

Oldest Collection of Moral Maxims.

The Presse-Papyrus, recently found in the tombs of Egypt, has now been translated by the famous French Egyptologist, Philippe Vivey, who gives some interesting data as to its character and contents. The document was originally found in Thebes, and was written about 2600 B. C., being the oldest collection of moral maxims known. The first two pages are the product of the Prefect Kakimma, who lived under the reign of King Senoforus, of the third dynasty (3900 B. C.). The second and larger portion, consisting of sixteen pages, is the work of the Prefect Ptah-ho-ter, who lived in the days of King Assas, of the fifth dynasty (3500 B. C.). This man had attained to all the honors that his royal master could bestow upon him, and in his old age he prepared this book of practical wisdom and philosophy, primarily for his own son, but also for readers in general. From the translation as found in the Berlin Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung we reproduce the following specimens of this ancient sage's wisdom:

"Be not proud of your wisdom, but speak to the ignorant man as you do to the learned. For the boundaries of knowledge are never closed, and no savant possesses the fulness of knowledge. But it is more difficult to find wisdom than to discover genius.

"If you must deal with an antagonist while he is in anger and he is more powerful than you, then bend your neck to him. Since he will not permit you to destroy his language, do not interrupt him. This shows that you can keep quiet if you are opposed, and you have the advantage over him if you do not become excited.

"If you have the position of a leader

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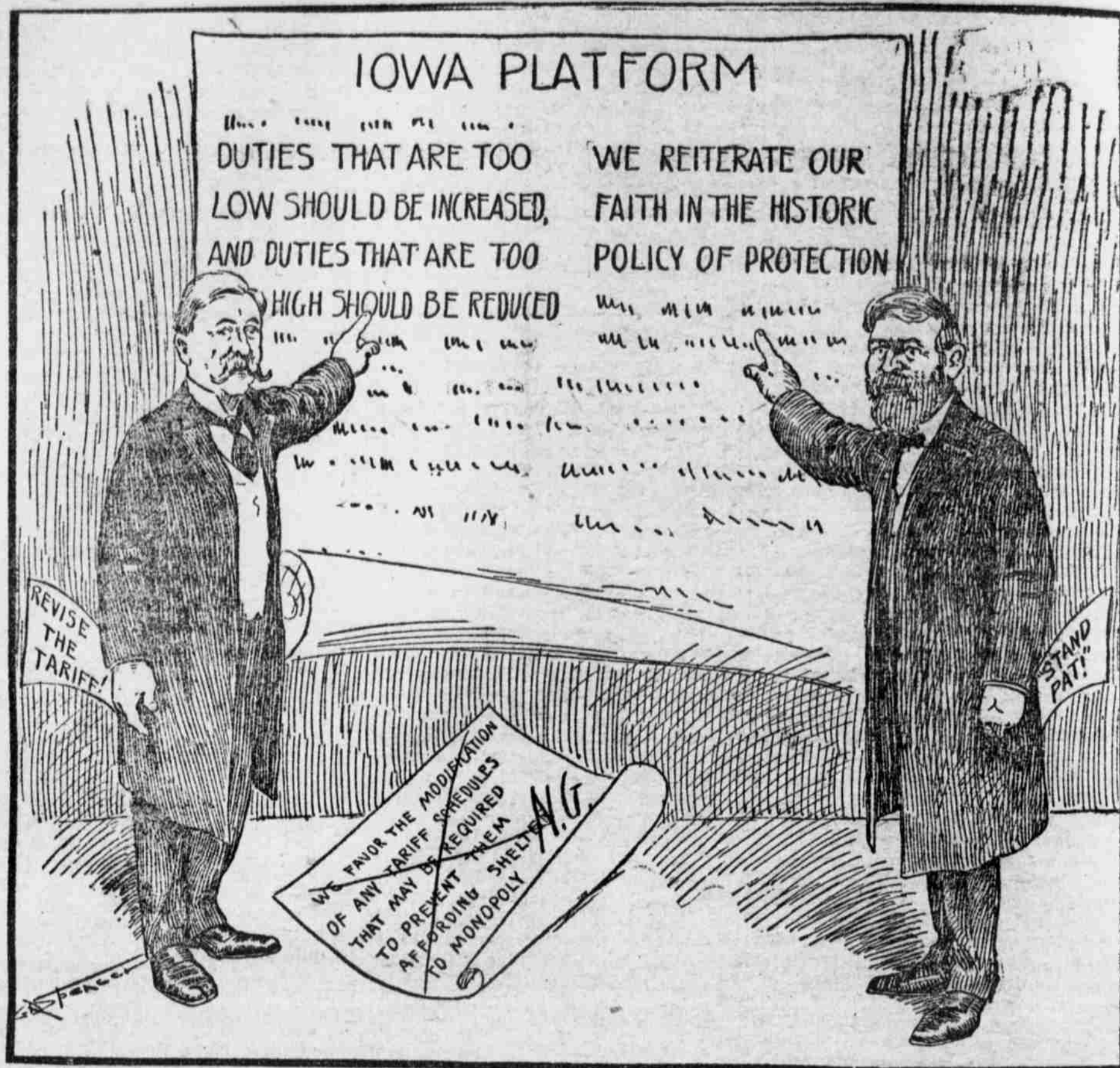
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THE REPUBLICAN SITUATION IN IOWA.



"I WON!"

The Opium Concession.

As was to have been expected, the decision of the Philippine government to grant a monopoly of the sale of opium in the archipelago to the highest bidder has evoked a storm of criticism. Stated by Commissioner Ide the purpose of the commission is not to increase or decrease the sale, but to regulate it and to secure a larger revenue. The proposal is to auction the concession every three years, and it is estimated that the highest bid will not fall below \$500,000, which is to be used for paying the expenses of Filipino students sent to this country, the payment of school teachers and the erection of schools in the islands. This effort to have the end justify the means seems intended to give the unpalatable pill a transparent sugar-coating.

In defending the policy the commission asserts that it is not feasible to prevent the habit of opium smoking among the Chinese, the bill restricting the sale to full-blooded Chinese and imposing heavy punishment upon disposal to Filipinos or Americans. Passing that issue attention may be directed to the wisdom of the plan adopted. Will the concessionaire, entrenched behind the government monopoly, not naturally seek to extend the sale in order that he may reap as much profit over and above his bid for the privilege as possible? The terms of the bill show that the government will rely almost wholly upon the reports of the concessionaire and his agents for its regulation of the vice. The value of those reports can be best considered in the fact that

the man who makes them will be personally profited by the extension of the sale. Even the desire for larger revenue should not induce the Taft commission to rush into this business without further consideration.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Mr. Payne's Bright Idea.

It is reported that Postmaster General Payne has an idea of dazzling brilliance and originality. All Washington stands gazing in admiration at the man whose dome of thought is capable of so amazing a deliverance. He actually proposes to put the post-office department upon a business basis!

Of course Mr. Payne came to Washington with the idea that "to the victors belong the spoils," that the test of fitness for office was neither intelligence nor industry, but congressional "pull;" that the post-office was designed not to carry letters, but to arrange for delegates. For he has actually discovered—although "it is understood that Mr. Wynne suggested it"—that the postoffice is a business and should be conducted as one.

Intellectual Mr. Payne! If he shall really proceed with "determination, persistence and courage" to "take politics out of the postoffice and take the postoffice out of politics" he will be entitled to all the honors not only of a reformer, but of a political Columbus.—New York World.

AN OLD AND WELL TRIED REMEDY.
Mrs. Winslow's SOOTHING SYRUP for children teething should always be used for children while teething. It softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. Twenty-five cents a bottle. It is the best.