

DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

The democratic party of the United States in national convention assembled, declares its devotion to the essential principles of the democratic faith which bring us together in a party communion. Under them local self-government and national unity and prosperity were established. They underlaid our independence, the structure of our republic and every democratic extension from Louisiana to California, and Texas to Oregon, which preserved faithfully in all the states the time between taxation and representation. They yet inspire the masses of our people, guarding jealously their rights and liberties and cherishing their fraternity, peace and development. They remind us of our duties and responsibilities as citizens and impress upon us, particularly at this time, the necessity of reform and the rescue of the administration of government from the headstrong, arbitrary and spasmodic methods which distract business by uncertainty, and preclude the public mind with dread, distrust, and perturbation.

The application of these fundamental principles to the living issues of the day is the first step toward the assured peace, safety and progress of our nation. Freedom of the press, of conscience and of speech, equality before the law of all citizens; the right of trial by jury—freedom of the persons defended by the writ of habeas corpus; liberty of personal contract untrammelled by sumptuary laws; supremacy of the civil over the military authorities; a well disciplined militia; the separation of church and state; economy in expenditures, low taxation, that labor may be lightly burdened; prompt and sacred fulfillment of public and private obligations; fidelity to treaties; peace and friendship with all nations; entangling alliances with none; absolute acquiescence to the will of the majority, the vital principle of republics—these are the doctrines which democracy has established as proverbs of the nation and they should be constantly invoked and enforced.

We favor the adjustment and administration of laws giving labor and capital impartially their just rights. Capital and labor ought not be envious. Each is necessary to the other. Each has its right, but the rights of labor are certainly no less "vested" no less "sacred" and no less "unalienable" than the rights of capital.

Constitutional guarantees are violated whenever any citizen is denied the right of labor, to acquire and enjoy property or reside where interest or inclination may determine. Any denial thereof by individuals or organizations of government should be summarily rebuked and punished.

We deny the right of any executive to disregard or suspend any constitutional privilege or limitation. Obedience to the laws and respect for their requirements are alike the supreme duty of the citizens and the officials.

The military should be used only to support and maintain the law. We unqualifiedly condemn its employment in the summary banishment of citizens without trial or for the control of elections.

We approve the measure which passed the United States senate in 1856, but which a republican congress has ever since refused to enact, relating to contempts in federal courts, and providing for trial by jury in cases on indirect contempt.

We are in favor of the arbitration of differences between corporate employers and their employes, and we favor a strict enforcement of the eight-hour day law on all government work.

We favor liberal appropriations for the dredging and improvement of the water ways of the country. When any water way like the Mississippi river is of sufficient importance to demand special aid of the government, such aid should be extended with a definite plan of continuous work until permanent improvement is secured.

We oppose the republican policy of starving home development in order to feed the greed for conquest and appetite for national "prestige" and display of national strength.

Large reductions can easily be made in the annual expenditures of the government without impairing the efficiency of any branch of the public service, and we shall insist upon the strictest economy and frugality compatible with vigorous and efficient civil, military and naval administration as a right of the people too clear to be denied or withheld.

We favor the enforcement of honesty in the public service, and to that end a thorough legislative investigation of those executive departments of the government already known to teem with corruption as well as other departments suspected of harboring corruption, and the punishment of ascertained corruptionists without fear or favor in regard to persons. The persistent and deliberate refusal of both the senate and house of representatives to permit such investigation to be made demonstrates that only by a change in the executive and in the legislative departments can complete exposure, punishment and correction be obtained.

We condemn the action of the republican party in congress in refusing to prohibit an executive department from entering into contracts with convicted trusts or unlawful combinations in restraint of interstate trade. We believe that one of the best methods of procuring economy and honesty in the public service is to have public officials from the occupant of the White house down to the lowest of them, return as nearly as may be to Jeffersonian simplicity of living.

We favor the nomination and election of a president imbued with the principles of the constitution who will set his face strongly against executive usurpation of legislative and judicial functions, whether that usurpation be veiled under the guise of executive construction of existing laws, or whether it take refuge in the tyrant plea of necessity and superior wisdom.

We favor the preservation, so far as we can, of an open door for the world's commerce in the Orient without unnecessary entanglement in Oriental and European affairs, and without arbitrary, unlimited, irresponsible and absolute government anywhere within our jurisdiction. We oppose fervently as did Washington himself an indefinite, irresponsible, discretionary and vague absolutism and a policy of colonial exploitation, no matter where or by whom invoked or exercised; we believe with Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, that no government has a right to make one set of laws for those at "home" and another and a different set of laws, absolute in their character, for those unfortunates in the colonies.

All men under the American flag are entitled to the protection of the institutions, whose emblem the flag is. If they are inherently unfit for those institutions, then they are inherently unfit to be members of the American body politic. Wherever there may exist a people incapable of being governed under American laws, in consonance with the American constitution the territory of that people ought not to be a part of the American domain.

