

Oklahoma's Splendid Platform

Following are the sections of the Oklahoma democratic platform relating to national issues, adopted by the state convention held February 22-23, 1912, at Oklahoma City:

This convention, called and held in advance of the announcement and nomination of candidates for state and county offices, for the exclusive and express purpose of electing delegates to the democratic national convention, to be held in Baltimore on June 25, 1912; for the purpose of instructing them for Oklahoma democracy's choice for president and vice president; for nominating party candidates for presidential electors; for formulating party platform policies upon federal questions.

Therefore, we, the democracy of Oklahoma, regard it both inexpedient and unwise to mix such issues with state questions (except as hereinafter referred to), as well as an intrusion upon the province of the county and state conventions, which must be held next August.

Declaring, therefore, our position upon federal issues;

Be it resolved, by the democracy of Oklahoma, in convention assembled this the 22nd day of February, 1912, that we renew our faith in and pledge our support of, the time honored principles of the democratic party, as expressed in platforms and taught by its leaders from Jefferson to Bryan, as well as those expressed in the Denver platform of 1908. We commend all the democratic members of both houses of congress in their faithful and steadfast purpose to carry out the party pledges; and we denounce as false the pledges of the republican party to destroy the trusts and to reduce the tariff to a competitive one and to fix schedules "equal the difference between the cost of manufacture at home and abroad;" we view as hopeful signs of a revival of patriotism among the people, as well as a growing popular appreciation of public service when they rebuked the "stand-pat" republican organization now in control of the republic, at the congressional election in 1910 by retiring the Joe Cannon-interest-serving-machine with an overwhelming democratic majority of the house of representatives. We pledge to square with performance all our promises if the people will entrust to our hands all branches of the federal government during the next four years.

To the old cry of "stand-pat" republicanism that a "panic will come upon the country in the event of democratic success in the presidential election," we reply: "We are fully aware of the power of the interests in control, as they are, of the fiscal agencies of the government, dictating, as they do, the financial issues of trade, and held in their iron grasp the national power to expand or contract the currency of commerce—in a word, they have formed a money oligarchy in this republic as appalling as it is powerful—and all this by the aid of the republican party during the past sixteen years—democratic statesmanship appreciates the power and comprehends the remedy now as thoroughly as it did when this same power ruled, and through Nicholas Biddle told President Andrew Jackson that they had the "power to make and unmake governors and congressmen, senators and presidents; to bring panics or prosperity to the people; weal or woe to the republic." The democratic party then through the lead of "Old Hickory" destroyed this power. The same power through Morgan, Morton, et al., told Roosevelt the same in 1907; Roosevelt, lacking the courage of "Old Hickory" and deficient of devotion to the cause of the great masses of our people and the common good

of humanity, gave them new favors and extended their privileges. Did democratic statesmanship not appreciate this appalling threat and realize their power to produce a panic, it would be unworthy to be entrusted the control of the government. Our reply will be: "We know their power to precipitate a panic, but we shall cure it before it comes, and destroy the power behind it forever, and render impossible the recurrence of this evil in our national life."

With the destruction of the money and banking trust we would destroy all other trusts and combinations in restraint of trade and transportation (1) by reducing the tariff to a revenue basis; (2) by enlarging the powers of the inter-state commerce commission to fix and maintain uniform and just rates of passenger and freight tariffs; (3) by abolishing the commerce court created by the republican party to hinder the just and honest control of inter-state commerce; and (4) by prohibiting gambling in futures, on stock exchanges, in the products of the farmer.

We would fix more definite the "twilight zone" between state and federal control of transportation and transmission companies by the passage of an act of congress prohibiting the issuance of writs of injunction or mandamus by any inferior federal judge against the enforcement of state laws or the exercise of any duty under state laws by any officer, and further prohibiting the exercise of jurisdiction by all federal inferior courts of all controversies wherein a state or state officer is a party or the enforcement of a state law is involved, providing for the trial upon their merits of all causes under a state law exclusively in the state courts with appellate jurisdiction to the supreme court of the state; and, thence to the supreme court of the United States upon questions of constitutionality only, as contemplated by the constitution of the United States and as provided by the act organizing the judiciary of 1797. Life tenure of public office is born of despotic and irresponsible power; we, therefore, favor selecting federal judges for a reasonable term of years.

