should be ruled by those who by birth or honest adoption have become citizens and that none but those whose allegiance and devotion to our institutions, constitution and flag are paramount to all other human claims upon them should be trusted on guard.

We recognize the fact that there is an awakening abroad among honest citizens born of the spirit of patriotism which demands attention. Protection for American institutions, for the nation's flag and honor and for its educational system has become a living issue during the last few years, and as a consequence a loud and significant call is being made throughout the nation by people who have heretofore affiliated with the various political parties for a purification of political methods, for honest and wise legislation and for the faithful execution of the same when it has become law.

We believe the time has come when the American citizen who is true to the vital principles which underlie our system of government must break away from the political bossism and corrupting intrigue which control the two old parties in national, state and municipal politics. These parties, which in the beginning of their careers served to a certain extent the great mass of the American people, because they were controlled by honest and loyal men, have today become the dens in which congregate the political thieves and robbers who infest our national, state and municipal seats of government.

We believe that partisan politics is undermining our institutions to such an extent that the virtue and morality by which only popular government can subsist are no longer known quantities among party leaders. This, the very foundation of American liberty, is disappearing and the great governmental machine destined by the patriot fathers as a means by which our free and humane institutions should be perpetuated from generation to generation is being turned into an engine for their destruction and final overthrow under the control of unprincipled men whose ambition is greater than their patriotism. Nor is the condition less alarming when we take into consideration the fact that these men are backed by the criminal, vicious and illiterate elements of society, mostly under foreign influence, which form a voting contingent sufficiently strong to demand and receive recognition.

HOODWINKED BY BAD PROMISES. We believe that honest citizens, men who desire to perpetuate a government of the people, by the people and for the people, have been grossly deceived and hoodwinked from time to time by cunningly designed platforms and fair promises made by party leaders and manipulators, which platforms and promises have alike been ignored and forgotten when they were no longer needed as a vote-catching bait.

We believe that the time has come when, in justice to ourselves as true and independent American citizens and out of regard to the fathers of our institutions and with respect to the graves of the heroes who laid down their lives to protect them and preserve

us a nation and an unswerving flag, we should arise in our might as one man, casting off the chains of partisanship, and rebuke and punish the political wire-pullers, the treacherous ring bosses and professional hoodlers who run the partisan machines of both the democratic and republican parties for their criminal dishonesty, in the conducting of public affairs. And, further, that the parties which they have corrupted and demoralized should be relegated back into that oblivion from which they have sprung at the people's command. They have become the tools of a foreign and un-American balance of power which openly avows its purpose to be the overthrow of our liberties, and hence have ceased to be virtuous and moral channels through which the true citizen can exercise his franchise without the moral taint of treason. Furthermore, they have become instruments by which their respective bosses have by corrupt means perpetuated their power for official aggrandizement and dishonest gain. In them the people have been blindly led to endorse administrations and leaders who have betrayed the sacred trusts bestowed upon them, and who have catered to a dangerous and unconstitutional controlling power in whose interests legislation has taken place, to the neglect and damage of the true citizen.

EITHER PROTEST OR BECOME CRIMINAL. We believe that to longer suffer without organized protest political scoundrels to reward themselves for their treason to our institutions by the dishonest spoils of office would be to endanger our self-respect and destroy our American manhood. Our knowledge of partisan machine political maladministration compels us to either oppose and stand on guard or become partakers with the political criminals whose business is treason against the people's rights and liberties.

We believe the present to be the right time and Cook county the right place in which to raise a standard representing faith in American institutions, purity in municipal, state and national government and protection to the magna charta of American independence among the people, that they may gather about American principles and help to bring success to honest issues by exercising their voting franchises for the election of honest representative men, whose love of country is greater than their partisanship, men who are pledged to stand by our institutions and the principles which they involve, such men as would rat or suffer defeat than gain victory at the expense of liberty and by conniving at treason, men who are Americans by birth or honest adoption and whose franchise can neither be bought nor sold, representatives who will represent the American people and not a foreign prince.

We believe no standard will be more acceptable to the great mass of true American citizens who have in response to the call of patriotism thrown off partisan shackles and hoodwinks than that which bears a name which expresses the independence of the American voter, and that is the independent American citizen's party.

Platform.

