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in part to the gold standard and in part to the high tariff law enacted in 1898. They protested against any change in the financial laws or the tariff law, and denied that they intended any departure from the principles of free government.

The republican ticket, headed by President McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt of New York, was again successful, the popular plurality being 849,455. The electoral vote stood, McKinley and Roosevelt, 292; Bryan and Stevenson, 155. The campaign of 1900 did not excite as much interest as the preceding campaign, the total vote being practically the same in 1900 as it was in 1896.

In the foregoing narrative an attempt has been made to present a history of the democratic party from its organization to the present time, and the party's position on public issues has been shown by quotations from the platforms adopted by its national conventions. While the platforms are not so specific as laws, and not so elaborate as speeches, they are probably a better index to the general thought and purpose of parties than either laws and speeches—for the reason that laws are often compromises, and speeches may represent the individual opinions of the speakers rather than the conclusion of the party, while platforms are written by delegates chosen for that purpose.

It will be seen that the party has met with successes and reverses, but it is also noticeable that it has ad-

hered to its principles regardless of the immediate effect of those principles upon it. For instance, it was defeated in 1840, and yet the platform of 1840 was constantly reaffirmed and reiterated for 20 years afterward. The platform of 1892 reaffirmed and even made stronger the platform of 1888, upon which the party had suffered defeat. As the purpose of this article is merely to present as clearly as possible the attitude of the democratic party on public questions, it would be out of place to enter upon the defense of the party's principles.

It may be said, however, in conclusion, that there is today and will continue to be an imperative need for a party thoroughly committed to the defense of the inalienable rights of the individual and to local self-government, and jealous of the encroachments of federal power. Even when such a party is not in power, it exercises a potent influence in molding public opinion and in restraining excesses, because it is very quick to champion the cause of an individual whose rights have been trespassed upon, or the cause of a community whose rights have been ignored. In proportion as the organization is true to the principles promulgated by Jefferson and defended by Jackson, it may hope to appeal to the confidence of those who seek neither favoritism nor privileges, but are content to enjoy the blessings of a government in which each individual is protected in the enjoyment of life and liberty and in the pursuit of happiness.

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Weekly Press Forum

Glouster (O.) Press: Our prosperity is so "unparalleled" that wages are about 50 per cent below the cost of living.

Ironton (O.) Irontonian: War is now a means whereby the prosperity of a country is maintained. False doctrine.

Ironton (O.) Irontonian: Roosevelt has condemned his own and McKinley's administration in language stronger than any democrat could use.

Bucyrus (O.) Forum: Promoting insurrection in foreign states may be diplomacy and statesmanship, but of the Rooseveltian variety. Playing with fire is a dangerous pastime.

Cadillac (Mich.) Democrat: Can we study the Panama affair in all its bearings without seeing written across our escutcheon in never-fading, horrifying characters: Thief! Thief! Thief!

Woodsfield (O.) Spirit of Democracy: If the standpatters will take a peep into the "full dinner pail" which cut such a figure in McKinley's election, they will find a large amount of unoccupied space.

Clarksville (Mo.) Piker: There is likely to be an accounting of that Panama outrage after all. The conscience of the people is awakening and they are coming to the realization of the enormity of the act whereby one of the states of a friendly nation was torn from her.

Greencastle (Ind.) Star-Press: The strenuousness of a strenuous life does not seem to crop out from Roosevelt and his advisers in a war on the trusts. The president's most strenuous work now lies along the line of securing his nomination for president when the republican convention meets next June.

Pipestone (Minn.) Leader: The United States can blot Colombia from the map of the world at almost a single blow, and if that country attempts to use force in regaining sovereignty

over Panama, it is likely that our government will interfere with force. It wouldn't be right, but then, you know, we must not let the matter of being right stand in the way of our commercial interests.

Watertown (N. Y.) Re-Union: Wages continue to be cut by tariff protected industries. Thus, by employing the American workman's dinner pail, are they enabled to sell their wages cheaply to foreigners. Dingley prices, of course, will be charged at home, as usual.

Marion (Ia.) Sentinel: It is ingenuous campaigning—these periodical reports that Wall street is fighting Roosevelt. Wall street would prefer

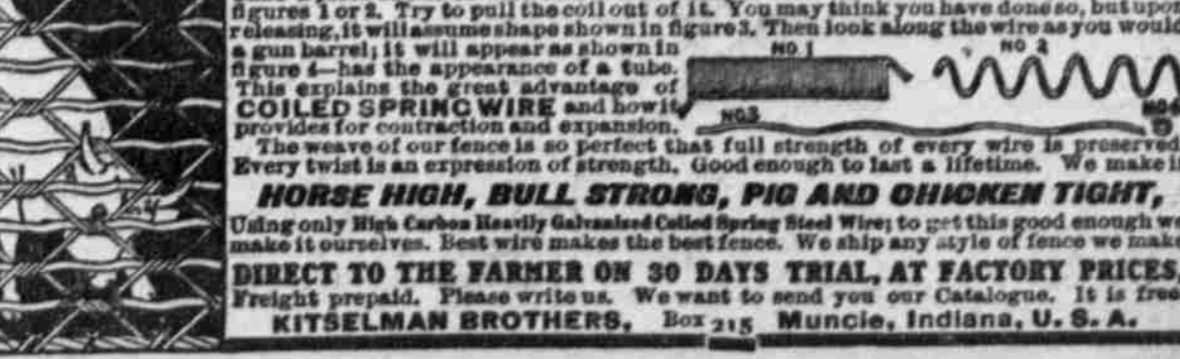
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