

HILL'S POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES.

By Thomas E. Hill

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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 hiring 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 demonetized 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 overturned at once it forbodes 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 demonetization 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 planned 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-soldiers and sailors. Resolved, That we condemn the failure 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 Pityocracy, 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. TAUBENCK, Chairman, Marshall, Illinois. J. H. TURNER, Secretary, Georgia. LAWRENCE McFARLAND, Secretary, New York. M. C. RANKIN, Treasurer, Terre Haute, Indiana.

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THE FARM AND HOME.

A GOOD METHOD OF SETTING OUT STRAWBERRIES.

Plant the Variety That Succeeds Best in Your Neighborhood—Raising Calves by Hand—A Clean Udder—Farm Notes and Home Hints.

Setting Strawberries.

As each reader who contemplates setting berries is watching and gathering all the information possible, I will add my little mite, but shall in this article only give my plan of setting the strawberry after years of experimenting; but must say that the plan or mode adopted by me on my farm might not succeed on different soil. I find this especially so in the different one hundred and one varieties. A variety that succeeds best with me may not succeed with even my neighbor whose location and soil is different, and vice versa. In fact I find certain kinds do well with me on one part of my farm that will not give satisfactory results when grown on another part. It is true that we have a few varieties that will grow and bear fruit on almost any soil and under nearly all conditions.

I set more or less every spring, says a writer in the Journal of Agriculture; would not have them set in the fall if they were set free. I prepare my ground in the summer or fall by plowing deep and close and spreading a heavy coating of barn manure over it. In early spring, plow again and thoroughly harrow, pulverizing the soil as fine as possible; mark off the rows four feet apart with a light marker that will just make a mark that can be followed. I use no line—it is in the way. Neither do I cross-mark, as there are varieties that require to be set much closer in the row than others.

For setting I use no back-breaking dibbles or trowels, but a five-inch tilling spade. They are curved same as a post spade. My helper carries a bucket (candy bucket is best) with about two inches of water in it, with the plant setting in an upright position in the water. I carry the spade. We are now ready to commence operations, which is done by my sticking the spade in the soil, sending it down five or six inches with a very slight angle; push the handle forward which makes an opening behind the blade. While I am doing this, my help has reached his right hand in the bucket—which hangs on his left arm—and grasped a plant by the bud, pulls it out, gives it a little shake to straighten out the roots, drops it into the hole, letting his hand just touch the ground, and holds it there until I remove the spade, when the dirt will drop in and hold it until my "hind" foot presses the dirt while my "front" foot makes the next hole. In this manner, if we have the plants taken up, we can set a full acre in a day, and I find they are more apt to grow than to follow the tedious dibble plan, as advised by some.

If I am setting my own grown plants—which I do unless I am growing new varieties—I wait until the bloom just shows, and would rather wait until the bloom is open than to set too soon, always pinching the bloom bud off. I drive up a stake at the end of every row, with name of variety on it. I am thus enabled to keep my varieties pure and distinct, and when parties come or send after plants in my absence, there is no danger of mistake.

Raising Calves. The advantage of raising calves by hand, feeding them regularly, rather than allowing them to suck is that with proper arrangements for keeping the milk sweet, the cream can all be saved for butter-making and the calves be fed the skim milk. It is less trouble to feed the calves than to allow them to suck, and all of the trouble of weaning is avoided. For the first three or four days the calf can have all the milk, as during this period it is not fit for use.

Make it a rule to give the calf all the milk for nine milkings, night and morning, and then begin saving it with the tenth. Because the calf is allowed the whole milk at this time many prefer to let the calf suck and then teach it to feed afterwards. Others take off the calf at once, milk the cow and feed the calf the whole milk. It is less trouble to teach the calf to drink in this way; the cow is not so apt to hold up her milk, and she will not fret so much when her calf is taken away as she will if it is allowed to suck.

One good plan of feeding is to give whole milk for a week, and then lessen the quantity of skim milk, being sure that it is warm when fed. By decreasing the quantity of whole milk and increasing the quantity of skim milk the change can be made without any harm to the calf. A gallon of milk is enough for any ordinary calf. As skim milk is substituted for whole it is a good plan to add a quantity of oil meal. Take a tablespoonful of the oil meal and add a pint of boiling water. This converts it into a jelly. Stir it well into the gallon of milk, being sure to have it warm. It is important to feed regularly, both in the time of feeding and the quantity, and always to have the milk as warm as that which comes from the cow.