CIVIL SERVICE. Civil service reform should be extended to all grades of public service—town, city, county, state and nation. Fitness and not partisan non-sectarian service should be the essential tests. Fidelity, efficiency and true Americanism the only sure tenures of office. The spoils system, by which lucrative offices are doled out as a reward for un-American and ecclesiastical support to political parties, is a dangerous enemy to our institutions and good government.

MONEY. Money should consist of gold, silver and greenbacks. All paper money should be issued by the government directly to the people in the form of national greenbacks and certificates of deposits issued from a system of postal savings banks, in sums of \$10 and upward, thus giving the people the same advantages now conferred by the government upon national banks. All moneys issued by the United States should be a full legal tender for all debts, both public and private. The purchasing or debt-paying powers of any dollar coined or issued by the United States should be made and kept the equivalent of that of any other dollar so coined or issued.

The issuing of interest-bearing bonds should be discontinued and bonds that are now out should be paid as fast as possible, and thus a system which increases the burdens of the people in the interests of the non-producing money owners be annulled in the interest of the investors of capital in commercial enterprises and industries.

IMMIGRATION. Our immigration law should be so changed and immigration restricted that it will protect our citizen laborers from the evil influence and unequal competition of pauper and criminal labor, which, through the instrumentality of European propagandist societies and the subtle assistance of their ecclesiastical agents here, are rapidly supplementing our free and enlightened American citizens in every line of industry, and by their illiteracy and the superstitious, un-American influence which control them are becoming a menace to our liberal institutions.

TRUSTS AND MONOPOLIES. The concentration of wealth in the hands of the few means the impoverishment of the many, and as a consequence their enslavement; therefore, the vigorous prosecution and abolition of all trusts now existing in violation of state and United States statutes is demanded, and the further suppression of all trusts and combines, such as the sugar trust, the cordage trust, oil trust, the whisky trust, etc., which are designed to enrich the few at the expense of the many, and which are in their nature and results, contrary to the spirit and genius of our national institutions, laws and government.

TARIFF. A tariff for protection, honestly administered, is necessary for the encouragement of our infant industries. That the cautious

financial results occasioned by the frequent partisan agitation and changes in the tariff may be avoided, there should be appointed a non-partisan commission on tariff composed of representatives from the different branches of business and labor, whose duty it shall be to regularly recommend to congress such changes in tariff laws as will preserve and protect the people in contentment and prosperity, and maintain the government, and thus take out of partisan politics this economic question which has no proper place there.

PUBLIC FUNDS.

Public funds, secured from the taxes and burdens bearing the heaviest upon the common people, are being diverted from their legitimate purposes and used for the corruption of political partisan voters and political machine organizations. By strong legislative action we should demand of our public officers, who are entrusted with the public funds, an honest and scrupulous care of the people's money and compel them to pay into the public treasury every dollar of interest earned on all such public funds. That all religious and sectarian conflicts between our citizens may be avoided and public funds be properly applied there should be no appropriation whatsoever of any public funds to any sectarian institution of any kind whatsoever, and all church property should bear its just proportions of taxation.

THE LABOR ISSUE.

Labor existed prior to capital, and is therefore independent of capital. The conflict between labor and capital will be closed only when labor emancipates itself from the rule of professional agitation and machine politicians. Capital and labor are absolutely necessary to each other. The rights of each will ultimately be best served by an honest ballot, and not by the aid of the bayonet. Capital is the fruit of labor, and its surest safeguard is in the loyalty of labor to its fruits. There should be a system of effective legislation which will insure by arbitration the rights of labor and capital alike and secure justice to employer and employee.

UNITED STATES SENATORS.

In order to conserve the rights of the people and insure a continuation of a government based upon the "Vox populi, vox Dei" sovereignty of the people and keep them in direct touch with the legislative department of government, United States senators should be elected by the direct vote of the people.

PUBLIC EDUCATION.

As the quality of a republican form of government is either good or bad according to the intelligence of its people we demand that all national, state and municipal non-sectarian public schools and institutions of learning shall be protected from all sectarian interference, and that no sectarian school or institute of learning shall at any time nor under any circumstances receive public money for their support, nor shall any sectarian school or institute of education be at any time declared a public school for the purpose of drawing public moneys.

PUBLIC CHARITIES.

We demand that all institutions of charity which receive public moneys must be non-sectarian and under the complete control of the nation or state, and that no sectarian institution of charity shall receive support by grants of public money or land or their equivalents.

CITIZENSHIP.

