

removal of illiteracy, for the increase of teachers' salaries and instruction in citizenship for both native and foreign born; increased appropriation for vocational training in home economics; re-establishment of joint federal and state employment service with women's departments under the direction of technically qualified women. We advocate full representation of women on all commissions dealing with women's work or women's interests and a reclassification of the federal civil service free from discrimination on the ground of sex; increase of appropriations for education in sex hygiene; federal legislation which will insure that American women resident in United States, but married to aliens, shall retain their American citizenship and that the same process of naturalization shall be required for women as for men.

#### DISABLED SOLDIERS

"The federal government should treat with the utmost consideration every disabled soldier, sailor and marine of the world war, whether his disability be due to wounds received in line of action or to health impaired in service; and for the dependents of the brave men who died in line of duty, the government's tenderest concern and richest bounty should be their requital. The fine patriotism exhibited, the heroic conduct displayed by American soldiers, sailors and marines, at home and abroad, constitute a sacred heritage of posterity, the worth of which can never be recompensed from the treasury and the glory of which must not be diminished by any such expedients.

"The Democratic administration wisely established a war risk insurance bureau giving four and a half millions of enlisted men insurance at unprecedentedly low rates and through the medium of which compensation of men and women injured in service is readily adjusted, and hospital facilities for those whose health is impaired are abundantly afforded.

"The federal board for vocational education should be made a part of the war risk insurance bureau, in order that the task may be treated as a whole, and this machinery of protection and assistance must receive every aid of law and appropriation necessary to full and effective operation.

"We believe that no higher or more valued privilege can be afforded to an American citizen than to become a free holder in the soil of the United States and to that end we pledge our party to the enactment of soldier settlements and home aid legislation which will afford to the men who fought for America the opportunity to become land and home owners under conditions affording genuine government assistance unincumbered by needless difficulties of red tape or advance financial investment.

#### THE RAILROADS

"The railroads were subjected to federal control as a war measure without other idea than the swift transport of troops, munitions and supplies. When human life and national hopes were at stake profits could not be considered and were not. Federal operation, however, was marked by an intelligence and efficiency that minimized loss and resulted in many and marked reforms. The equipment taken over was not only grossly inadequate but shamefully outworn. Unification practices overcame these initial handicaps and provided additions, betterments and improvements. Economies enabled operation without the rate raises that private control would have found necessary and labor was treated with an exact justice that secured the enthusiastic co-operation that victory demanded. The fundamental purpose of federal control was achieved fully and splendidly, and at far less cost to the taxpayer than would have been the case under private operation. Investments in railroad properties were not only saved by government operation, but government management returned these properties vastly improved in every physical and executive detail. A great task was greatly discharged.

"The president's recommendation of return to private ownership gave the Republican majority a full year in which to enact the necessary legislation. The house took six months to formulate its ideas, and another six months was consumed by the Republican senate in equally vague debate. As a consequence, the Esch-Cummins bill went to the president in the closing hours of congress and he was forced to a choice between the chaos of a veto and acquiescence in

the measure submitted, however grave may have been his objections to it.

"There should be a fair and complete test of the law until careful and mature action by congress may cure its defects and insure a thoroughly effective transportation system under private ownership without government subsidy at the expense of the taxpayers of the country.

#### IMPROVED HIGHWAYS

"Improved roads are of vital importance, not only to commerce and industry, but also to agricultural and rural life. The federal road act of 1916, enacted by a Democratic congress, represented the first systematic effort of the government to insure the building of an adequate system of roads in this country. The act, as amended has resulted in placing the movement for improved highways on a progressive and substantial basis in every state in the union and in bringing under actual construction more than 13,000 miles of roads suited to the traffic needs of the communities in which they are located.

"We favor a continuance of the present federal aid plan under existing federal and state agencies, amended so as to include as one of the elements in determining the ratio in which the several states shall be entitled to share in the fund, the area of any public lands therein.

"Inasmuch as the postal service has been extended by the Democratic party to the door of practically every producer and every consumer in the country (rural free delivery alone having been provided for 6,000,000 additional patrons within the past eight years without material added cost), we declare that this instrumentality can, and will, be used to the maximum of its capacity to improve the efficiency of distribution and reduce the cost of living to consumers while increasing the profitable operations of producers.

"We strongly favor the increased use of the motor vehicle in the transportation of mails and urge the removal of restriction imposed by the Republican congress on the use of the motor devices in mail transportation in rural territories.

