Grande Evening Observer

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BRYAN ACCEPTS

(Continued from page 1.)

Platform is Bluding.

declarations as binding upon me. And, country any material relief from the sitions? I may add, a platform is binding as present tariff burdens. contains, according to the democratic are entirely in harmony with this al legislation upon this subject. democratic idea. A platform announces the party's position on the questions the next four years.

Republican Challenge Accepted.

to the continuance of liberty and true senate, but it was overwhelmingly re- people until it forced a republican taken its position on the side of equal prosperity, and that we are determined jected by the recent republican na- congress to follow the example set by rights, and invites the opposition of

In the name of the democratic parthat the republican party is responsi- ing the value of railroads. ble for all the abuses which not only | Campaign Contribution Publicity. affirm that it openly and notoriously the matter was brought up in the re- to great corporate interests. Three

disappoints the hopes and expectations of reformers, whether those reformers be republicans or democrats. So far did the republican convention fall short of its duty that the repubto his platform in several important arate speeches, discuss the leading confine myself to the paramount quesof our party, as that purpose is set forth in the platform.

Shall the People Rule? Our platform declares that the overshadowing issue which manifests it- gress," self in all the questions now under discussion, is, "Shall the people rule?" No matter which way we turn; no matter to what subject we address ment for the protection of their right raised by the "known abuses" to

which Mr. Taft refers

Why No Tariff Reform? The president's colse friends have he would attack the iniquities of the tariff. We have had intimation that Mr. Taft was restive under the de- even when the knowledge comes too cratic victory, and through a demo mands of the highly protected industries. And yet the influence of the the people be kept in darkness until contributed to the republican campaign fund, and who in return have the horse is gone? framed the tariff schedules, has been sufficient to prevent tariff reform. As

Why No Anti-Trust Legislation?

idea, the people think for themselves leaders in the house of representa- fully understand-a question which real question involved in each is whatand select officials to carry out their tives were coerced by public opinion the republican candidate has studied, wishes. The voters are the sovereigns; into the support of an anti-trust law the officials are the servants, employ- which had the endorsement of the in favor of the legislation absolutely ed for a fixed time and at a stated president, but the senate refused even salary to do what the sovereigns want to consider the measure, and since ing the publication before the election, vancement of the common weal. done, and to do it in the way the that time no effort has been made by sovereigns want it done. Platforms the dominant party to secure remedi-

Why No Railroad Legislation? For 10 years the interstate comwhich are at issue; and an official is merce commission has been asking for years after the adoption of the con- in administration; if, however, the not at liberty to use the authority an enlargement of its powers, that it stitution, the demand for the popular voters feel that the people, as a whole, urge personal views might prevent rebates and discrimin- election of senators, while finding inwhich have not been submitted to the ations, but a republican senate and a creased expression, did not become a voters for their approval. If one is republican house of representatives dominant sentiment. A constitutional feel that great combinations of capinominated upon a platform which is were unmoved by its entreaties. In amendment had from time to time tal have encroached upon the rights not satisfactory to him, he must, if 1900 the republican national conven- been suggested and the matter had of the masses, and employed the incandid, either decline the nomination, tion was urged to endorse the demand been more or less discussed in a few strumentalities of government to seor in accepting it, propose an amend- for callway legislation, but its plat- of the states, but the movement had cure an unfair share of the total ed platform in lieu of the one adopted form was silent on the subject. Even not reached a point where it mani- wealth produced, then we have a by the convention. No such situation. In 1904, the convention gave no pledge fested itself through congressional achowever, confronts your candidate, for to remedy these abuses. When the tion. In the 52d congress, however, republican party and in favor of the the platform upon which I was nom- president finally asked for legislation, a resolution was reported from a house democratic party for our party has insted not only contains nothing he drew his inspiration from three committee proposing the necessary risked defeat—aye, suffered defeat from which I dissent, but it specifically democratic national pistforms and he constitutional amendment and this re- in its effort to arouse the conscience outlines all the remedial legislation received more cordial support from solution passed the house of represen- of the public and to bring about that which we can hope to secure during the democrats than from the republi- tatives by a vote which was practi- very awakening to which Mr. Taft has cans. The republicans in the senate cally unanimous. In the 53d congress referred. Only those are worthy to be deliberately defeated several amend- a similar resolution was reported, and entrusted with leadership in a great The distinguished statesman who re- ments offered by Senator La Foliette adopted by the house of representa- cause who are willing to die for it, ceived the republican nomination for and supported by the democrats— tives. Both the 52d and 53d con- and the democratic party has proven president, said in his notification amendments embodying legislation gresses were democratic. The republits worthiness by its refusal to purasked by the interstate commerce licans gained control of the house as chase victory by delivering the people "The strength of the republican commission. One of these amend- a result of the election of 1894 and in into the hands of those who have decause in the campaign at hand is the ments authorized the ascertainment of the 54th congress the proposition died spoiled them. In this contest between fact that we represent the policies es- the value of railroads. This amend- in committee. As time went on, how- democracy on one side and plutocracy sential to the reform of known abuses, ment was not only defeated by the ever, the sentiment grew upon the on the other, the democratic party has as our platform unequivocally de- tional convention and the republican the democrats and then another and those who use politics to secure special clares to maintain them and carry candidate has sought to reacue his another congress acted favorably, privileges and governmental favoritparty from the disastrous results of State after state has endorsed this re- lsm. Gauging the progress of the nathis act by expressing himself, in a form, until nearly two-thirds of the tion, not by the happiness or wealth

that it is impotent to accomplish the legislation requiring publicity as to notwithstanding the fact that the vot- ing the promoter of present abuses reforms which are imperatively need- compaign contributions and expendi- ers of the United States, by an over- the opponent of necessary remedies, ed. Further, I cannot concur in the tures; but the republican leaders, even whelming majority, demanded it, and the only bulwark of private monstatement that the republican platform in the face of an indignant public, re- And this refusal is the more signifi- opoly. The democratic party affirms unequivocally declares for the reforms fused to consent to a law which would cant when it is remembered that a that in this campaign it is the only that are necessary; on the contrary, I compel honesty in elections. When number of senators owe their election