No foreigner coming to this country should become a citizen until he has had a continuous residence of not less than five years in the country, and has foregone his former allegiance to prince or potentate who claim temporal sovereignty, nor shall such naturalized foreigner be permitted to exercise the voting franchise until he can read in the legal language of the country the Constitution of the United States, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution of the state in which he resides.

COUNTY AND CITY.

The independent American citizen's party pledges itself that if its nominees are elected the gambling dens and cesspools of vice which have been permitted to run riot under the reign of both parties when in power, in defiance of law and public morality, will be suppressed so far as it lies in the power of the county officials so to do. We believe a law should be passed which would compel the recognition by the mayor and chief of police of the complaint of any ten reputable citizens who at any time may charge that unlawful business of a criminal and demoralizing character is being carried on within the city limits, and which would, in case the said officials refuse or neglect to investigate according to law such charges and if sustained shall take measures to abate such unlawful and criminal business be sufficient ground for an action in impeachment of either or both of said city officials.

Whereas, It is a fact that at several of the state conventions of the democratic party there have been resolutions adopted denouncing all secret political orders, and especially the American Protective Association, and thereby in fact declaring that they were opposed to all patriotic orders; and

Whereas, The populist party in convention assembled has also at different times and places, by resolutions or otherwise, declared itself opposed to such organizations as above mentioned; and

Whereas, Several leaders of the republican party have by public utterances expressed themselves as opposed to such organizations; and

Whereas, No political party, up to date, has in any way shown a disposition to defend such patriotic associations by word or act; be it therefore,

Resolved, That we, the Independent American citizens party in convention assembled, hereby indorse any and all patriotic associations, political or otherwise, which have any or all of the following sentiments embodied in their declaration of principles, to-wit:

Protection to our constitution and laws.

Protection of the stars and stripes. Protection to the free public school system of our nation; radical revision of the naturalization laws; restriction of emigration; absolute separation of church and state; no public funds for sectarian purposes and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be mailed by our secretary to each of the patriotic newspapers throughout the entire United States.

"No more cunning diot was ever devised against the freedom, the happiness, and the virtue of mankind, than Romanism."—Gladstone.

A TRAVELER'S EXPERIENCE.

The Telephone Got Mixed Up and it's Room Was Too Warm.

"When I was in Switzerland," said the returned traveler to a liet oil Free Press man, "I had an accident happen to me that almost caused my death. I was stopping at a hotel at the foot of a mountain, and one of the hottest nights I ever felt anywhere. I went to my room, and, opening up everything, I went to bed and to sleep, for I was dead tired after a long hard day's climb on the mountain. I don't know how long I slept, but for a long time before I woke I was dreaming that I had died and gone below and had struck the hottest place that locality had to offer. I rolled over in torment and squirmed and had, really, a devil of a time, but at last I came to my senses enough to get up and see what was the matter. Then I discovered that all my windows had been closed, a fire made in the big stove in the room and a foot thick of cover laid over me. I was so weak I could hardly stand when I first got out of that actual hotbed of Satan, but a few minutes at the window, which I opened, refreshed me very much, and as soon as I could I got down to the office. There I found a mild-mannered chap, and I am ready to bet he never got such a tongue lashing as I gave him before he had a chance to either apologize or fight. I knew he wouldn't fight, and after a while he began to explain. The first thing he said was to the effect that I ordered the fire and the extra cover, and then I went at him worse than ever. No doubt I would have sailed in and kicked him through a skylight, but my racket raised the proprietor, a very nice fellow, and he came out to see what the matter was. Well, it took a long time to get it straight, but it seems that the wire from the telephone in my room—the hotel was new and had all the latest wrinkles—had somehow got mixed up with a wire that led up to the other hotel on the mountain above the snow line, and that a guest up there in trying to telephone to his hotel chap that he was freezing to death and wanted fire and cover, and the whole business got on to my wire and my hotel chap had got the message, as he thought, from me, and thinking that Americans were semi-savage anyhow, forthwith sent a servant up to my room, hot as it was, with instructions to heat things up and give me plenty of cover, and by no means to disturb me or I'd kill somebody. Just what took place I don't know: all I know is that I didn't get over the effects of it for a month, and now I muzzle any telephone I catch in my room, I don't care where it leads to."

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I would as soon administer sacrament to a dog as to Catholics who send their children to public schools.—Father Walker.

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