

## PLATFORM OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

[Adopted at Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 8, 1896.]

This convention has assembled to uphold the principles upon which depend the honor and welfare of the American people, in order that democrats throughout the Union may unite their patriotic efforts to avert disaster from their country and ruin from their party.

### Standard Democratic Principles.

The democratic party is pledged to equal and exact justice to all men of every creed and condition; to the largest freedom of the individual consistent with good government; to the preservation of the federal government in its constitutional vigor, and to the support of the states in all their just rights; to economy in the public expenditures; to the maintenance of the public faith and sound money; and it is opposed to paternalism and all class legislation.

### The Chicago Convention Arraigned.

The declarations of the Chicago convention attack individual freedom, the right of private contract, the independence of the judiciary, and the authority of the president to enforce federal laws. They advocate a reckless attempt to increase the price of silver by legislation to the debasement of our monetary standard, and threaten unlimited issues of paper money by the government. They abandon for republican allies the democratic cause of tariff reform to court the favor of protectionists to their fiscal heresy.

In view of these and other grave departures from democratic principles we cannot support the candidates of that convention nor be bound by its acts. The democratic party has survived many defeats, but could not survive a victory won in behalf of the doctrine and policy it proclaimed in its name at Chicago.

### The Republican Party Responsible.

The conditions, however, which make possible such utterances from a national convention are the direct result of class legislation by the republican party. It still proclaims, as it has for years, the power and duty of government to raise and maintain prices by law, and it proposes no remedy for existing evils except oppressive and unjust taxation.

### The Tariff Issue.

The national democracy here convened therefore renews its declaration of faith in democratic principles, especially as applicable to the conditions of the times. Taxation, tariff, excise or direct, is rightfully imposed only for public purposes and not for private gain. Its amount is justly measured by public expenditures, which should be limited by scrupulous economy. The sum derived by the treasury from tariff and excise levies is affected by the state of trade and volume of consumption. The amount required by the treasury is determined by the appropriations made by congress.

The demand of the republican party for an increase in tariff taxation has its pretext in the deficiency of revenue, which has its causes in the stagnation of trade and reduced consumption, due entirely to the loss of confidence that has followed the populist threat of free coinage and depreciation of our money and the republican practice of extravagant appropriations beyond the needs of good government. We arraign and condemn the populist conventions of Chicago and St. Louis for their cooperation with the republican party in creating these conditions which are pleaded in justification of a heavy increase of the burdens of the people by a further resort to protection.

### Protection and Its Ally.

We therefore denounce protection and its ally, free coinage of silver, as schemes for the personal profit of a few at the expense of the masses, and oppose the two parties which stand for these schemes as hostile to the people

of the republic, whose food and shelter, comfort and prosperity, are attacked by higher taxes and depreciated money; in fine, we reaffirm the historic democratic doctrine of tariff for revenue only.

### American Shipping.

We demand that henceforth modern and liberal policies toward American shipping shall take the place of our imitation of the restricted statutes of the eighteenth century, which have been abandoned by every maritime power but the United States, and which, to the nation's humiliation, have driven American capital and enterprise to the use of alien flags and alien crews, have made the Stars and Stripes an almost unknown emblem in foreign ports, and have virtually extinguished the race of American seamen.

We oppose the pretence that discriminating duties will promote shipping; that scheme is an invitation to commercial warfare upon the United States, un-American in the light of our great commercial treaties, offering no gain whatever to American shipping, while greatly increasing ocean freights on our agricultural and manufactured products.

### The Currency.

The experience of mankind has shown that by reason of their natural qualities, gold is the necessary money of the large affairs of commerce and business, while silver is conveniently adapted to minor transactions, and the most beneficial use of both together can be insured on it by the adoption of the former as a standard of monetary measure, and the maintenance of silver at a parity with gold by its limited coinage under suitable safeguards of law.

Thus the largest possible enjoyment of both metals is gained with a value universally accepted throughout the world, which constitutes the only practical bimetallic currency, assuring the most stable standard, and especially the best and safest money for all who earn their livelihood by labor or the produce of husbandry. They cannot suffer when paid in the best money known to man, but are the peculiar and most defenceless victims of a debased and fluctuating currency, which offers continual profits to the money changer at their cost.

Realizing the truths demonstrated by long and public inconvenience and loss, the democratic party, in the interest of the masses and of equal justice to all, practically established by the legislation of 1834 and 1853 the gold standard of monetary measurement and likewise entirely divorced the government from banking and currency issues.

### Gold Must Be the Standard.

To this long-established democratic policy we adhere, and insist upon the maintenance of the gold standard and of the parity therewith of every dollar issued by the government, and are firmly opposed to the free and unlimited coinage of silver and to the compulsory purchase of silver bullion.

### Government Must Cease the Banking Business.

But we denounce also the further maintenance of the present patchwork system of national paper currency as a constant source of injury and peril. We assert the necessity of such intelligent currency reform as will confine the government to its legitimate functions, completely separated from the banking business, and afford to all sections of our country a uniform safe, and elastic bank currency under governmental supervision, measured in volume by the needs of business.

### The Cleveland Democratic Administration

The fidelity, patriotism, and courage with which President Cleveland has fulfilled his great public trust, the high character of his administration, its wisdom and energy in the maintenance of civil order and the enforcement of the laws, its equal regard for the

rights of every class and every section, its firm and dignified conduct of foreign affairs, and its sturdy persistence in upholding the credit and honor of the nation, are fully recognized by the democratic party, and will secure to him a place in history beside the fathers of the republic.

### Civil Service Reform.

We also commend the administration for the great progress made in the reform of the public service, and we endorse its effort to extend the merit system still further. We demand that no backward step be taken, but that the reform be supported and advanced until the un-democratic spoils system of appointments shall be eradicated.

### Economy in Public Expenditures.

We demand strict economy in the appropriations and in the administration of the government.

### Arbitration of International Disputes.

We favor arbitration for the settlement of international disputes.

### Pensions.

We favor a liberal policy of pensions to deserving soldiers and sailors of the United States.

### Integrity of the Supreme Court.

The supreme court of the United States was wisely established by the framers of our constitution as one of the three co-ordinate branches of the government. Its independence and authority to interpret the law of the land without fear or favor must be maintained.

We condemn all efforts to degrade that tribunal or impair the confidence and respect which it has deservedly held.

### The Maintenance of Public Order.

The democratic party ever has maintained, and ever will maintain, the supremacy of law, the independence of its judicial administration, the inviolability of contract and the obligations of all good citizens to resist every illegal trust, combination, or attempt against the just rights of property, and the good order of society, in which are bound up the peace and happiness of our people.

Believing these principles to be essential to the well-being of the republic, we submit them to the consideration of the American people.

### THE NEAREST THEY HAD.

Mr. Choate went into a London bookshop to buy a copy of Dante's "Hell." The clerk departed to seek the book, but soon returned to remark: "I am very sorry, but we haven't got 'Hell,' by Mr. Dante. We've got 'Twenty Years in South Africa,' by Cecil Rhodes, if that would do." "And, feeling," concludes Mr. Choate, "that that was practically the same thing, I took the book."—Woman's Journal.

### HOW IMPERIALISM BRINGS FREEDOM.

In the course of Louis Napoleon's Mexican operations—1861-2—he sent out General Forey, who is described as a man of blood and iron.

"Upon arriving at Vera Cruz, he proclaimed that the object of his emperor was to liberate the Mexican people, and then allow them to select freely their form of government."—(Schouler, Hist. U. S., Vol. 6, pp. 266.)