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The Denver Platform

The Denver platform concludes with the following plank:

"The democratic party stands for democracy; the republican party has drawn to itself all that is aristocratic and plutocratic.

"The democratic party is the champion of equal rights and opportunities to all and the republican party is the party of privilege and private monopoly. The democratic party listens to the voice of the whole people and gauges progress by the prosperity and advancement of the average man; the republican party is subservient to the comparatively few who are the beneficiaries of governmental favoritism. We invite the co-operation of all, regardless of previous political affiliation or past differences, who desire to preserve a government of the people, by the people and for the people and who favor such an administration of government as will insure as far as human wisdom can, that each citizen shall draw from society a reward commensurate with his contribution to the welfare of society."

This is fundamental. The aim of both government and society should be to bring rewards into harmony with the Divine law and that law as abundantly manifested everywhere is to make the compensation proportionate to the intelligence and industry employed. The basis of all just complaint against existing conditions is that a few draw from society far more than they earn, while the masses earn more than they are able to collect. We are making progress toward a more equitable distribution of wealth, but it is slow progress and the democratic party would hasten it.

MR. BAILEY AND THE PEOPLE

In his speech defending Mr. Lorimer, Senator Bailey, of Texas, said: "Have we fallen to such a low estate in the United States senate that we must stoop to the earth and kiss the ground our constituents walk upon?"

No one expects senators to "kiss the ground their constituents walk upon," but it is an old-time democratic notion that senators, as well as representatives, should show due concern for the well defined principles for which they stood prior to election day. It is also an old-fashioned democratic notion that when a man discovered (as Lorimer must have discovered) that bribe money was used in electing him to office he would not wait to be removed from office (provided he were innocent) but would retire in defense of his own honor.

No, Senator Bailey, the people do not ask senators to "kiss the ground their constituents walk upon." They do ask, however, that they

refrain from licking the boots of trust magnates and doing the bidding of systems that prey upon the people.

A COWARDLY SCHEME

Senator Root has joined the other corporation attorneys in an attempt to kill the resolution submitting an amendment providing for popular election of senators, and like them, he lacks the courage to meet the issue frankly and honestly. He hides behind a pretended solicitude for the colored man. This subterfuge may serve the purpose for the present and put the matter over until the next congress, but the popular election of senators is coming. Republicans like Senator Borah, who really want it, understand the insincerity of Mr. Root's attack and denounce it. There will be more men like Borah in the senate next year and not so many like Root. Next session the southern senators can secure popular election of senators without surrendering control of their states over elections.

ROOSEVELT BOOSTS ARIZONA

In the course of his Washington day speech at Chicago, ex-President Roosevelt said: "I saw it stated in the press that certain good people in Washington were against the admission of Arizona as a state because it had adopted in its constitution the recall. In 1780 the state of Massachusetts put into its constitution precisely that provision for the recall. Now, understand me, I am not arguing for or against the recall. I am merely showing that, if the people of Arizona, or any other community, wish to try it, or if they do not wish to try it, it is their affair."

The above language is respectfully referred to President Taft with the hope that he is not one of the "good people" mentioned.

THE POOR HANDMAIDEN

The republican national platform of 1896 said, "protection and reciprocity are twin measures of republican policy and go hand in hand." Theodore Roosevelt, in one of his presidential messages, declared that reciprocity was the "handmaiden" of protection. But when the vote on Canadian reciprocity was taken in the house of representatives the "handmaiden" was compelled to depend upon democrats for her defense.

Republican platforms—like the platforms on railroad cars—are made to get in on and not to stand on. For instance, the republican platform of 1908 promised tariff revision.

FOR MEN OF ALL PARTIES

"Progression," published at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., provides a hint for men of all parties, when it says: "It isn't enough these days when progressiveness is all the rage, for a politician to simply declare himself in favor of the modern ideas. Look into his record. Dissect his reputation. There is plenty of all wool goods. We don't have to put up with shoddy or mercerized stuff."

Governor Carroll gives, as a reason for vetoing the Oregon plan, that it is unconstitutional. If he had really favored popular election of senators he would have left the supreme court to decide the question of constitutionality.

The friends of Mr. Lorimer seem to think that a confession by the defendant is the only evidence worthy to be believed. Why not attach some weight to the testimony of the five men who confessed to being bribed?

Governor Carroll vetoed the bill introducing into Iowa the Oregon plan of electing United States senators. What a pity he did not do this before the last election.

By its almost unanimous support of the reciprocity agreement in the house, the democratic party shows that it is ready to gather itself together and win.

Roosevelt a Convert

Have you read ex-President Roosevelt's second article on New Nationalism. If not, read it and rejoice that he has AT LAST thrown his influence on the side of the popular election of senators and the initiative and referendum. If he has ever specifically commended either reform before it has escaped the attention of The Commoner. He is not very emphatic now, but he can be counted on the side of those who believe in both reforms. It is now eighteen years since a democratic congress first declared for the election of senators by direct vote; since that time nearly two-thirds of the states have endorsed the demand and it has been embodied in three democratic national platforms. During all these years Mr. Roosevelt has been silent on the subject. He even made no protest two years ago when a republican national convention—which he was supposed to control—rejected it by a vote of seven to one, but he has finally spoken—and, on the right side. The present congress may submit the necessary amendment, if not, the next congress will, and the ex-president gets in in time to share in the rejoicing. Welcome! We shall soon be ready to move to make it unanimous. But let us hope that the progressive republicans who have been advocating it for several years—not to speak of the progressive democrats who have been advocating it for two decades—will not be asked to take a back seat at the celebration.

On the initiative, referendum and recall he is a little earlier, though not by any means a pioneer. Eight states have already adopted it and it is probable that as many more will submit it this year. (The democratic party of Nebraska declared for the initiative and referendum fourteen years ago.) Just at this time, when the progressive republicans have control of several states, it is fortunate that he commends these steps in the direction of popular government. He is evidently a convert on several propositions. So far as he outlines "New Nationalism," in his second article, it is simply democracy under another name, and the new name does not fit it as well as the old name.

NOT A PROTECTIONIST

The Dallas Times-Herald says: "Senator Bailey is said to be opposed to Canadian reciprocity. Ditto the national grange and the farmers of the north and east. Now the Times-Herald insists that Colonel Bryan return to Nebraska and declares that the farm products of Nebraska shall be placed on the free list. He is very solicitous for Texas lumber, Texas hides, Texas iron, Texas rice, Texas sugar and Texas coal. But what of Nebraska and its products?"

Mr. Bryan, not being a protectionist, has already announced his support of the reciprocity measure, so has the democratic party in congress. Next!

ENDORING DEMOCRATIC DOCTRINE

President Taft can claim credit for endorsing older democratic doctrine than any other prominent republican. Ex-President Roosevelt has endorsed several democratic policies, some soon after their promulgation, some long after democrats began to advocate them, but President Taft, in declaring that the price of wheat is fixed in Liverpool, and that a tariff on wheat does not, therefore, raise the price of wheat, takes the position that democrats have held for twenty-five or thirty years, at least. Truth makes its way slowly, but it wins out at last.

President Taft says that the protective system is doomed unless the Canadian reciprocity agreement is ratified. Congressman Dalzell and other high protectionists say that protection is doomed if the reciprocity agreement is ratified. That being the outlook, the democrats are in a position to bear the result with fortitude, no matter which prediction proves true.

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