When the calves are a month old a little bran may be given. Sprinkle a little in a shallow trough and they will soon learn to eat it. As they get accustomed to eating, the quantity can be gradually increased. The feeding should always be such as is best calculated to maintain a steady growth and development.

A small pasture well seeded to

grass or clover will always be a much better place for growing calves during the summer than the dry lot, but care should be taken to have a comfortable shade.

If proper care is taken to feed liberally and regularly a skim-milk calf will make fully as good an animal for the dairy or for the market as one allowed to suck.—St. Louis Republic.

Feeding Wheat to Young Pigs.

I had a litter of eight pigs farrowed the 25th of April, half Chester White and half Poland China, says a correspondent of the National Stockman. They were fed some bran and slop with their mother until six weeks old, when they were weaned and weighed, averaging thirty-four pounds. I then began feeding wheat, soaked in water until it became soft. At first I fed six quarts a day at three feeds, increasing until I reached twelve quarts a day. I continued this until August 26, when they were weighed and six of them sold, the lot of eight averaging ninety-nine pounds, a gain of sixty-six pounds each, or a total gain of 520 pounds, during which time they ate nineteen and a half bushels of wheat. The two pigs kept were fed one quart each three times a day for four weeks, eating five and a half bushels of wheat when they weighed 115 pounds each, a gain of forty-six pounds in twenty-eight days, showing the best gain on the heavy feeding. Farmers, figure this for yourselves and see if it is not better than hauling your wheat to market.

A Clean Udder.

It has been often advised to wash the excrement off from a cow's udder that has soiled it by her lying in a dirty stable. That is perfectly commendable, but did you ever think that a dairyman who did not bed his cows down neatly to prevent any besoilment of this kind would be the last one to ever keep her teats clean when it did occur?

Cold weather ought not to make a cow's teats feel clammy and bloodless if she is kept in a comfortable stable, any more than it should make a man's hands proverbially cold who wears warm woolen mittens.—American Cultivator.

Farm Notes.

Hens that won't lay should be fattened and sold. Don't plant corn or other seed without testing their germinating power.

The oat crop is an expensive crop to grow. It takes a good deal from the soil. If a man sends second-class cattle to market he need not expect first-class prices.

The principal object in pruning is to let air and light freely into all parts of the top.

The inferior cabbage should be given to the hens. They relish the green food very much.

Slow growing trees or vines should be set on richer soil, and fast growing ones on the poorer ground.

Black raspberries will grow on any soil suitable for corn or potatoes, as they do not require an overrich soil.

Quince trees are ornamental in flower and fruit. They are sure bearers and the fruit is always marketable.

With some crops like onions, it is often best to use commercial fertilizers, in order to avoid the weed seeds in stable manures.

A writer thinks that to make sheep profitable, it is necessary to live in the immediate vicinity of the flock. Near enough to smell them at least twice a day.

Good clover hay is a splendid forage for any animal on the farm, from the hog to the horse. It goes a long way toward taking the place of ensilage or roots. But it does not quite fill the place.

Never attempt to button a glove until the hand is thoroughly fitted.

A law enacted in Germany requires that all drugs intended for internal use be put up in round bottles, while those for external use shall be put up in hexagonal bottles.

Chloride of lime is said to be an excellent means of ridding a place of rats and mice. Wherever it is sprinkled the pests will flee, for they have a strong aversion to it in any form. It is also a good disinfectant.

With a fillet of beef any of the following named preparations of vegetables may be used as a garnish: Potatoes a la Parisienne, peas, stuffed onions, stuffed tomatoes, mushrooms, fried sweet potatoes and Brussels sprouts.

The Philadelphia Record gives this simple remedy for bronchitis: Take the dried leaves of common mullein plant, powder them and smoke them in a new clay pipe; be careful that no tobacco has been in the pipe. Draw the smoke well into the throat, occasionally swallowing some. Use it three or four times daily. "Flank fat," says a Buffalo housekeeper, "is at once satisfactory and economical. It costs a few cents a pound, and when it is fried out is clear and beautiful to work with. For frying there is nothing better. It is far superior to butcher's lard. It is even satisfactory for cake in place of butter, and nine out of ten people would never know the difference."

