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THE DEMOCRATIC TICKET

I shall vote for Parker and Davis, the nominees of the democratic national convention, and shall do so for the following reasons:

First—Because the democratic ticket stands for opposition to imperialism, while the republican ticket stands for an imperialistic policy. On this question, which was the paramount issue in 1900, and which must remain an important issue so long as an attempt is made to hold colonies under the American flag—on this issue the convention was unanimous, the platform emphatic, and I have no doubt that the candidate will carry out the platform.

Second—Mr. Roosevelt is injecting the race issue into American politics, and this issue, if it becomes national, will make it impossible to consider economic questions that demand solution. The election of the democratic ticket will put a quietus upon this attempt and permit the race question to work itself out without the bitterness which Mr. Roosevelt's conduct has engendered.

Third—Mr. Roosevelt stands for the spirit of war. His friends present him as a man of blood and iron. He believes in strenuousness and inculcates a love for war-like things. The democratic ticket stands for peace, for reason and for arbitration rather than for force, conquest and bluster.

Fourth—The democratic platform declares in favor of the reduction of the standing army, and as this plank was unanimously adopted there is reason to believe that a democratic success on this subject would bring some advantage to the people.

For these four reasons I feel justified in supporting the ticket, but I shall not misrepresent the situation, or appeal for votes for the ticket upon false grounds. A democratic victory will mean very little, if any, progress on economic questions so long as the party is under the control of the Wall street element. On the money question Mr. Parker is as thoroughly committed to the side of the financiers as Mr. Roosevelt. If he does not go as far as

the republicans would in retiring silver dollars, in establishing branch banks, in enlarging the powers of the national banks, and in the substitution of an asset currency for the present currency, it will be because he is restrained by the democrats in the house and senate. Nothing good can be expected of him on the money question.

On the trust question the democratic platform is very much better than the republican platform, but the nomination of Judge Parker virtually nullifies the anti-trust plank. Unless in his letter of acceptance he commits himself to attempt anti-trust legislation we need not expect him to pursue a different course from that pursued by President Roosevelt.

So far as the labor questions are concerned we must await Judge Parker's letter before we shall know whether the laboring man has anything to expect from his election. The labor plank as prepared by Judge Parker's friends on the sub-committee was a straddling, meaningless plank. In the full committee planks were adopted in favor of arbitration, the eight-hour day, and against government by injunction; also a plank on the Colorado situation. If Judge Parker is silent or ambiguous on these subjects it will mean that the financial influence back of him will not permit him to take the labor side on these disputed questions.

On the tariff question some little progress may be hoped for, but the Parker men on the committee were nearly all in favor of a very conservative tariff plank, and it remains to be seen whether Judge Parker will carry out the positive and definite plank which was submitted by the full committee. This is the situation.

Judge Parker stands for enough things that are good to justify me in giving him my vote, but as I have tried to point out for several months, the triumph of the Wall street element of the party denies to the country any hope of relief on economic questions. I have nothing to take back, I have nothing to withdraw of the things that I have said against the methods pursued to advance his candidacy. It was a plain and deliber-

ate attempt to deceive the party. The New York platform was vague and meaningless and purposely so, because the advocates of Judge Parker were trying to secure votes from among the people who would have opposed his views had they known them. If he had sent to the Albany convention the telegram that he sent to the St. Louis convention he would have had very few instructed delegates from the south, and no possible chance for the nomination. But he and his managers adroitly and purposely concealed his position until the delegates had been corralled and the nomination assured. Then his friends attempted to secure a gold plank, which was overwhelmingly defeated in the committee. After the party had rejoiced over the harmony secured by the omission of the question, and after he had secured the nomination, he injected his views upon the subject at a time when he could not be taken from the ticket without great demoralization. The nomination was secured, therefore, by crooked and indefensible methods, but the democrat who loves his country has to make his decisions upon conditions as he finds them, not upon conditions as he would like to have them.

After having stated that I shall support the ticket, and after having given my reason for so doing, I think it due to the democrats of the nation to say that while the fight on economic questions is postponed, it is not abandoned. As soon as the election is over I shall, with the help of those who believe as I do, undertake to organize for the campaign of 1908, the object being to marshal the friends of popular government within the democratic party to the support of a radical and progressive policy to make the democratic party an efficient means in the hands of the people for securing relief from the plutocratic element that controls the republican party and for the time being is in control of the democratic party. This plan of organization will be elaborated soon. It is only mentioned at this time that the readers of *The Commoner* may know that the contest for economic and political reform will begin again as soon as the polls close, and be continued until success is achieved.

THE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

On another page will be found the democratic platform in full. The intention of this editorial is to point out the main features of that platform. The plank on imperialism is positive, strong and satisfactory to the entire party, and this question becomes the paramount issue of the campaign.

The tariff plank is good, but it was made so on a close vote in the committee and largely against the opposition of Mr. Parker's adherents. The plank which was voted down favored "a wise, conservative and businesslike" revision, made "with due regard to existing conditions." The committee thought that these qualifying words emasculated the plank and left it so weak as to give no hope to tariff reformers.

The anti-trust plank is a good one. It demands the enforcement of the criminal clause of the criminal law against the trusts; it demands

the abolition of rebates and discriminations, and it demands the withdrawal of the interstate commerce privileges from trusts when once convicted. The plank is infinitely superior to the republican plank, and with a president who desired to destroy the trusts, would be a sufficient plank, but as this trust plank was also substituted by the full committee, there is reason to fear that it may not be in keeping with the ideas of the candidate.

The labor plank is nearly all that could be desired. It declares against government by injunction; it favors arbitration and the eight-hour day, and denounces the methods that have been resorted to in the Colorado strike, but as these planks were added in the full committee, some uncertainty exists as to the candidate's position.

The platform declares in favor of the reduc-

tion of the army. Upon this the committee was unanimous. The sub-committee reported a plank in favor of an increase of the navy, but this was stricken out in the full committee.

The platform has a plank in favor of the enlargement of the scope of the interstate commerce commission and in favor of irrigation. The general clauses of the platform excite no dispute, and the appeal against the introduction of a race issue ought to have weight with the sober, thinking Americans.

On the whole, the platform is good. From a western standpoint its greatest defect is that it makes no mention of the money question. An attempt was made to secure a plank opposing the melting of the silver dollar, opposing the asset currency and branch banks, and expressing a preference for the United States note, (ordinarily