REPUBLICAN NATIONAL PLATFORM

Adopted at St. Louis, June 18, 1896.

The Republicans of the United States, assembled by their representatives in national convention, appealing for the popular and historical justification of their claims to the matchless achievements of 30 years of Republican rule, earnestly and confidently address themselves to the awakened intelligence, experience and conscience of their countrymen in the following declaration of facts and principles:

For the first time since the civil war the American people have witnessed the calamitous consequences of full and unrestricted Democratic control of the government. It has been a record of unparalelled dishonesty, dishonor and disaster. In the administrative management it has ruthlessly sacrificed indispensable revenue, curtailed an unceasing deficit, eked out ordinary current expenses with borrowed money, piled up the public debt by $262,000,000 in time of peace, forced an adverse balance of trade, kept a perpetual menace hanging over the redemption fund, pawned American credit to alien syndicates and reversed all the measures and results of successful Republican rule. In the broad effect of its policy it has precipitated panic, blighted industry and trade with prolonged depression, closed factories, reduced work and wages, halted enterprise and crippled American production, while stimulating foreign production for the American market. Every consideration of public safety and private interest demands that the government shall be rescued from the hands of those who have shown themselves incapable of conducting it without disaster at home and dishonor abroad, and shall be restored to the party which for 30 years administered it with unequaled success and prosperity. And in this we heartily endorse the wisdom, patriotism and the success of the administration of President Harrison.

Devoted to Protection.

We renew and emphasize our adhesion to the policy of protection as the bulwark of American independence and the foundation of American industrial development and prosperity. This true American policy taxes foreign products and encourages home industry and it puts the burden of revenue on foreign goods; it secures the American market for the American producers; it upholds the American standard of wages for the American workingman; it puts the factory by the side of the farm and makes the American farmer less dependent on foreign demand and price; it diffuses general thrift and founds the strength of all on the strength of each. In its responsible application it is just, fair and impartial, equally opposed to foreign control and domestic monopoly to sectional discrimination and individual favoritism.

We denounce the present Democratic tariff as sectional, injurious to the public credit and destructive to business enterprise. We demand such an equitable tariff on foreign imports which come into competition with American products, as will not only furnish adequate revenue for the necessary expenses of the government but will protect American labor from degradation to the wage level of other lands. We are not pledged to any particular schedule. The question of rates is a practical question to be governed by the conditions of the time and of production. The ruling and uncompromising principle is the protection and development of American labor and industry. The country demands a right settlement and then it wants rest.

We believe the repeal of the reciprocity arrangements negotiated by the last Republican administration was a national calamity, and we demand their renewal and extension on such terms as will equalize our trade with other nations, remove the restrictions that now obstruct the sale of American products in the ports of Europe and secure new markets for the products of our farms, forests and factories.

Protection and reciprocity are twin measures of Republican policy and go hand in hand. Democratic rule has recklessly struck down both, and both must be re established. Protection for what we produce; free admission for the necessaries of life which we do not produce; reciprocal agreements of mutual interests which gain open markets for us in return for our open markets to others. Protection builds up domestic industry and trade and secures our own market for ourselves; reciprocity builds up foreign trade and finds an outlet for our surplus.

To all our products, to those of the mine and the field, as well as those of the shop and the factory—to hemp, to wool, the product of the great industry, sheep husbandry, as well as to the finished woolens of the mill—we promise the most ample protection.

We favor restoring the early American policy of discriminating duties for the upbuilding of our merchant marine and the protection of our shipping interests in the foreign carrying trade, so American ships—the product of American labor, employed in American shipyards, sailing under the stars and stripes and manned, officered and owned by Americans—may regain the carrying of our foreign commerce.

The Financial Plank.

The Republican party is unreservedly for sound money. It caused the enactment of the law providing for the resumption of specie payments in 1879, since then every dollar has been as good as gold.

