

# THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL PLATFORM

The democratic national platform is as follows:

We rejoice at the increasing signs of an awakening throughout the country. The various investigations have traced graft and political corruption to the representatives of predatory wealth and laid bare the unscrupulous methods by which they have debauched elections and preyed upon a defenseless public through the subservient officials whom they have raised to place and power. The conscience of the nation is now aroused to free the government from the grip of those who have made it a business asset for seeking corporations; it must become again a people's government, and be administered in all its departments according to the Jeffersonian maxim of "equal rights to all and special privileges to none."

Shall the people rule? is the overshadowing issue which manifests itself in all the questions now under consideration.

## LABOR AND INJUNCTIONS

The courts of justice are the bulwark of our liberties and we yield to none in our purpose to maintain their dignity. Our party has given to the bench a long line of distinguished judges who have added to the respect and confidence in which this department must be jealously maintained. We resent the attempt of the republican party to raise a false issue respecting the judiciary. It is an unjust reflection upon a great body of our citizens to assume that they lack respect for the courts. It is the function of the courts to interpret the laws which the people create, and if the laws appear to work economic, social or political injustice, it is our duty to change them. The only basis upon which the integrity of our courts can stand is that of unswerving justice and protection of life, personal liberty and property. If judicial processes may be abused, we should guard them against abuse.

Experience has proven the necessity of a modification of the present law, relating to injunctions and we reiterate the pledges of our national platforms of 1896 and 1904 in favor of the measure which passed the United States senate in 1896, but which a republican congress has ever since refused to enact, relating to contempt in federal courts and providing for trial by jury in cases of indirect contempt.

Questions of judicial practice have arisen especially in connection with industrial disputes. We deem that the parties to all judicial proceedings should be treated with rigid impartiality and that injunctions should not be issued in any cases in which injunctions would not issue if no industrial dispute were involved.

The expanding organization of industry makes it essential that there should be no abridgement of the right of wage earners and producers to organize for the protection of wages and the improvement of labor conditions to the end that such labor organizations and their members should not be regarded as illegal combinations in restraint of trade.

We favor the eight hour day on all government work.

We pledge the democratic party to the enactment of a law by congress as far as the federal jurisdiction extends for general employers' liability act covering injury to body or loss of life of employes.

We pledge the democratic party to the enactment of a law creating a department of labor, represented separately in the president's cabinet, which department shall include the subject of mines and mining.

## TARIFF

We welcome the belated promise of tariff reform now offered by the republican party in tardy recognition of the righteousness of the democratic position on this question. But the people can not safely entrust the execution of this important work to a party which is so deeply obligated to the highly protected interests as is the republican party. We call attention to the significant fact that the promised relief is postponed until after the coming election—an election to succeed in which the republican party must have that same support from the beneficiaries of the high protective tariff as it has always heretofore received from them; and to the further fact that during years of uninterrupted power no action whatever has been taken by the republican congress to correct the admittedly existing tariff iniquities.

We favor immediate revision of the tariff

by the reduction of import duties. Articles entering into competition with trust controlled products should be placed upon the free list, and material reductions should be made in the tariff upon the necessities of life and especially upon articles competing with such American manufactures as are sold abroad more cheaply than at home, and a gradual reduction should be made in such other schedules as may be necessary to restore the tariff to a revenue basis.

Existing duties have given to the manufacturers of paper a shelter behind which they have organized combinations to raise the price of pulp and of paper, thus imposing a tax upon the spread of knowledge. We demand the immediate repeal of the tariff on wood pulp, print paper, lumber, timber and logs and that these articles be placed upon the free list.

## ARBITRARY RULE OF SPEAKER

The house of representatives was designed by the fathers of the constitution to be the popular branch of our government responsive to the public will.

The house of representatives, as controlled in recent years by the republican party has ceased to be a deliberative and legislative body, responsive to the will of a majority of its members, but has come under the absolute domination of the speaker who has entire control of its deliberations and powers of legislation.

We have observed with amazement the popular branch of our federal government helpless to obtain either the consideration or enactment of measures desired by a majority of its members.

Legislative government becomes a failure when one member in the person of the speaker is more powerful than the entire body.

We demand that the house of representatives shall again become a deliberative body, controlled by a majority of the peoples' representatives and not by the speaker and we pledge ourselves to adopt such rules and regulations to govern the house of representatives as will enable a majority of its members to direct its deliberations and control legislation.

