

sult in a long era of good will between the United States and Germany and that the German emperor may some day send over a representative whose own achievements will enable the American people to do honor to him without giving cause for the suspicion that there is any departure from democratic simplicity and democratic ideals.

A Model Platform.

Below will be found a platform recently adopted by the democratic convention of Johnstown, Pa. As it deals with questions which are likely to come up in all cities, and clearly and explicitly applies democratic principles to the questions dealt with, it is presented below for the information and instruction of the readers of The Commoner.

Mr. Warren Worth Bailey, editor and proprietor of the Johnstown Democrat, is gaining quite a reputation as a platform writer. His style is strong, his principles are democratic and his sympathies are on the side of the people in their struggle to secure just government. The platform reads:

We hereby pledge the ticket this day nominated for the February election to the following:

First.—To the support of the principle of the equal taxation of all property subject to taxation. We especially denounce the taxation of homes and industry higher than unimproved property held out of use for speculative purposes. There should be no fines upon industry or upon the building of homes.

Second.—To the advancement of the principle that franchises are to be considered as real estate values and taxed for local purposes as such. We denounce the granting of free franchises for any period long or short, and no franchise should be granted for a period longer than 21 years.

Third.—To the principle of local option in taxation. We hold that each community should be permitted to raise its public revenues in its own way; and we point to the fact that this principle received the indorsement of the national tax conference held at Buffalo last May.

Fourth.—To the economic and efficient administration of city affairs. We especially condemn the wanton ripping up of streets and pledge ourselves to stop it.

Fifth.—To the protection of the rights of the public in its own property. We denounce river stealing and pledge ourselves to support all efforts to prevent encroachments of this kind.

Sixth.—To the improvement of the public grounds. We believe The Point should be made the beauty spot of the city and we commend the suggestion that the city should acquire a suitable location for a public park adequate to the needs of a growing city.

Seventh.—To promote the abolition of all toll bridges within the city and to oppose the erection of any other. All bridges should be absolutely free to the public.

Eighth.—To the better protection of human life. We pledge ourselves to do all that can be done to abolish grade crossings and otherwise to safe-guard the public.

Ninth.—To the principle of the state's reserved right to regulate the tolls of public service monopolies. Under the law it is within the power of the municipality thus to protect its citizens from extortion.

The democracy of Johnstown believes in equal rights to all and special privileges to none and it hereby pledges itself to the people to do all in its power to promote good government along the lines of equal freedom. And it invites the co-operation of all citizens to the advancement of these common interests through the election of its candidates.

The Buzzard and the Bee.

The buzzard has a strong beak, a capacious stomach and a ravenous appetite. It sometimes soars in graceful circles above the haunts of men, but it is always looking for something to eat. Its eye is sharp and its scent is keen, but all its energies are employed in procuring food—and it is not very discriminating in its taste. In fact, it revels in carrion while it lives and when it dies

leaves nothing but a foul odor to remind the world of its existence.

The bee has an instinct for sweetness; it communes daily with buds and blossoms and lives amid the perfume of the flowers. It sets an example of industry, patience and frugality; it fares well, but in addition to making its own living it leaves a storehouse full of honey to testify to its activity.

Among human beings there are some who resemble the buzzard and some who are like the bee. Some make no other use of their faculties than to search constantly for food and drink. They live in the dining room and, ignoring all appeals addressed to the head or heart, keep close to the flesh pots.

There are others—and may the swarm increase—who find pleasure in useful toil and recreation in helpfulness; they extract good from life, but they leave as a legacy to posterity more of the good than they themselves consume. Such enjoy life and add to the enjoyment of both those who live with them and those who live after them.

The buzzard must be a buzzard and the bee must be a bee—this is fate, but man is free to choose which he will imitate.

A Recruit.

The Chicago Record-Herald, a republican paper with independent leanings, has joined with the democrats in demanding the passage of a resolution declaring the nation's purpose in regard to the Philippines. In discussing General Chaffee's demand for more soldiers, it says:

IS IT NOT TIME THE REPUBLICAN PARTY DECLARED WHAT IT INTENDS TO DO WITH THE PHILIPPINES WHEN THE INSURRECTION IS OVER? PERHAPS THIS WOULD DO MORE TO END IT THAN THE INCREASE IN THE ARMY CHAFFEE CALLS FOR.