We are unalterably opposed to every measure calculated to debase our currency or impair the credit of our country. We are, therefore, opposed to the free coinage of silver, except by international agreement with the leading commercial nations of the world, which we pledge ourselves to promote, and until such agreement can be obtained, the existing gold standard must be preserved. All our silver and paper currency must be maintained at a parity with gold, and we favor all measures designed to maintain inviolably the obligations of the United States and all our money, whether coin or paper, at the present standard, the standard of the most enlightened nations of the earth.

We condemn the present administration for not keeping faith with sugar producers of this country; the Republican party favors such protection as will lead to production on American soil of all the sugar which American people use, and for which they pay to other countries more than $100,000,000 annually.

The veterans of the Union army deserve and should receive fair treatment and generous recognition. Whenever practicable, they should be given the preference in the matter of employment, and they are entitled to the enactment of such laws as are best calculated to secure the fulfillment of the pledges made to them in the dark days of the country's peril. We denounce the practice in the pensions bureau, so recklessly and unjustly carried on by the present administration of reducing pensions and arbitrarily dropping names from the rolls, as deserving of the severest condemnation of the American people.

Foreign Relations.

Our foreign policy should be at all times vigorous and dignified, and all our interests in the western hemisphere carefully watched and guarded. The Hawaiian islands should be controlled by the United States, and no foreign power should be permitted to interfere with them; the Nicaragua canal should be built, owned and operated by the United States, and by the purchase of the Danish islands we should secure the proper and much needed naval station in the West Indies.

The massacres in Armenia have aroused the deep sympathy and just indignation of the American people, and we believe the United States should exercise all the influence it can properly exert to bring these atrocities to an end. In Turkey American residents have been exposed to the greatest dangers and American property destroyed. There and everywhere American citizens and American property must be absolutely protected at all hazards and at any cost.

Monroe Doctrine.

We reassert the Monroe doctrine in its fullest extent, and we reaffirm the right of the United States to give the doctrine by responding to the appeals of any American state for friendly interventio in case of European encroachment. W have not interfered and shall not inte fere with the existing possessions of a European power in this hemisphere, t those possessions must not, on any p text, be extended. We hopefully look ward to the eventual withdrawal of European powers from this hemisph and to the ultimate union of all Eng speaking parts of the continent by free consent of its inhabitants.

From the hour of achieving their own independence the people of the Unit States have regarded with sympathy the struggles of other American peoples to free themselves from European domination. We watch with deep and abiding interest the heroic battle of the Cuban patriots against cruelty and oppression, and our best hopes go out for the full success of their determined contest for liberty. The government of Spain, having lost control of Cuba, and being unable to protect the property or lives of resident American citizens, or to comply with its treaty obligations, we believe the government of the United States should actively use its influence and good offices to restore peace and give independence to the island.

The peace and security of the republic and the maintenance of its rightful influence among the nations of the earth demand a naval power commensurate with its position and responsibility. We, therefore, favor the continued enlargement of the navy and a complete system of harbor and sea coast defenses.

Foreign Immigration.

For the protection of the equality of our American citizenship and of the wages of our workingmen against the fatal competition of low priced labor, we demand that the immigration laws be thoroughly enforced and so extended as to exclude from entrance to the United States those who can neither read nor write.

The civil service law was placed on the statute book by the Republican party, which has always sustained it, and we renew our repeated declarations that it shall be thoroughly and honestly enforced and extended wherever practicable.

We demand that every citizen of the United States shall be allowed to cast one free and unrestricted ballot, and that such ballot shall be counted and returned as cast.

We proclaim our unqualified condemnation of the uncivilized and barbarous practice, well known as lynching, or killing of human beings suspected or charged with crime, without process of law.

National Arbitration.

We favor the creation of a national board of arbitration to settle and adjust differences which may arise between employers and employed engaged in interstate commerce.

We believe in an immediate return to the free homestead policy of the Republican party, and urge the passage by congress of the satisfactory free homestead measure, which has already passed the house, and is now pending in the senate.