#### MERCHANT MARINE

"We desire to congratulate the American people upon the re-birth of our merchant marine which once more maintains its former place in the world. It was under a Democratic administration that this was accomplished after seventy years of indifference and neglect, 13,000,000 tons having been constructed since the act was passed in 1916. We pledge the policy of our party to the continued growth of our merchant marine under proper legislation so that American products will be carried to all ports of the world by vessels built in American yards, flying the American flag.

#### PORT FACILITIES

"The urgent demands of the war for adequate transportation of war material as well as for domestic need revealed the fact that our port facilities and rate adjustment were such as to seriously affect the whole country in times of peace as well as war.

"We pledge our party to stand for equality of rates, both import and export, for the ports of the country, to the end that there may be adequate and fair facilities and rates for the mobilization of the products of the country offered for shipment.

#### INLAND WATERWAYS

"We call attention to the failure of the Republican national convention to recognize in any way the rapid development of barge transportation on our inland waterways, which development is the result of the constructive policies of the Democratic administration. And we pledge ourselves to the further development of adequate transportation facilities on our rivers and to the further improvement of the importance of connecting the Great Lakes with the sea by way of the Mississippi river and its tributaries as well as by the St. Lawrence river. We favor an enterprising foreign trade policy with all nations, and in this connection we favor full utilization of all Atlantic, gulf and Pacific ports, and an equitable distribution of shipping facilities between the various ports.

"Transportation remains an increasingly vital problem in the continued development and prosperity of the nation.

"Our present facilities for distribution by rail are inadequate and the promotion of transportation by water is imperative.

"We therefore favor a liberal and compre-

hensive policy for the development and utilization of our harbors and interior waterways.

#### FLOOD CONTROL

"We commend the Democratic congress for the redemption of the pledge contained in our last platform by the passage of the flood control act of March 1, 1917, and point to the successful control of the floods of the Mississippi river and the Sacramento river, California, under the policy of that law, for its complete justification. We favor the extension of this policy to other flood control problems wherever the federal interest involved justifies the expenditure required.

#### RECLAMATION OF ARID LANDS

"By wise legislation and progressive administration, we have transformed the government reclamation projects representing an investment of \$100,000,000 from a condition of impending failure and loss of confidence in the ability of congress to carry through such large enterprises, to a condition of demonstrated success, whereby formerly arid and wholly unproductive lands now sustained 40,000 prosperous families and have an annual crop production of over \$70,000,000, not including the crops grown on a million acres outside the projects supplied with storage water from governmental works.

"We favor ample appropriations for the continuation and extension of this great work of home building and internal improvement along the same general lines, to the end that all practical projects shall be built, and waters now running to waste shall be made to provide homes and add to the food supply, power resources, and taxable property, with the government ultimately reimbursed for the entire outlay.

#### THE TRADE COMMISSION

"The Democratic party heartily endorses the creation and work of the federal trade commission in establishing a fair field for competitive business, free from restraints of trade and monopoly and recommends amplification of the statutes governing its activities so as to grant it authority to prevent the unfair use of patents in restraint of trade.

#### LIVESTOCK MARKETS

"For the purpose of insuring just and fair treatment in the great interstate livestock market, and thus instilling confidence in growers through which production will be stimulated and the price of meats to consumers be ultimately reduced, we favor the enactment of legislation for the supervision of such markets by the national government.

#### MEXICO

"The United States is the neighbor and friend of the nations of the three Americas. In a very special sense, our international relations in this hemisphere should be characterized by good will and free from any possible suspicion as to our national purpose.

"The administration, remembering always that Mexico is an independent nation and that permanent stability in her government and her institutions could come only from the consent of her own people to a government of their own making, has been unwilling either to profit by the misfortunes of the people of Mexico or to enfeeble their future by imposing from the outside a rule upon their temporarily distracted councils. As a consequence, order is gradually reappearing in Mexico; at no time in many years have American lives and interests been so safe as they now are; peace reigns along the border and industry is resuming.

"When the new government of Mexico shall have given ample proof of its ability permanently to maintain law and order, signified its willingness to meet its international obligations and written upon its statute books just laws under which foreign investors shall have rights as well as duties, that government should receive our recognition and sympathetic assistance. Until these proper expectations have been met, Mexico must realize the propriety of a policy that asserts the right of the United States to demand full protection for its citizens.

#### PETROLEUM

"The Democratic party recognizes the importance of the acquisition by Americans of additional sources of supply of petroleum and other minerals and declares that such acquisition both at home and abroad, should be fostered and encouraged. We urge such action, legislative and

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