The Record-Herald is not fully persuaded that we should promise ultimate independence, but it will reach that conclusion before any resolution is passed, for no party will dare to declare any other purpose. If the Filipinos are promised ultimate independence the war will stop and the rest will be easy. If, on the other hand, we declare that we are going to keep the islands forever we must condemn them to colonialism or promise them a territorial form of government now and statehood hereafter. The republicans are not prepared to defend either plan. Therefore we must promise independence or nothing. The Record-Herald will be welcomed as a recruit because the logical effect of its editorial is to support the democratic plan of treating the Filipinos as we promised to treat the Cubans.

Under the British Heel.

A London cablegram to the New York World says that the British government is to have a free hand for its war policy at this session of parliament. According to this dispatch:

The ministerialists, except the few who have been in South Africa and appreciate the situation there, are for remorselessly grinding the Boers under the British heel. Colonial Secretary Chamberlain's diplomatic pretenses of magnanimity to the Boers were received by his followers in sullen silence, while every reference to rigorous measures was cheered with an enthusiasm proportionate to its ruthlessness.

No one doubts the willingness of the ministerialists to "remorselessly grind the Boers under the British heel," but may it not be necessary to enlarge the heel?

James Bryce, the famous English historian, refers to the "probable loss of South Africa to Britain." Mr. Bryce had been asked to participate in a movement to raise money in London to endow a chair of history in a proposed South African college. Replying to this request, Mr. Bryce said:

"It seems almost a mockery in the frightful state of things in South Africa, with martial law everywhere, all interest in education paralyzed, the people unable to move from place to place, an intensity of passion aroused which threatens bitterness for generations to come, and the probable loss of South Africa to Britain, to go on the platform with smooth generalities about history—a history which has not saved us from repeating the blunders of 1775—and the dulcet notes of peace where there is no peace."

Men like James Bryce are not apt to engage in mockeries in the presence of the "frightful state of things in South Africa." Where there is no peace men like James Bryce cannot be depended upon to "sound the dulcet notes of peace," and men like James Bryce, because of their genuine patriotism, their love of humanity, their sincerity and their candor have a mission to fulfill that, when fulfilled, will result in large benefits to civilization.

The Truth Becoming Known.

Little by little the truth concerning the Philippines is leaking out. Walter Wellman, the Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record-Herald, says:

Army officers write letters home saying that the efforts to establish Filipino governments are farcical, and that nothing but the strong arm of the military enables them to stand for a moment. It is known that there is friction between General Chaffee and the Taft commission, and Secretary Root's tact and diplomacy are exercised almost constantly in averting trouble. General Chaffee is angry at the suggestion of reducing his force. On the other hand, the commission, in defense of its own efforts to establish government by peaceful means and moral suasion, is advising that the power of the military be gradually curtailed.

Governor Taft declares that 15,000 soldiers are all that will be needed in the entire archipelago. General Wheaton, however, says that 50,000 soldiers will be needed for many years to come. Mr. Wellman says that an army officer of high reputation has written a letter to a friend in Washington saying:

"Take the records of the civil commission with a big grain of salt. They are made for political reading. Taft and Wright are very nice men, and it is with no ill-feeling for them that I say a civil government is a farce and exists only in places occupied by the military. Where there are no soldiers no foreigners can live or go in safety. The islands are not pacified. The people do not want us."

"I have been stationed in one of the quietest provinces in the islands, and yet the most cordial sentiment I ever heard expressed was that the United States would remain in control four or five years until the people had learned something of civil government, and then get out and place them under our protection only. Generally, they want us to get out now, and where there is submission it is because of personal helpfulness."

Democratic senators are armed with a good deal of this sort of ammunition. That the republicans are worried over the situation is apparent. Senator Lodge is sharply criticised for having proposed a public investigation, as it gives the democrats the very opportunity they have been waiting for. The defense, of course, is that the country is entitled to the truth, no matter what that truth is.

It must be apparent to everyone by this time that the situation in the Philippines has been grossly misrepresented, not only by republican newspapers, but by republican officials. The people are becoming restless for the facts. Even the most stalwart republican cannot take kindly to the policy which the administration has carried on with respect to our new possessions. And now that it is generally admitted that the people have been deliberately and persistently deceived, there are indications that a strenuous demand will be made for the facts. It is to be hoped that the democrats in congress will insist upon the truth being given to the public, and it cannot be doubted that when all the truth becomes known, the overwhelming majority of the American people will rise up in protest against the un-American policy which the republican party has foisted upon this government.