We favor the admission of the remaining territories at the earliest practicable date, having due regard to the interests of the people of the territories and of the United States. All the federal officers appointed for the territories should be elected from bona fide residents thereof, and the right of self government should be accorded as far as practicable. We believe the citizens of Alaska should have representation in the congress of the United States to the end that needful legislation should be enacted.

We sympathize with all wise and legitimate efforts to lessen and prevent the evils of intemperance and promote morality.

Rights of Women.

The Republican party is mindful of the rights of women. Protection of American industries includes equal opportunities, equal pay for equal work, and protection to the home. We favor the admission of women to wider spheres of usefulness, and welcome their co-operation in rescuing the country from Democratic and Populistic mismanagement and misrule.

Such are the principles and policies of the Republican party. By these policies we will abide and these policies we will put into execution. We ask for them the considerate judgment of the American people. Confident alike in the history of our great party and in the justice of our cause, we present our platform and our candidates in the full assurance that the election will bring victory to the Republican party and prosperity to the people of the United States.

German Army Impresses Chang.

BERLIN, June 18.—It is said that Li Hung Chang, after a review of the troops at Potsdam, exclaimed to Emperor William: "With these battalions I would have annihilated the Japanese at one stroke." In an interview Li Hung Chang denied that there was a secret treaty between China and Russia, but he admitted that a Russian railway would be built through Manchuria, though it would not impair the Chinese sovereignty.

Fremont Man Hurt In New York.

NEW YORK, June 18.—L. P. Hanson, member of the city council of Fremont, Neb., fell from the fourth story window of the Hotel Denmark today and sustained a fracture of the base of the skull and several lacerated wounds in the face. His condition is regarded as very serious.

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL PLATFORM

The platform, as below, was reported by the committee, and is subject to change by the convention:

We, the Democrats of the United States, in convention assembled, do reaffirm our allegiance to those great essential principles of justice and liberty upon which our institutions are founded and which the Democratic party has advocated from Jefferson's time to our own, freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of conscience, the preservation of personal rights, the equality of all citizens before the law and the faithful observance of constitutional limitations.

During all these years the Democratic party has resisted the tendency of selfish interests to the centralization of governmental power and steadfastly maintained the integrity of the dual scheme of government as established by the founders of this republic of republics. Under its guidance and teachings the great principle of local self-government has found its best expression in the maintenance of the rights of the states and its assertion of the necessity of confining the general government to the exercise of the powers granted by the constitution of the United States.

Recognizing that the money system is paramount to all others at this time, we invite attention to the fact that the federal constitution names silver and gold together as the money metals of the United States and that the first coinage law passed by congress under the constitution made the silver dollar the monetary unit and admitted gold to free coinage at a ratio based upon the silver unit.

We declare that the act of 1873 demonetizing silver without the knowledge or approval of the American people has resulted in the appreciation of gold and a corresponding fall in the prices of commodities produced by the people, a heavy increase in the burden of taxation and of all debts, public and private, the enrichment of the money lending class at home and abroad, prostration of industries and impoverishment of the people.

We are unalterably opposed to monometallism, which has locked fast the prosperity of an industrious people in the paralysis of hard times. Gold monometallism is a British policy, and its adoption has brought other nations into financial servitude to London. It is not only unamerican, but antiamerican, and it can be fastened upon the United States only by the stifling of that spirit and love of liberty, which proclaimed our political independence in 1776 and was won in the war of the revolution.

We demand the free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1, without waiting for the aid or consent of any other nation. We demand that the standard silver dollar shall be full legal tender, equally with gold for all debts, public and private, and we favor such legislation as will prevent for the future the demonetization of any kind of legal tender money by private contract. We are opposed to the policy and practice of surrendering to the holders of the obligations of the United States the option reserved by law to the government of redeeming such obligations in either silver coin or gold coin. We are opposed to the issuing of interest bearing bonds of the United States in times of peace, and condemn the trafficking with banking syndicates, which in exchanging for bonds and at an enormous profit to themselves, supply the federal treasury with gold to maintain the policy of the gold monometallism. Congress alone has the power to coin and issue money and President Jackson declared that this power could not be delegated to corporations or individuals. We therefore demand that the power to issue notes to circulate as money be taken from the banks and that all paper money shall be issued directly by the treasury department, be redeemable in coin and receivable for all debts, public and private.