We insist that we ought to do for the Filipinos what we have done al-

ready for the Cubans and it is our duty to make that promise now, and upon suitable guarantees of protection to citizens of our own and other countries resident there at the time of our withdrawal, set the Filipino people upon their feet and free and independent to work out their own destiny.

The endeavor of the secretary of war by pledging the government's indorsement for "promoters" in the Philippine islands to make the United States a partner in speculative legislation for the archipelago, which was only temporarily held up by the opposition of the democratic senators in the last session will, if successful, lead to entanglements from which it would be difficult to escape.

The democratic party has been and will continue to be the consistent opponent of the class of tariff legislation by which certain interests have been permitted, through congressional favor, to draw a heavy tribute from the American people.

This monstrous perversion of those equal opportunities, which our political institutions were established to secure, has caused what may once have been infant industries to become the greatest combinations of capital that the world has ever known. These especial favorites of the government have, through trust methods, been converted into monopolies, thus bringing to an end domestic competition, which was the only alleged character. Upon the extravagant profits made possible by the protective system this industrial combination, by the financial assistance they can give now control the policy of the republican party. We denounce protectionism as robbery of the many to enrich the few and we favor a tariff limited to the needs of the government, economically administered and so levied as not to discriminate against any industry, class or section, to the end that the burdens of taxation shall be distributed as equally as possible.

We favor a revision and a gradual reduction of the tariff by the friends of the masses and for the commonweal, and not by the friends of its abuses, its extortions and its discriminations, keeping in view the ultimate ends of "equality of burdens and equality of opportunities," and the constitutional purpose of raising a revenue by taxation, to-wit, the support of the federal government in all its integrity and virility, but in simplicity.

We recognize that the gigantic trusts and combinations designed to enable capital to secure more than its just share of the joint products of capital and labor, and which have been fostered and promoted under republican rule, are a menace to beneficial competition and an obstacle to permanent business propriety.

A private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable.

Individual equality of opportunity and free competition are essential to a healthy and permanent commercial prosperity; and any trust, combination or monopoly tending to destroy these by controlling production, restricting competition or fixing prices, should be prohibited and punished by law. We especially denounce rebates and discrimination by transportation companies as the most potent agency in promoting and strengthening these unlawful conspiracies against trade.

We demand an enlargement of the powers of the interstate commerce commission, to the end that the traveling public and shippers of this country may have prompt and adequate relief from abuses to which they are subjected in the matter of transportation.

We demand a strict enforcement of existing civil and criminal statutes against all such trusts, combinations and monopolies, and we demand the enactment of such further legislation as may be necessary to effectually suppress them.

Any trust or unlawful combination

engaged in interstate commerce which is monopolizing any branch of business or production should not be permitted to transact business outside of the state of its origin. Whenever it shall be established in any court of competent jurisdiction that such monopolization exists such prohibition should be enforced through comprehensive laws to be enacted on the subject.

We congratulate our western citizens upon the passage of the law known as the Newlands irrigation act for the irrigation and reclamation of the arid lands of the west, a measure framed by a democrat, passed in the senate by the nonpartisan vote and passed in the house against the opposition of almost all the republican leaders, the vote, the majority of which was democratic.

We call attention to the great democratic measure, broad and comprehensive as it is, working automatically throughout all time without further action of congress until the reclamation of all the lands in the arid west capable of reclamation is accomplished, reserving the lands reclaimed for homeseekers in small tracts, and rigidly guarding against the land monopoly as an evidence of the policy of domestic development contemplated by the democratic party should it be placed in power.

The democracy when entrusted with power will construct the Panama canal speedily, honestly and economically, thereby giving to our people what democrats have always contended for, a great interoceanic canal, furnishing shorter and cheaper lines of transportation and broader and less trammelled trade relations with the other people of the world.

We pledge ourselves to insist upon the just and lawful protection of our citizens at home and abroad and to use all proper measures to secure for them, whether native born or naturalized, and without distinction of race or creed, the equal protection of laws and the enjoyment of all rights and privileges open to them, under the covenants of our treaties of friendship and commerce and if under existing treaties the right of travel and sojourn is denied to American citizens or recognition is withheld from American passports by any countries on the ground of creed we favor the beginning of negotiations with the governments of such countries to secure by treaties the removal of these unjust discriminations.

We demand that all over the world a duly authenticated passport issued by the government of the United States to an American citizen shall be proof of the fact that he is an American citizen and shall entitle him to the treatment due him as such.

We favor the election of United States senators by the direct vote of the people.

We favor the admission of the territories of Oklahoma and Indian territory. We also favor the immediate admission of Arizona and New Mexico as separate states and a territorial government for Alaska and Porto Rico.

We hold that the officials appointed to administer the government of any territory as well as the district of Alaska should be bona fide residents at the time of their appointment of the territory or district in which their duties are to be performed.

We demand the extermination of polygamy within the jurisdiction of the United States and the complete separation of church and state in political affairs.

We denounce the ship subsidy bill recently passed by the United States senate as an iniquitous appropriation of public funds for private purposes and a wasteful, illogical and useless attempt to overcome by subsidy the obstruction raised by republican legislation to the growth and develop-