

# THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS PROGRESSIVE

The democratic party is the progressive party and the republican party and the third party, insofar as they have taken on the progressive spirit, have simply been halting followers of the democratic party.

Let facts be submitted to a candid public:

No need to remind the voter that while republican and third party leaders alike are admitting the necessity of tariff revision the democratic party has from year to year and from one election to another pleaded for a relief to the consumers through a tariff revision that should be made with the consumers' interest in view. In this view it sought through the present democratic house to pass the revision bills which a "progressive" president of the republican type vetoed.

The democratic party took the lead in the fight against Cannonism, declaring in its platform of 1908 that the House of Representatives had ceased to be a deliberative and legislative body responsive to the will of the majority of its members but had come under the absolute domination of the speaker who had entire control of its deliberations and powers of legislation. When the democratic party succeeded to the speakership it resisted the temptation to use the power, and following its principles, it surrendered that power and "Cannonism" perished.

The democratic party has consistently protested against private monopoly and in its platform of 1880 it declared for free ships and a living chance for American commerce upon the seas and on the land, no discrimination in favor of transportation lines, corporations or monopolies. In 1884 it declared for "the prevention of monopoly and the strict enforcement of individual rights against corporate abuses." In 1888 it said "the interests of the people are betrayed when by unnecessary taxation, trusts and combinations are permitted and fostered which while unduly enriching the few that combine, rob the body of our citizens by depriving them as purchasers of the benefits of natural competition. All unnecessary taxation is unjust taxation." In 1892 and in 1896 it denounced the trusts and in 1892 demanded "the rigid enforcement of the laws made to prevent and control them together with such legislation in restraint of their abuses as experience may show to be necessary." In 1900 it declared that the product of trusts should be put upon the free list in order to prevent monopoly under the plea of protection. In 1904 it declared that a private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable. In 1908 the democratic party reiterated its declaration that "private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable," advocating the enforcement of the criminal law against guilty trust magnates and "such additional legislation as may be necessary to make it impossible for a private monopoly to exist in the United States." Among these additional remedies it specified a law preventing a duplication of directors among competing corporations; a license system, which will, without abridging the right of each state to create corporations, or its right to regulate as it will foreign corporations doing business within its limits, make it necessary for a manufacturing or trading corporation engaged in inter-state commerce to take out a federal license before it shall be permitted to control the product in which it deals, the license to protect the public from watered stock; also a law compelling such licensed corporations to sell all purchasers in all parts of the country on the same terms after making due allowance for transportation.

The democratic party has been a consistent advocate of publicity as to the affairs of corporations. In its platform of 1900 it declared in favor of requiring all corporations to show, before doing business outside of the state of their origin, that they have no water in their stock and that they have not attempted to monopolize any branch of business or the production of any articles of commerce.

The democratic party was a pioneer in the advocacy of Mississippi and other great river improvements, declaring in 1884, for a systematic improvement of these waterways by the federal government. In 1892 it renewed its declaration for general river improvement and advocated government aid "for a definite plan of continuous work until permanent improvement was secured." In 1896 it renewed its

pledge for improvement of the waterways. In 1908 it reiterated its declaration for waterways improvement and advocated the perfection of the system connecting the great lakes with the navigable streams to the end that an inland waterway to be navigated by vessels of standard draught should be established.

The democratic party was a pioneer in advocating federal aid to state and local authority in the construction and maintenance of post roads. It was likewise a pioneer in the suggestion for the regulation of the rates and services of telegraph and telephone companies engaged in the transmission of messages between the states.

The democratic party was a pioneer in the advocacy of an American canal, declaring in many platforms for the construction of that enterprise. A democratic senator, Morgan of Alabama, made that his life work.

The democratic party has stood for the extension of agricultural, mechanical and industrial education. In 1908 it declared in favor of the establishment of district agricultural and a mechanical college in the several states.

From the time of Washington, democrats have opposed the third term and in 1896 they specifically declared in their national platform "That no man should be eligible for a third term for the presidential office." It was a democrat, William M. Springer of Illinois, who introduced the anti-third term resolution adopted by the house in 1875 which resolution prevented the nomination for a third term of General Grant.

The democratic party in 1908 stood for the physical valuation of railroads by the interstate commerce commission as a basis for rate regulation. It also protested against railroads engaging in business which brings them in competition with their shippers.

The democratic party was the first of the old parties to oppose in its national platform the free pass and the rebate declaring in 1908, "We heartily approve the laws prohibiting the pass and the rebate and we favor any further necessary legislation to restrain, control and prevent such abuses."

