

POLITICIANS PRESENTING RELIG-IOUS ISSUE DENOUNCED BY EMINENT EDITOR.

Philadelphia "North American" Scores Politicians Who Would Deny the Constitutional Right of Liberty of Conscience.

The un-American and indefensible the approval of the world. attempt of democratic politicians to | Nor can we see a semblance of of our public officials. How have make a partisan political issue out of excuse even for covert attacks by the religious beliefs and church at- unscrupulous enemies in the recog- discharged this business trust for the tachments of William H. Taft has re- nition of an American representative people of Nebraska? One illustraceived the following deserved and by Rome or in dignified deference tion will go far to show. The state fitting condemnation from the editor shown by that representative to the debt of Nebraska, created by fusion of the Philadelphia "North American," head of the oldest Christian church, extravagance and mismanagement one of the best and most intelligently the revered chief of 230,000,000 Chrisedited newspapers of the United tians throughout the world, including States. The "North American" says: 11,000,000 loyal Americans.

"We have received numbers of letquestions which constitute the basis the church in which his mother of all similar communications:

It is rumored in this place that detestation. William Taft is a staunch Roman president, as he would be subject to a foreign potentate?

JOHN B. MYERS. Hanover, Pa., June 10.

I have heard a report today, in his fitness-certainly not because of Pittsburg, to the effect that the Hon. his religion. So we have seen the legislation. William H. Taft is a Unitarian and Dutch Reformed churchman surrounddoes not believe in the divinity of our ing himself with Root the Presbyter-Jesus Christ. I do not wish to crit- ian, Taft the Unitarian, Straus reducing freight rates and express icise or question the wisdom in se- the Jew and Bonaparte the Roman rates, the anti-pass law, the primary lecting our candidate for presidency, Catholic. but desire to call it to your attention, and trust you will make propeinvestigation and let the facts be known promptly.

If he is an unbeliever, we cannot hope to elect him at a general election to the presidency of a Christian country, and I trust you will see the last. advisability of a proper investigation and use your powerful influence to place a man with proper standing at the head of our ticket. We cannot American, we say that if Mr. Taft have helped to work out these betcount on the support of a Christian were a Roman Catholic or a Hebrew tered conditions. When these pracpeople for an unbeliever.

D. B. EVANS. Jeannette, Pa., June 15.

To dispose of questions which should not be asked, as speedily as member of the Unitarian church That was the church of his parents, and he has never separated himself from it. His wife, however, is an Episcopalian, and he worships more often beside her in her church. These are the facts, which are utterly and absolutely unimportant. The matter of a man's religion has no rightful place in consideration of his fitness for the presidency. The constitution of the nation, ordained and established "to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity." expressly places the very suggestion of such thought outside the pale of patriotism.

But Taft went to the Vatican. That was his first offense. The second offense was having his

picture taken beside the pope. That picture has been reprinted and disributed throughout the country, And he letters we have received show that this had some effect, even in a supposedly same and civilized nation.

Those two incidents constitute the foundation for all the censorious elected by the people, consequently gossip that has been set going conthe public officials are the business cerning Mr. Taft's religion. agents of the taxpayers pure and The first won for American states- simple. The interests of the people

manship and American fair-dealing

the republican officials of Nebraska largely, reached its high point in December, 1905, amounting to two and one-third million dollars at that

The attempt to hurt Taft by essay- date. Republican legislation and ters inquiring about the religious be- ing to identify him with the Roman the careful administration of republiefs of Taft. The two which we Catholic church we place on the same lican state officers reduced this debt print below we have selected as fair plane as the attempt to censure him to \$479,000, on August 1st, 1908, samples, because they raise the two because he has refused to turn from without noticeable burden to the taxpayers. That is the way the repubknelt. Both are kindred appeals to lican party discharges a business To the Editor of the North American, the bigotry which we hold in utter trust confided to it by the people. The record is one to be proud of.