ACROSS THE OCEAN.

The first shipment of iron ore from the United States to Europe was made in 1608.

In Peru the cotton plant grows to be a tree, and is in bearing from twenty-five to fifty years.

Ambergris, very valuable for making perfumery, is taken from diseased sperm whales, and sometimes sells for \$10 an ounce.

Cast-iron blocks are being tried in some of the most frequented streets of Paris, instead of the granite blocks usually placed alongside tramway rails.

The Prussian government expends over \$50,000 a year in support of the laboratories connected with the medical department of the university of Berlin. This is exclusive of the salaries paid to professors.

Amateur photography is pursued under difficulties in Russia. One has to have a license, and even then if he is so careless as to take a view near a fortress he stands a good chance of talking a trip to Siberia.

The unrolling of an Egyptian mummy, supposed to be that of a princess, disclosed a curious cheat. The priests who did the embalming probably spoiled or mislaid the body entrusted to them and for it substituted that of an ordinary negro man.

The new Koch treatment for diphtheria by inoculation of blood serum is being tried at the Vienna children's hospital upon all patients who have been given up, with a measure of success. The remedy is as yet too expensive for general hospital treatment.

The government of Madrid has made a movement toward the formation of an association of wine exporters to introduce into this country such Spanish wines as will find sale. It has, in addition, promised financial support, possibly in the way of a bounty on all goods shipped to the United States.

The trans-Siberian railway, which is to be the longest in the world, has now been opened as far as Omsk, and one may go there from St. Petersburg, 3,200 miles, in less than five days. The difficulties encountered have been prodigious, and in draining a bog sixty miles wide engineers and men had to live in huts built on piles and accessible only in boats. Four thousand masks were bought to keep off the venomous mosquitoes.

INTERESTING INCIDENTS.

George Robinson of Louisville, Ky., has endowed the Shenandoah Valley academy at Winchester, Va., with \$10,000.

One of the largest eggs, probably ever laid by a Plymouth Rock hen, comes from the henery of O. W. Hill at Wilmington. It weighs half a pound and measures 7 1/2 by 6 1/2 inches.

The Salvation army is being boycotted in Finland. So strictly is this being carried out that any mention of the army in print, or any advertisement bearing on the movement, is sufficient to cause an entire issue of a newspaper to be canceled.

The costliest fur in the markets of the world is that of the sea otter, and it is year by year becoming more expensive. At the last London spring sales one of these beautiful skins brought \$210, and yet the size of it was only six feet long by two feet wide.

In Randolph township, Crawford county, Pa., at a sheriff's sale, a span of good work horses sold for thirty cents, a good top buggy for fifteen cents, a wagon brought \$6, a 125-pound pig brought two cents a pound and three chickens sold for ten cents each.

Miss Adde found a burglar in her room in Orange, N. J., and when she quickly placed herself in the doorway he drew a revolver, which she took away from him, and if he hadn't slid out of his coat, which she grasped by the collar, he would quickly have been in the hands of the police.

The doctors of the University medical college, New York, are mystified over the finding of a metal tube nine inches long and three-eighths of an inch in diameter which they found embedded in the leg of a "subject," that was being dissected. Dr. Ford is sure it couldn't have been a drainage pipe.

ALL SORTS.

Nearly one-third of the people in Chicago live in tenement houses.

An English express engine consumes ten gallons of water a mile.

A nugget of tin weighing 5,400 pounds has been found in Tasmania.

In Russia it was once the common belief that beardless men were soulless.

The army of Bolivia costs the people of that impoverished country \$1,800,000 a year.

A bridge over the Melo rapids in Bohemia is 636 1/2 feet above the surface of the water and 10,000 feet above the level of the sea.

The very latest astronomical works catalogue between 0 and 7,000 "double stars." When "schel made his initial observations only four were known.

The Eastern hemisphere, on which dwell ninety-two per cent of the population of the world, has 170,792 miles of railroad or forty-six per cent of all railroads.

The practice of employing women as advertising solicitors by the agencies and class periodicals is growing, as the women have proved quite as capable as the men in this field.

Sweden is the most Protestant country in the world. Out of a population of 6,000,000, but 2,000 are Roman Catholics. The remainder belong almost exclusively to the Lutheran church.