880 to 94. Here, too, Mr. Taft has been driven to apologize for his conlican candidate felt it necessary to add vor of a publicity law; and yet, if you will read what he says upon this subof the party upon whose co-operation falls far short of the requirements of convention has been willing to chamthe situation. He says:

"If I am elected president, I shall urge upon congress with every hope questions at issue, I shall at this time of success, that a law be passed requiring the filing, in a federal office. tion, and to the far-reaching purpose of a statement of the contributions re- in 1908, for the recent republican naand in such other elections as are con- popular election of senators-and thi stitutionally within the control of con-

I shall not embarrass him by asking him upon what he bases his hope of plank. success; it is certainly not on any encouragement he has received from reourselves, the same question confronts publican leaders. It is sufficient to medial measure of a national characown government, and use that govern- if, in spite of the adverse action of his ate. The president may personally in predatory wealth prey upon a defense- partial relief. He has read the dem- must wait. The president immunity from subservient officials guage, but his evident alarm, indicates to public opinion; but as long as the the publication of the contributions been promising for several years that before the elections. Of course, it sat- the exploiting interests to bar the way isfies a natural curiosity to find out by the control of this branch of the how an election has been purchased federal legislator. Through a demo late to be of service, but why should cratic victory only, can the people semanufacturers, who have for 25 years the election is past? Why should the locking of the door be delayed until cure this reform; the republican par-

An Election a Public Affair.

the present campaign approached, people, exercising the right to select both the president and Mr. Taft de- their officials and to decide upon the presidency, those who are elected upon clared in favor of tariff revision, but policies to be pursued, proceed to set the date of revision after the elec- their several poiling places on election policies have given me whatever po- tion. But the pressure brought to day and register their will. What exlitical strength I possess, the action bear by the protected interests has cuse can be given for secrecy as to the any session immediately after inaugurof the convention only renews my faith been great enough to prevent any at- influences at work? If a man, pecu- ation, and ask, among other things, in them, but strengthens my attach- tempt at tariff reform before the elec- marily interested in "concentrating the for the fulfillment of this platform tion; and the reduction promised af- control of the railroads in one man- pledge, ter the election is so hedged about agement" subscribes a large sum to I shall in the near future prepare a with qualifying phrases, that no one aid in carrying the election, why should more formal reply to youtr notification can estimate with accuracy the sum his part in the campaign be concealed and in that letter of acceptance will total of tariff reform to be expected until he has put the officials under deal with the platform in detail. It in case of republican success. If the obligation to him? If a trust magnate is sufficient at this time to assure you past can be taken as a guide, the re- contributes \$190,000 to elect political that I am in hearty accord with both publican party will be so obligated by friends to office, with a view to prethe letter and the spirit of the plat- campaign contributions from the ben- venting hostile legislation, why should form. I endorse it in whole and in efficiaries of protection, as to make that fact be concealed until his friends tion; the railroad question; the bankpart, and shall, if elected, regard its that party powerless to bring to the are securely scated in their official po-

This is not a new question; it is a question which has been agitated-a. A few years ago the republican question which the republican leaders for solution, we shall find that the and yet he refuses to declare himself necessary, namely, legislation requir- the hands of the people for the ad-

Popular Election of Senators. Next to the corrupt use of money, the present method of electing United States senators is most responsible for with its management of public affairs the obstruction of reforms. For 100 ty, I accept the challenge, and charge qualified way, in favor of ascertain- state have recorded themselves in its or refinement of a few, but "by the favor. The United States senate, how- prosperity and advancement of the ever, impudently and arrogantly ob- average man," the democratic party exist in the federal government and An effort has been made to secure structed the passage of the resolution, charges the republican party with be-

the plant was repudiated by a vote of platforms of 1900, 1904 and 1908vention and to declare himself in fa- tion of senators in the hands of the voters, and the proposition has been particulars, thus rebuking the leaders lect, you will find that his promise parties, but no republican national ceived by committees and candidates tional convention, by a vote of \$66 to in elections for members of congress, 114, rejected the plank endorsing the was done in the convention which nominated Mr. Taft, few delegates from his own state voting for the

Gateway to Other Reforms, "Shall the people rule?" Every re us: "Shall the people control their say that if his hopes were realized- ter must run the gauntlet of the senconvention, he should succeed in se- cline toward a reform; the house may and for the promotion of their wel- curing the enactment of the very law consent to it; but as long as the senhigh he favors, it would give but ate obstructs the reform, the people ocratic platform; not only his lan- popular demand; the house may yield whom they raise to power by unscru- that he has read it carefully. He even senate is defiant, the rule of the peopulous methods?" This is the issue had before him the action of the dem- pie is defeated. The democratic platocratic national committee in inter- form very properly describes the poppreting and applying that platform; ular election of senators as "the gateand yet, he falls to say that he favors way to other national reforms," Shall An election is a public affair. The party stands for it and has boldly de-

"Shall the people rule?" I repeat, casion to discuss this question as it manifests itself in other besues; for question of imperialism; the developever, the government shall remain a corporations or be an instrument in

Party Has Earned Confidence. If the voters are satisfied with the record of the republican party and we cannot reasonably ask for a change

(Continued on pages.)

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