We hold that tariff duties should be levied for purposes of revenue, such duties to be readjusted as to operate equally throughout the country and not discriminate between class or section and taxations should be limited by the needs of government honestly and economically administered. We denounce as disturbing to business the Republican threat to restore the McKinley law, which has been twice condemned by the people in national elections, and which, enacted under the false plea of protection to home industry, proved a prolific breeder of trusts and monopolies, enriched the few at the expense of the many, restricted trade and deprived the producers of the great American staples of access to their natural markets. Until the money question is settled, we are opposed to any agitation for further changes in our tariff laws except such as are necessary to make up the deficit in revenue caused by the adverse decision of the supreme court on the income tax. But for this decision of the supreme court there would be no deficit in the revenue under the law passed by a Democratic congress in strict pursuance of the uniform decisions of that court for nearly 100 years, that court having under that decision sustained constitutional objections to its enactment which has been overruled by the ablest judges who have ever sat on that bench. We declare that it is the duty of congress to use all the constitutional power which remains after that decision, or which may come from its reversal by the court as it may hereafter be constituted, so that the burdens of taxation may equally and impartially lead to the end that wealth may bear its due proportion of the expenses of the governme

We hold that the most efficient way protecting American labor is to prevent t importation of foreign pauper labor to co pete with it in the home market and tha the value of the home market to our American farmers and artisans is greatly duced by a vicious monetary system wh depresses the prices of their products low the cost of production and thus prives them of the means of purchas the products of our home manufactori

The absorption of wealth by the few, the consolidation of our leading railway systems and the formation of trusts and pools require a stricter control by the federal government of those arteries of commerce. We demand the enlargement of the powers of the interstate commerce commission and such restrictions and guarantees in the control of railroads as will protect the people from robbery and oppression.

We denounce the profligate waste of the money wrung from the people by oppressive taxation and the lavish appropriations of recent Republican congresses, which have kept taxes high while the labor that pays them is unemployed and the products of the people's toil are depressed in price till they no longer repay the cost of production. We demand a return to that simplicity and economy which befits a Democratic government, and a reduction in the number of useless offices, the salaries of which drain the substance of the people.

We denounce arbitrary interference by federal authorities in local affairs as a violation of the constitution of the United States and a crime against free institutions, and we especially object to government by injunction as a new and highly dangerous form of oppression by which federal judges in contempt of the laws of the state and rights of citizens become at once legislators, judges and executioners, and we approve the bill passed at the last session of the senate of the United States, and now pending in the house, relating to contempts in federal courts and providing for trials by juries in certain cases of contempt.

No discrimination should be indulged in by the government of the United States in favor of any of its debtors. We approve of the refusal of the Fifty-third congress to pass the Pacific railroad funding bill, and denounce the effort of the present congress to enact a similar measure.

Recognizing the just claims of deserving Union soldiers, we heartily indorse the rule of the present commissioner of pensions that no names shall be arbitrarily dropped from the pension roll, and the fact of enlistment and service should be deemed conclusive evidence against disease and disability before enlistment.

We favor the admission of the territories of New Mexico and Arizona into the Union as states and we favor the early admission of all the territories having the necessary population and resources to entitle them to statehood, and while they remain territories we hold that the officials appointed to administer the government of any territory, together with the District of Columbia and Alaska, should be bona fide residents of the territory or district in which their duties are to be performed. The Democratic party believes in home rule and that public lands of the United States should be appropriated to the establishment of free homes for American citizens. We recommend that the territory of Alaska be granted a delegate in congress and that the general land and timber laws of the United States be extended to said territory.

We extend our sympathy to the people of Cuba in their heroic struggle for liberty and independence.