We demand a more economical administration of federal affairs.

We demand the abolishment of useless offices and officers, and condemn the extravagance of the republican party.

We condemn the republican congress for depriving Oklahoma of her just share of the money appropriated for irrigation purposes.

We condemn the lax enforcement of the immigration laws by the republican party and demand that they be amended so as to keep out all undesirable foreigners in the interest of American labor and democratic institutions.

We are opposed to the Aldrich plan of banking reserve.

The democratic party is a party of progress and stands for progressive measures as applied to the settlement and well being of our progressive economic development. It stands for the election of United States senators by a direct vote of the people; for an income tax amendment, for sanitary and wholesome laws governing labor, and for the initiative and referendum. Its progressive ideas and policies of the past enabled it to reap the victory of 1910. It can not afford to retreat now. It must nominate progressive candidates for president, congressmen, and all offices having to do with these measures. We, therefore, instruct our delegates to the Baltimore convention to vote against any candidate who is opposed to the initiative and referendum or any of the

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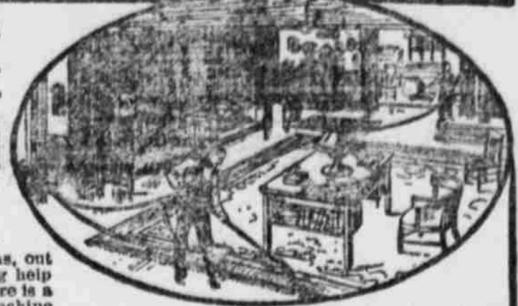
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reforms of progressive democracy.

We commend and indorse our administrative officers in their direction of state affairs.

Resolved, That the democratic party is in favor of a presidential preference primary law and the legislature is hereby pledged to the passage of the same before the presidential election of 1912.

By comparing the Oklahoma democratic state platform with the democratic platform adopted by Johnston county, Oklahoma, a few days before, it will be seen that Hon. William H. Murray (Alfalfa Bill) inspired the greater part of the splendid state platform adopted by Oklahoma democrats.

OKLAHOMA'S DELEGATION

The Oklahoma delegates to the democratic national convention are given by the Oklahoma News as follows: Clark men: R. L. Williams, Scott Ferris, Fred P. Branson, Howard Webber, Henry S. Johnson, George W. Bellamy, B. S. Mitchell.

These are to cast five votes, and the following delegates to cast five votes, from congressional districts were named as Clark men: Roy Hoffman, from First district; W. H. Wilcox, from second; L. T. Sammons, from Third; P. B. Cole, from Fourth; E. K. Thurmond, from Fifth.

These delegates were instructed to vote on all questions as a unit,

and authorized to fill any vacancy on said delegation, with the following alternates:

W. A. Collier, at large; W. N. Maben, at large; A. G. C. Bierer, at large.

The following district alternates to the Clark list were named:

J. J. Beale, First district; W. M. McCook, special; J. W. Sullins, Third; John Ellard, Fourth; E. D. Glasco, Fifth.

The following electors were selected:

At large: Thomas G. Harrell, Joseph W. Foster, J. D. Scott, H. H. Brennan, J. W. Bolen.

From districts: Davis Ratner, First; R. A. Beard, Second; S. H. Mayes, Third; J. C. Thompson, Fourth; J. M. Williams, Fifth.

The following ten were named as delegates at large as Wilson men, to cast five votes:

O. J. Fleming, E. J. Giddings, W. W. Hastings, W. M. Murray, T. P. Gore, George L. Bowman, B. D. Hite, T. H. Owen, E. P. Hill, S. C. Burnette.

The following five Wilson delegates were named to cast five votes from districts:

T. S. Chambers, with J. S. Kelly as alternate, First district; J. J. Carney, with Judge Cornell as alternate; S. V. O'Hare, with G. H. Davis, as alternate; T. W. Hunter, with E. T. Crittenden as alternate; T. L. Wade, with A. D. Burch as alternate.

The democratic central committee was authorized to fill any vacancies.