Long ago the democratic party stood for conservation declaring in 1880 for "public money and public credit for public purposes solely, and public land for actual settlers." In 1884 it declared, "we believe that the public land ought, as far as possible, be kept as homesteads for actual settlers; that all unearned lands heretofore improvidently granted to railroad corporations by the action of the republican party should be restored to the public domains, and that no more land grants should be made to corporations or be allowed to fall into the ownership of alien absentees. In 1888 it renewed its promise to devote its energies to conservation and pointed with pride to the fact that under a democratic administration one hundred millions of acres of valuable land had been reclaimed from corporations and syndicates. In 1892 it renewed its promise for conservation and reclamation. In 1900 and 1904 it reiterated its advocacy of conservation and reclamation and declared in favor of systematic irrigation. In 1908 it declared that free grazing upon the public land outside of forest or other reservations should be left to the people of the state in which such lands may be situated until these lands should be eventually disposed of. In 1908 it declared: "We repeat the demand for internal development and for the conservation of our natural resources contained in previous platforms, the enforcement of which Mr. Roosevelt has vainly sought from a reluctant party; and to that end we insist upon the preservation, protection and replacement of needed forests, the preservation of the public domain for homeseekers, the protection of the natural resources in timber, coal, iron and oil against monopolistic control, the development of our waterways for navigation and other useful purposes, including the irrigation of arid land, the reclamation of swamp lands, the clarification of streams, the development of water power and the preservation of electric power generated by this natural force from the control of monopoly; and to such end we urge the exercise of all powers, national, state and municipal, both separately in co-operation. We insist upon a policy of administration of our forest reserves which shall relieve it of the abuses which have arisen thereunder, and which shall, as far as practicable, conform to the police regulations of the several states where they are located, which shall enable homesteaders as of right to

occupy and acquire title to all portions which are especially adapted to agriculture, and which shall furnish a system of timber sales available as well to the private citizen as to the larger manufacturer and consumer."

The democratic party has consistently protested against the interference in political conventions of federal officeholders. For instance, in 1892 it said: "We denounce a policy under which federal officeholders usurp control of party conventions in the state."

The democratic party took the lead in genuine civil service reform protesting in 1876 against making public office "a prize sought for at the ballot box, a brief reward of party zeal, instead of posts of honor, assigned for proved competency."

The democratic party has protested against contributions by corporations, and in its platform of 1908 demanded the passage of the statute providing imprisonment for any corporation officer who would contribute or permit the contribution in furthering the election of a president or vice-president or of any member of congress.

The democratic party led the way in favor of publicity of campaign funds and in its platform of 1908 advocated a law providing for the publication before election of all contributions above a reasonable minimum.

The democratic party has always been the friend of labor and the consistent champion of progressive labor legislation. In 1884 it favored "the repeal of all laws restricting the free action of labor and the enactment of laws by which labor organizations may be incorporated and of all such legislation as will tend to enlighten the people as to the true relations of capital and labor." It also protested against the importation of cheap foreign labor. In 1892 it said: "We favor legislation by congress and state legislatures to protect the lives and limbs of railroad employes and those of other hazardous companies, and denounce the inactivity of the republican party and particularly the republican senate for causing the defeat of measures beneficial and protective to this class of wage-workers. We are in favor of the enactment by the state of laws for abolishing the notorious sweating system, for abolishing contract convict labor, and for prohibiting the employment in factories of children under 15 years of age." It was the first of the older parties to declare against government by injunction and denounce the blacklist. It was the first of the old parties to recommend that congress create a department of labor in charge of a secretary with a seat in the cabinet, making that declaration in its platform of 1900. It has regularly advocated the arbitration of differences between employers and employes, declaring for that system in its platform of 1896, 1900 and others. It has consistently stood for the 8-hour day, making that explicit pledge in its national platforms. In 1908 it declared for a general employers' liability act covering injury to body or loss of life of employe. At the same time it reiterated its pledge to create a department of labor in the president's cabinet.

The democratic party protested in 1880 against centralization as is proposed by the third party of today, referring to it as "that dangerous spirit of encroachment which tends to consolidate the powers of all the departments in one and thus to create, whatever the form of government, a real despotism." In 1882 it protested against "the tendency to centralize all power at the federal capital" as a "menace to the reserved rights of the states that strikes at the very roots of our government under the constitution as framed by the fathers of the republic." In 1896 it again protested against "the tendency of selfish interests toward the centralization of governmental power." In 1908 it declared for the preservation of our present system by the support of state governments in all their rights as the most competent administration for our domestic concerns and the surest bulwark against "anti-republican tendencies" and "in the preservation of the general government in its whole constitutional vigor as the sheet anchor of our peace at home and safety abroad." In that year it declared, "there is no twilight zone between the nation and the state in which exploiting interests can take refuge from both; it is necessary that the federal government shall exercise the powers delegated to it, as it is the state governments, shall use the authority reserved to them; but we insist that federal remedies for the regulation of inter-state com-