We are opposed to life tenure in the public service. We favor appointments based upon merits, fixed terms of office and such an administration of the civil service laws as will afford equal opportunities to all citizens of ascertained fitness.

We declare it to be the unwritten law of this republic, established by custom and usage of 100 years and sanctioned by the examples of the greatest and wisest of those who founded and have maintained our government, that no man shall be eligible for a third term of the presidential office.

The federal government should care for and improve the Mississippi river and other great waterways of the republic so as to secure for the interior states easy and cheap transportation to tide water. When any waterway of the republic is of sufficient importance to demand aid of the government, such aid should be extended upon a definite plan of continuous work until permanent improvement is secured.

Confident in the justice of our cause and the necessity of its success at the polls, we submit the foregoing declaration of principles and purposes to the considerate judgment of the American people. We invite the support of all citizens who approve them and who desire to have them made effective through legislation for the benefit of the people and the restoration of the country's prosperity.

DRUGS FOR THE MILLION.

Interesting Scenes in the Wholesale District of Gotham.

There is one dingy spot in the great city where the products of the entire globe are brought together, says a New York letter in the Pittsburg Dispatch. It is the wholesale drug district and Gold street is its artery. Gold street is narrow and busy and illpaved. It leads from Fulton street into a network of dingy streets that are never crowded, save now and then with wagons. The network of narrow, crooked and seeminly decayed streets is one of the busiest in town. It is here that the wholesale drug trade centers. Spacious drug-shops uptown seem to contain enough medicines to kill and cure the whole town, but there is scarcely one of them that upon unusual demand for the commonest drug would not have to draw upon the wholesale district. You find in that downtown network of shabby streets almost everything in the materia medica in crude form or prepared. The region is redolent of spicery and reeking with opium and assafoetida. It has samples in bales, pills by the barrel and the cheap drugs by the ton. There are casks of liquids so precious that they must be dealt out at retail by the drop to save waste. There is the potable gold of the old chemists, and there are essential oils at fabulous prices per ounce.

The wholesale drug region seems to bring together the ends of the earth. It does bring together the agents of houses the country over. Every concern that distills helpful agents from plants or compresses long prescriptions into tiny tablets or grinds quinine or refines crudities or prepares standard drugs by special processes must have an office in this maze. You smell the gardens of Asia at the door, see gums from Soudan at the next window, and buy dried plants from Australia across the way. The man on the fourth floor will supply 100 barrels of epsom salts, and his neighbor owns half a ton of cough drops. The frequenters of this strange region are teamsters, messengers, from the drug stores uptown, clerks, drug manufacturers and wholesalers, and persons of kindred occupations. The stranger to the trade occasionally strays in, who finds dead and quiet streets much of the time. The older houses take pleasure in signs that threaten to fall apart, any many boards bear inscriptions that convey nothing to the lay mind. Noontime, finds a bit of unwonted commotion in the streets, when men are hurrying out to luncheon. There are moments, too, when a line of teams block the narrow streets, encroaches on the sidewalks, and explains the worn appearance of the curbstones. There is scarce a new tall building in all the region. Nightfall finds shutters closed, lights out, and the streets silent and deserted. All who doubt the old saw about competition being the life of trade should take a peep at Gold street and its shabbier neighbors.

High Postage.

In 1831 a public meeting was held at South Shields at which it was resolved to ask parliament for two representatives, in view of the new reform bill. One of these was sent to the marquis of Cleveland, the lord lieutenant, for presentation to the house of lords. This petition seems to have been above the statutory weight and in consequence a surcharge of £6 5s 8d postage was demanded by the postal authorities. The marquis of Cleveland's letter relating to this is now before me and is as follows:

"Newton House, Feb. 11.—Sir: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter and petition, which I will attend to toward the end of this month. I must remark that £6 5s 8d is charged postage, which I hope to recover or must apply (sic) to you for the same. I remain, sir, your very obedient servant

"CLEVELAND."

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