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PERFORMANCE IS DEMANDED

The republican party of the state of Nebraska, in convention assembled in August last, promulgated a platform recognizing the demands of the people of the state for specific legislation, and asked to be commissioned to perform the same, promising, if so commissioned, a good and faithful performance of its covenants without any equivocation, mental reservation or evasion of any kind whatever. The commission asked for was granted, and the people now demand that the pledges then so freely given be redeemed in good faith. If this be done, then that party will have established its right to again ask the people for their confidence, otherwise it can only look forward to merited defeat.

Parties are only means to ends. This fact, however, which has been so long obscured on account of the prejudices naturally engendered by the civil war, is now becoming apparent in the shifting scenes of politics wherein a few leaders who voice the demands of the times are commanding the allegiance of the voters of both parties, while the honored party leaders of yesterday are being relegated to the rear as re-actionaries belonging to the past.

"At the birth of each new era
With a recognizing start
Nations wildly look at nations
Standing with mute lips apart
While glad truths' yet mightier man-child
Leaps beneath the future's heart."

Substitute the word parties for that of nations in the foregoing stanza and the present political conditions will be fittingly portrayed.

When justice and freedom speak political parties must with uncovered heads stand before the mighty presence of God's words thundering through the mouths of those who bear the image of their Creator, and such as heed not the sound are doomed.

The republican party of Nebraska attracted the attention of the voters of the state early in the year claim-

ing to have had a visitation of the spirit of truth and to have received a warning of the evil of its ways, and its organs announced that it had entered upon the work of self-purgation. Men who were leaders in its ranks publicly confessed the party sins of yesterday, proclaimed themselves conscience racked and begged for an opportunity to do deeds meet for repentance. Their prayers were heard and their petitions answered, and they now stand before the bar of public intelligence stripped of all excuse for the future.

The battle within the party was fought valiantly, and the victory of the reformers in the republican state convention was decisive and complete. The so-called progressives put to rout the old party warhorses whose shoulders had become bent and whose locks had turned gray in the service of corporations, and put at the helm young men whom they swore to be without guile and pure of heart, possessing the courage of lions, and the zeal of crusaders. The campaign made by the republican candidates was clean cut, and aggressive. The speeches of the leading candidate were replete with facts and sound argument upon the issues involved. And, as the democrats and populists were contending for the same things that the republicans were contending for, the rivalry between the fusion leaders and those of the republicans was as to which could present the grievances of the people against the railroads in the most intelligent and forcible manner, each seeking to attract the voters to their respective standards by furnishing them with convincing evidence of their own superiority over the other in point of knowledge concerning the issues, plans for accomplishing relief from the evils complained of and of good faith in their professions.

Thus, the party receiving the commission from the people have all doubts removed as to the demands of the people, and are therefore in no position to hesitate, split hairs or cavil. Their duty is plain, their command imperative, and the people are looking on and will brook no dallying in the matter of performance. The incoming republican legislature and governor will proceed at once to fulfill the pledges of the party in both spirit and letter, or they will call down upon their individual heads and upon their party the contempt of honest men of all parties.

The fusion members of the legislature are also on trial. It is their duty to prepare bills and introduce them covering the demands of their party platforms and to insist upon their passage, to the limit of their power. It will not do for the minority to manifest any lack of interest in the service of the people because of being in the minority. They are under obligation to the people to prepare, introduce and urge the passage of such measures as they themselves would enact into law if they were in the majority instead of in the minority. And after the members of each party have introduced their bills it becomes the duty of all of the members, regardless of party, to unite upon the best and the wisest measures for the good of the people of the state. If the repub-

lican majority shows bad faith in the incoming legislature, that party will pay the forfeiture in the following election. And if the minority fail in demanding good faith of the majority by introducing bills embracing their own ideas of adequate legislation covering the pledges of their party platforms they and their parties will not escape blame.

Let the game of politics be laid aside and all members enter into friendly emulation as to who can best serve the interests of the taxpayers and voters of the state.

THE PROFESSIONAL LOBBY

If the incoming legislature intends to carry out its party pledges in good faith its first act will be to pass a law excluding all persons known to be professional lobbyists from the state house during the period of the legislative session except at public hearings given by committees of the legislature. Such a law should also make it a crime for professional lobbyists to furnish entertainment of any kind to members of the legislature during the legislative term. The term professional lobbyist can be defined in such manner as to cover all persons who are in the employ of public service corporations, and others who as representatives special interests seek to unduly influence legislation.

The professional lobbyist employed by the railroad corporations, the telegraph and telephone companies, the Standard Oil company, the elevator and lumber companies are known to the party leaders and to the public and it is time the state house was rid of them and all of their kind during the legislative term. And it is also time to call a halt upon the entertainment of our law makers by lobbyists in all of the various forms that have been practiced in Lincoln during past sessions of the legislature and to make it a crime for men seeking to influence legislation to extend any courtesies to members of the legislature that are not extended by them to all other persons, if the parties extending such courtesies are in the employ of corporations, firms or individuals who furnish the means used by them in ingratiating themselves into the favor of legislators.

Missouri and other states have laws to protect their law making bodies from the assault of predatory interests through professional lobbyists, and if the incoming legislature in Nebraska means to keep faith with the people its first step must be to clear the atmosphere of the corrupting influence of the professional lobby that has disgraced our legislatures for years.

The incoming administration must bear in mind that the people are aroused as never before, and that its every act will be jealously watched by its friends, who demand that it avoid the appearance of evil in any and every form. Public service corporations or others seeking legislation or the prevention of legislation have no rights before a legislative body except to appear before its committees and make known their wishes

and gives the reasons therefor. This right all have and none have more. The professional lobby must go.

MISDIRECTED EFFORTS

The stupidity of the American toiler who has been lulled to sleep by the cry of protection to American labor by the party that has embroiled us in our Philippine mess in its efforts to advance the purposes of adventurers who would make China the workshop of the world if the Chinese would, as they expected them to do, permit of their country being exploited by foreigners, is only equalled by the stupidity of democratic statesmen whose obtuseness on the tariff question prevented them seeing and exposing the game of the hypocritical protectionists. The darkness of the average American mind on the tariff question surpasses all understanding. The tariff question beyond cavil has been more discussed with less intelligence than any other question. And the funny thing about it is that our people generally think that they actually do know considerable about it, which they do not.

The democratic statesmen of a half century seem to have been constitutionally incapable of grasping the tariff question. And the rank and file of the republicans have depended upon the democrats to raise valid objec-

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