## PUBLICITY OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

We demand federal legislation, forever terminating the partnership which existed between corporations of the country and the republican party under the expressed or implied agreement that the receipt of large sums of money whereby to purchase elections they should be allowed to continue in their efforts to encroach upon the rights of the people.

Any reasonable doubt as to the existence of this relation has been forever dispelled by the sworn testimony of witnesses examined in the insurance investigation in New York and the open admission, unchallenged by the republican national committee of a single individual that he himself at the personal request of the republican candidate for the presidency raised over a quarter of a million dollars to be used in a single state during the closing hours of the last convention and campaign. In order that this practice shall be stopped for all time we demand the passage of a statute punishing with imprisonment any officer of a corporation who shall either contribute on behalf of or consent to the contribution by a corporation of any money or anything of value to be used in furthering the election of a president or vice president of the United States or any member of congress thereof. We denounce the action of the republican party having complete control of the federal government for its failure to pass the bill, introduced in the last congress, to compel the publication of the names of contributors and the amounts contributed toward campaign funds and point to the evidence of their insincerity, when they sought by an absolutely irrelevant and impossible amendment to defeat the passage of the bill, as a further evidence of their intention to conduct their campaign in the coming contest with vast sums of money wrested from favor-seeking corporations, we call attention to the fact that the recent republican national convention at Chicago refused, when the issue was presented to it, to declare against such practices.

We pledge the democratic party to the enactment of a law prohibiting any corporation from contributing to a campaign fund and any individual from contributing an amount above a reasonable amount and providing for the publication before election of all contributions above a reasonable minimum.

## RAILROAD REGULATION

We assert the right of congress to exercise complete control over interstate commerce and the right of each state to exercise like control over commerce within its borders.

We demand such enlargement of the powers of the interstate commerce commission as may be necessary to compel railroads to perform their duties as common carriers and prevent discrimination and restore confidence.

We favor the efficient supervision and regulation of railroads engaged in interstate commerce. To this end we recommend the valuation of railroads by the interstate commerce commission, such valuation to take into consideration the physical value of the property the original cost and the cost of reproduction and elements of value that will render the valuation fair and just.

We favor such legislation as will prevent the railroads from engaging in business which brings them into competition with their shippers; also legislation which will assure such reduction in transportation rates as conditions will permit, care being taken to avoid reduction that would compel a reduction of wages, prevent inadequate service or do injustice to legitimate investments.

We heartily approve the laws prohibiting the pass and the rebate and we favor any further necessary legislation to restrain and correct such abuses.

We favor such legislation as will increase the power of the interstate commerce commission, giving to it the initiative with reference to rates and transportation charges put into effect by the railroad companies, and permitting the interstate commerce commission on its own initiative to declare a rate illegal and as being more than should be charged for such service. The present law relating thereto is inadequate by reason of the fact that the interstate commerce commission is without power to fix or investigate a rate until complaint has been made to it by the shipper.

We further declare that all agreements of traffic or other associations of railway agents affecting interstate rates, service or classification should be unlawful unless filed with and approved by the interstate commerce commission.

We favor the enactment of a law giving to the interstate commerce commission the power to inspect proposed railway tariff rates or schedules before they shall take effect and if they be found to be unreasonable to initiate an adjustment thereof.

## ECONOMY IN ADMINISTRATION

The republican congress in the session just ended has made appropriations amounting to \$1,008,000,000, exceeding the total expenditures of the past fiscal year by \$90,000,000, and leaving a deficit of more than \$60,000,000 for the fiscal year. We denounce the heedless waste of the peoples' money which has resulted in this appalling increase as a shameful violation of all prudent conditions of government as no less than a crime against the millions of working men and women from whose earnings the great proportion of these colossal sums must be extorted through excessive tariff exactions and other indirect methods. It is not surprising that in the face of this shocking record the republican platform contains no reference to economical administration or promise thereof in the future. We demand that a stop be put to this frightful extravagance and insist upon the strictest economy in every department compatible with a frugal and efficient administration.

## BANKING

The panic of 1907, coming without any legitimate excuse when the republican party had for a decade been in complete control of the federal government furnishes additional proof that it is either unwilling or incompetent to protect the interests of the general public. It has so linked the country to Wall Street that the sins of the speculators are visited upon the whole people. While refusing to rescue the wealth producers from spoliation at the hands of the stock gamblers, and speculators in farm products, it has deposited treasury funds, without interest and without competition in favorite banks. It has used an emergency for which it is largely responsible to force through congress a bill changing the basis of bank currency and inviting market manipulation and has failed to