We had thought, as we have hoped, What else has the republican party Catholic. Is it true? If so, can that the day of religious prejudice achieved for good government in Ne-Americans, and especially those born in national politics was done in this braska to entitle it to a continuance on American soil, support him for country. What better proof could of public confidence? The republican party is in power

we have asked of the disappearance of that vicious error than the re- in the state now. It is giving the ligious complexion of Roosevelt's Nebraska people clean, progressive cabinet?

No sane man believes that the very best state government we ever To the Editor of the North American. president chose any adviser save for had.

> rate law, the railroad commission law election law, the pure food law and

other progressive measures, all put And not because of their varying faiths, but because not one word was forward as the result of higher ideals spoken of the religion of any as a evolved and crystalized into the sentiqualification or a disgualification, we ment and the progressive spirit that thought we had reason to believe dominates the republican party in this that the prejudices which never state. should have existed were dead at All these things have come through the republican party of Nebraska and

The North American yields to no not through the influence of Candidate one in its Americanism. And in the Bryan or his political associates in spirit of the normal, but intense, Nebraska, for neither he nor they or the adherent of any other faith, tical things were being done Candiour support of his candidacy would date Bigan was always somewhere be no less ardent because he chose to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience.

The Nebraska people, proud of the What the man murmurs with bowed progress of their state, in business possible, let us say that Mr. Taft head on Sunday matters much to and government, owes nothing to Canis not a Roman Catholic. He is a his soul. But what concerns us in didate Bryan for any constructive as-



and are spent by the public officials

are consequently bound up in the

intelligence, houesty and efficiency

and forceful state government, the

We have had progressive state

The two cent per mile passenger

Taxes are raised from the people

CULTURAL PROGRESS.

Denounces Expansion of Departments Which Work Exclusively in the Interests of the

to see the Free Rural Delivery of Mail crippled and perhaps abolished and the great work of the Department of Agriculture hampered and possibly reduced to a stagnant condition and all real progress in that department stopped? As many as wish such a result in the two great departments of the government devoted exclusively to the daily interests of the farmer, stock-raiser and horticulturist should vote this year for Candidate Bryan and his democratic platform, because in that platform, made and approved in every word by Candidate Bryan, is a plain and unmistakable threat to

That this statement is true and is not mere idle criticism is amply proven by the official record on which Candidate Bryan himself has placed the seal of his personal approval.

lation to the matters of vital daily interest to the men and women who

ideas of economy that are pointed diholders" who serve the farmer exclusively? None but the thoughtless will incur such a risk and Nebraska farmers are not thoughtless or easily classes of the nation, says: deceived.

increased number of "officeholders' and the increased expense. to join with Candidate Bryan in abolishing this service, reducing the number of "officeholders" thereby and Nebraska Reaps Large Returns From 'saving" the money it costs? For a

genuinely crazy idea of "economy" is HIS PLATFORM THREATENS RU. not this 'position of Candidate Bryan entitled to first place?

retary, this department has grown and expanded under republican encouragement into a work of tremendous importance to the American farmer. Ten years ago about two thousand 'officeholders" at an annual cost of three million dollars represented the total of men and money given to this great work. On July 1st, 1908, the "officeholders," or in other words the necessary employees to carry on the work, had increased to 10,320 (an increase of 8,000), and ment. This is another item to add proved by overnor Sheldon. to Candidate Bryan's denunciation of the "increase of officeholders." Let us add up the sum. Thirty-nine thousand "officeholders" and thirty-five million dollars' "increase" for the farmers Rural Free Delivery; 8,000 "officeholders" and fifteen million dollars for the farmers' Department of Agriculture, a total addition of 47,000 government employees and fifty million dollars, all working for the American farmer and the increase of employees and expense roundly de nounced by Candidate Bryan- All this was done for the farmer by the bill. republican party. Does the Nebraska farmer wish to continue these great undertakings by supporting the republican party with his vote or does he wish to assist Candidate Bryan to throw it all overboard as he threatens in his platform to do? Can the Nebraska farmer afford to risk the continuance of the two greatest agencies for his prosperity and well- bill.

Menace of Bryanism.

Because Mr. Bryan is unsafe we op-



Republican Rule in the State.

