

gratitude to the soldiers and sailors who have fought its battles, and it is the government's duty to provide for the survivors and for the widows and orphans of those who have fallen in the country's wars. The pension laws founded in this just sentiment should be liberal and should be liberally administered and preference should be given, wherever practicable, with respect to employment in the public service to soldiers and sailors and to their widows and orphans.

Civil Service.

We commend the policy of the republican party in maintaining the efficiency of the civil service. The administration has acted wisely in its effort to secure for public service in Cuba, Porto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippines only those whose fitness has been determined by training and experience. We believe that employment in the public service in these territories should be confined, as far as practicable, to their inhabitants.

It was the plain purpose of the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution to prevent discrimination on account of race or color in regulating the elective franchise. Devices of state governments, whether by statutory or constitutional enactment, to avoid the purpose of this amendment, are revolutionary, and should be condemned.

Public Improvements.

Public movements looking to a permanent improvement of the roads and highways of the country meet with our cordial approval, and we recommend this subject to the earnest consideration of the people and of the legislatures of the several states.

We favor the extension of the rural free delivery service wherever its extension may be justified.

In further pursuance of the constant policy of the republican party to provide free homes on the public domain, we recommend adequate national legislation to reclaim the arid lands of the United States, reserving control of the distribution of water for irrigation to the respective states and territories.

We favor home rule for, and the early admission to statehood of the territories of New Mexico, Arizona and Oklahoma.

The Dingley Act.

The Dingley act, amended to provide sufficient revenue for the conduct of the war, has so well performed its work that it has been possible to reduce the war debt in the sum of \$40,000,000. So ample are the government's revenues, and so great is the public confidence in the integrity of its obligations that its newly funded 2 per cent bonds sell at a premium. The country is now justified in expecting, and it will be the policy of the republican party, to bring about a reduction of the war tax.

Favor Canal.

We favor the construction, control

and protection of an isthmian canal by the government of the United States. New markets are necessary for the increasing surplus of our farm products. Every effort should be made to open and obtain new markets, especially in the Orient, and the administration is warmly to be commended for its successful effort to commit all trading and colonizing nations to the policy of the open door in China. In the interest of our expanding commerce we recommend that congress create a department of commerce and industries, in the charge of a secretary with a seat in the cabinet. The United States consular system should be re-organized under the supervision of this new department upon such a basis of appointment and tenure as will render it still more serviceable to the nation's increasing trade.

"Boxers."

The American government must protect the person and property of every citizen wherever they are wrongfully violated or placed in peril.

We congratulate the women of America upon their splendid record of public service in the volunteer aid associations and as nurses in camp and hospital during the recent campaigns of our armies in the Eastern and Western Indies, and we appreciate their faithful coöperations in all works of education and industry.

Foreign Affairs.

President McKinley has conducted the foreign affairs of the United States with distinguished credit to the American people. In releasing us from the vexatious conditions of a European alliance for the government of Samoa his course is especially to be commended. By securing to our undivided control of the most important island of the Samoan group and the best harbor in the southern Pacific every American interest has been safeguarded.

The Boers.

We commend the part taken by our government in the peace conference at The Hague. We assert our steadfast adherence to the policy announced in the Monroe doctrine. The provisions of The Hague conference were wisely regarded when President McKinley tendered his friendly offices in the interest of peace between Great Britain and the South African republics. While the American government must continue the policy prescribed by Washington, affirmed by every succeeding president and imposed upon us by The Hague treaty, of non-interference in European controversies, the American people earnestly hope that a way may soon be found, honorable alike to both contending parties, to terminate the strife between them.

The Paris Treaty.

In accepting by the treaty of Paris

the just responsibility of our victories in the Spanish war, the president and the senate won the undoubted approval of the American people. No other course was possible than to destroy Spain's sovereignty throughout the Western Indies and in the Philippine Islands. That course created our responsibility before the world and with the unorganized population whom our intervention had freed from Spain, to provide for the establishment of good government and for the performance of international obligations. Our authority could not be less than our responsibility and wherever sovereign rights were extended it became the high duty of the government to maintain its authority, to put down armed insurrection and to confer the blessings of liberty and civilization upon all the rescued peoples. The largest measure of self-government consistent with their welfare and our duties shall be secured to them by law. To Cuba independence and self-government were assured in the same voice by which war was declared, and to the letter this pledge shall be performed. The republican party, upon its history and upon this declaration of its principles and policies, confidently invokes the considerate and approving judgment of the American people.

WONDERFUL CHANGE IN KANSAS.

If William J. Bryan succeeds in carrying Kansas this year it will not be by reason of any lack of prosperity, for the reports agree that it is going to be the banner year for crops in that state. The wheat crop alone will give an estimated yield of 90,000,000 bushels, which is 20,000,000 bushels ahead of former records. With the increased prices of wheat, this crop should bring in about \$54,000,000. To that must be added the profits on the corn crop, which also is above the average. In some portions of the country the wheat crop is a partial failure, but Kansas and Oklahoma have the largest crops they have ever produced, and one authority estimates that the country tributary to Kansas City, which includes Kansas, Oklahoma and portions of Missouri and Iowa, will yield \$100,000,000 worth of wheat. The Kansas farmers have already paid off most of their mortgages, and for some time past the banks of that state have been sending large sums of money eastward for investment. It is said to be a fact that several industrial enterprises in the East have been financed with money furnished indirectly by the Kansas farmers, this being quite a change from the days when all Kansas was mortgaged to eastern money loaners and was howling for stay laws to prevent the loan companies from foreclosing. And the marvelous change has not been brought about by cheap money or by radical legislation of any sort.—Oakland Enquirer.