When a man invests his money in any enterprise he usually does so Consider next the Department of with the expectation of reaping Agriculture, the farmers' exclusive something of profit; of drawing department in our government. Es- something in the way of dividends tablished by republican legislation, from his investment. The people of with Uncle Jerry Rusk its first Sec- | Nebraska have "invested" in the republican party in recent years. It is reasonable that they ask what have been the profits to the people; what dividends have the people received for their investment of confidence in the republican party? To name all the valuable returns the people of Nebraska have received would require a volume.

The Nebraska republican platform of 1906 contained seven important pledges to the people of the state, everyone of which were "redeemed" Congress appropriated fifteen millions by being enacted into law by repubfor the work of this farmers' depart- lican votes in the legislature and ap-

The principal pledges were:

1.-- A memorial to congress to enact a law compelling railroads to pay their taxes at the same time and in the same manner as private persons are compelled to do.

Twenty-four republican senators, fifty-six republican representatives, a majority in each house, enacted the bill

2.-Direct Primary Law.

Twenty-seven republican senators, fifty-three republican representatives, a majority in each house, enacted the

3.-Anti-Pass Law.

Twenty-five republican senators, sixty-three republican representatives, majority in each house, enacted the bill.

4.-Railway Commission Law. Twenty-six republican senators, sixty-two republican representatives. a majority in each house, enacted the

5.-Employers' Liability Law.

Twenty republican senators, fiftynine republican representatives, a majority in each house, enacted the rectly to the abolition of the "office- bill.

6.-Municipal (Terminal) Taxation of Railway Property.

Twenty republican senators, fiftyone republican representatives, a majority in each house, enacted the bill. 7.-Pure Food and Dairy Law.

Twenty-six republican senators, pose him. Because he can believe or fifty-six republican representatives, a change belief at will we oppose him. majority in each house, enacted the Because he is the victim of his own bill.

Each and everyone of these measdelusions we oppose him. Because he is convinced that whatever may win ures were promptly approved by the should be advocated and whatever republican governor of Nebraska, may lose should be renounced we Hon. George L. Sheldon, who has again oppose him. Because he is the idol been selected by the republican elecof the desperate, fanatical, credulous tors of the state at the recent direct and visionary, and makes them his primary election to head the repubconfidants and aids, we oppose him. lican state ticket as the candidate Because he is a populist and not a of the party for re-election to the high democrat we oppose him. To us, to office he has so ably filled during the do this, the duty is plain. The conse- past two years. quences of duty done belong not to The legislative vote above given by those who do it. The consequences which these important measures were of duty neglected or violated or mis- enacted shows plainly that the repubconceived belong where and to whom lican party is alone responsible for need not be said. None of those con- this progressive legislation and is ensequences shall belong here .- Brook- titled to the credit for these meritorilyn (N. Y.) Eagle (Demo.) ous laws. While the time since their enactment has been comparatively Does the farmer and business man short, it has been long enough to infully realize the great value to them dicate conclusively the enormous imof the railway commission legislation portance of these policies to the peoenacted by a republican legislature ple of the state and many of the and how many abuses have been direct benefits flowing from them to righted by application to the commisall the people of Nebraska. The Railsion, thus avoiding the tedious, exway Commission law alone has alpensive and long-delayed litigation ready proven to be of immense imformerly necessary to establish indiportance and has, without injury to vidual rights when contested by a the railroads in their legitimate earnrailway corporation, Hundreds of ing powers, saved to the people of cases of complaint from Nebraska the state millions of dollars in freight citizens have been adjusted by the and passenger rates, cutting off the commission when the delays and exfree-pass evil and equalizing railway pense of former conditions would have charges between persons and places left the complainant practically helpon a practical "square deal" plan, less and forced to endure what he was whereby the humblest receives subpowerless to cure. The republican stantial justice and the most powerful policy of performance, of promises are helpless to force an unjust diskept and carried into effect, is re crimination in their own special interest. If the Railway Commission alone were the only achievement of the republican party in the past two years, the people of Nebraska would have been well repaid for their investment of confidence in the republican party of this state. But this is not all the republican record, in created by fusion extravagance and fact but a fraction of republican achievement of the same period. The careful, business-like and economical administration of all state institutions under republican state officers has kept them all at a high standard of efficiency, as the people desire them to be, yet at a cost demonstrating careful and economical supervision: Mr. Bryan fasteins to say that if state funds have been kept invested earning larger interest returns by candidate for second term. This is thousands than ever before in our tempting bait, but the whances are history; the state debt has been rethe voters will make sure in, their own duced from two and one-third millions way that he shall never be a candi- to less than half a million. In a thousand other ways, too numerous to risk of having him continue as a can- mention here, the people have profited by the bitterest opponent of Roman cause forces a factional alignment of is left unredeemed. That's the re- per year gives Candidate Bryan his didate for a first term .- Pit sburg by their investment of confidence in

RAL DELIVERY AND AGRI-

How many Nebraska farmers wish lo that very thing.

It is a matter of common knowledge that the democratic platform this year was prepared under the personal supervision of Candidate Bryan and had his approval in every word, line and statement before it saw the light of day in the democratic national convention at Denver and was there adopted with the full knowledge that it was the personal platform of Candidate Bryan. What does this democratic platform say in re-

make their homes and spend their being ever established by the general lives on the farm? government by casting his vote for Under a section of the democratio Candidate Bryan and his experimental

national platform denominated "Officeholders," the platform undertaking to denounce the administration of the republican party in keeping abreast of the progress of the country and extending benefits to the agricultural

"Coincident with the enormous" "increase in expenditures is a" "like addition to the number of" "officeholders. * * * We de-" "nounce this great and growing" "increase in the number of" "officeholders as not only unnec-" "essary and wasteful, but also" "as clearly indicating a deliberate"

Farmer.

No words can be clearer than these from our country's fundamental law: "No religious test ever shall be requird as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United Sigra

. ... numerous punies about Mr. Taft's religiour b lief show simply the extent to which his enemies have gone to rouse some prejudice against him. Since there was no spot upon his whole clean record of private conduct and public service to which they could point to Taft's detriment, they displayed their willingness to descend to any depth of petty, cowardly, contemptible attack that might do him harm.

Now, it was not because Mr. Taft was born of a Unitarian family that it was thought possible to disseminate a false sentiment. His enemies saw their chance in the fact that Taft, when governor general of the Philippines, adjusted for all time a diplomatic question of such extreme delicacy that, handled by any other American representative, it would likely have rankled for half a censury a source of danger and dispute.

The disposition of the friars' lands involved, besides important finances. religion in Europe and this country and revolution in the islands. The place to do business is at headquarters. Taft went to the Vatican. And in two days' talk he settled the controversy upon lines so fair, so broad, so impartial as to win for America the honor and admiration of the bierarchy of the Catholic church, yet making no concession that ever yet has offered a loophole for censure Catholicism.

the filling of an office with which religion has no affair is, that not on one day, but every day, with his eyes facing all men, the every act of this man has proved him the God-fearing patriot who has done Christ's own work in earning the title of "the secretary of peace."

That religious prejudice has survived so long under this government, whose basic principle is civil and religious liberty, has puzzled the deepest students.

True, much of this is the inheritance of the ages. In part, it all dates back to the barbarous martyrdoms of Catholics and Protestants in turn, as each in turn gained dominance. We can trace it through the prompt shifting of the Puritans from persecuted to persecutors. Knownothing-Ism, the fruit of a long growth, left a bad bitterness not yet wholly ob-| literated.

But while much of the prejudice may thus be accounted for, in our judgment the feeling is kept alive and nurtured less by the persecutors than by the persecuted themselves. There is no ethical difference between supporting a bad man for high civic place because he professes a certain religion and opposing him or any other man because of his religious faith.

Any man who is not a good and upright citizen is not a good and upright follower of any religion. Whatever altar the betrayer of public trust kneels before he is a Judas. And he is far less worthy the support of members of the faith to which he is a traitor than of the votes of those indifferent or opposed to the creed he speaks, but in acts denies.

Church members lose claim to good citizenship and honest religion when they approve the man who gives color to the charges of the enemies of their faith and promote, instead of rebuking, the dissembler who disgraces their church.

Nor is that the worst. By their action they foment and foster this same religious prejudice which has bloodied the pages of history. They do more than aught else could to justify the persecutors and the persecutions they cry out against. For their own solidarity in a wrong every law enacted and not a pledge with its cost of thirty-five millions all who think unlike them. publican way.

sistance rendered by him.

a talk.

The material conditions in the state are such as to hold the public mind in an optimistic mood and optimism is an antidote to Bryanism. Corn is high and it's a corn state.

else talking up his candidacy at \$500

Wheat is high and it's a wheat state. Cattle are high and it's a cattle

Hcgs are high and it's a hog state. Land is high, going higher every day and it's a land state, and it's a state of farmer voters.

Governor Sheldon has made an enviable record with the Nebraska people by being a courageous, levelheaded, strong, manly man in the executive office. As the leader of the party in this campaign he attracts universal respect for his high character and universal confidence for his broad minded fairness as an executive. Taking all these things into consideration one can see nothing in the outlook for the coming

election but the usual republican majority in Nebraska. The Nebraska voter this year will

have an opportunity to choose between promise and performance. If promises alone will satisfy him he American farmer; the Rural Free Decan vote the democratic ticket with livery of Mail and the Department of reasonable assurance that he will get promises and nothing else. If he wants performance, if he wants things done, he will have to vote for the republican candidates as that party is

the only "do it now" party in this state. This is the proof: In 1897 the democratic party with fusion, controlled every department of Nebraska government and power. They had the governor and state officers, the legislature and the supreme court. The party kept no promises made prior to the election and gave the people no relief from railway domination, trans- cause in spite of republican legislaportation abuses, extortionate freight, tion establishing this service for the passenger or express rates. They farmer a democratic president refused grabbed free-passes from the railroads to avail himself of the appropriation with both hands and left the people made for this purpose. The repubto paddle their own canoe. Now lican party took hold in 1897, fostered note the difference. In 1906 the re- and expanded the rural delivery and publican party promised Nebraska a on June 30th, 1908, 39,227 employees long list of reforms and put the prom- were engaged in the R. F. D. servises in the platform. A republican ice, delivering the mail daily to legislature enacted every promise into millions of our farm residents. This law; every law was approved by Gov- added over thirty-nine thousand "ofernor Sheldon, republican state offi- ficeholders" to the list of government cers have intelligently administered employees in the twelve years and

"purpose on the part of the ad-" "ministration to keep the repub-" "lican party in power at public" "expense by thus increasing the" "number of its retainers and de-" "pendents. Such procedure we" "declare to be no less dangerous" "and corrupt than the open pur-" "chase of votes at the polls." Now let the Nebraska farmer ex-

amine this declaration carefully in the light of the facts, to determine exactly what it means, remembering that Candidate Bryan is promising in every speech he makes to carry into

effect, if he is elected, every word found in his platform. To know what he means it is necessary first to learn wherein has been the great increase in "officeholders" in recent years which Candidate Bryan and his platform so roundly and viciously condemn and by plain inference threatens to abolish. That "increase in officeholders" in recent years has been very largely in the two great departments of the government conducted exclusively for the benefit of the Agriculture. Every rural letter carrier and every employee of the Department of Agriculture counts in

making up the government list of sponsible for the new and changed "officeholders" and it is the growth conditions. and expansion of these great departments established by the republican The republican party in Nebraska party for the benefit of the farmer has proven its right to public conthat Candidate Bryan condemns and fidence. No party ever fulfilled its threatens to reduce to a condition of promises so completely as did the wreck and ruin. The facts obtainrepublicans of the state in the last able amply prove the case. In 1896 legislative session. The old debt there were no rural delivery carriers, no "officeholders" to be counted, beruismanagement is being rapidly extinguished, railroad regulation is an accomplished republican fact and not a mere democratic promise and all the affairs of the state are being intelligently and economically administered.

elected this year he will never be a date for a second term, even at the opportunity in 1908, to denounce the | (Pa.) Dispatch-

the republican party of Nebraska.