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### EXPENSIVE EGGS.

#### Rare Specimens That Command Fabulous Prices.

The Collecting of Birds' Eggs Has Become a Fascinating Avocation of People of Wealth and Students of Science.

It is not generally known that among the fads of the day the collecting of birds' eggs is one that interests the cultured and wealthy, and one that may be very expensively indulged in, while it affords a leisure recreation to thousands of individuals of moderate means. The scientific section of birds' eggs has, in fact, become a fascinating avocation, and, rightly studied, a pursuit to which the systematic study of birds, their biology, and the laws governing their evolution, is largely indebted, as acknowledged by no less an authority than Prof. Huxley himself, who showed that a study of the markings and shape of the eggs of the species added materially to establishing the close relationship of the Linnæus (plover) and the Gaviæ (gull and tern).

Aside from its scientific value, the collecting of birds' eggs entices the enthusiast by the marvelous diversity in size, shape and markings of the eggs, fitly painted by nature herself to adorn the richest cabinet. The raptors, or birds of prey, are a favorite family with oologists, largely from the endurance, daring and nerve requisite in scaling cliffs and lofty trees to secure their eggs, which are often, as in the case of the golden eagle, beautifully marked. This grand eagle seldom attacks the plunderer of its eggs, though it is unsafe to anger the majestic bird when its nest contains young. The eggs are two, and sometimes three, large, and show great variation in the markings of purple, lavender and rich-brown, blotched or suffused over the surface of the shell. In California, where these eagles are most numerous, a lofty live oak tree is frequently selected as a site for the huge nest of sticks, with its lining of Spanish moss, used by the birds year after year for generations. A ledge on a cliff is also a common resting place, and out in Wyoming an eagle has found a perfectly safe place to raise its young on the flat top of a giant rock. The nest is in plain view, but is inaccessible.

The California condor—a bird with a sweep of wing ten feet from tip to tip, and the largest bird of flight in the world, not excepting the great Andean condor—is a species of much interest to oologists from the extreme rarity and value of its eggs. This condor is becoming extinct, like the great auk; and, as if it had a forecast of its impending doom, it resorts to the most precipitous mountain, where, on some craggy and perhaps inaccessible steep, it deposits its single egg of pale, greenish blue in a cave. But seven eggs are known in collection, and the value of one (considering the probability of the great bird's early extinction) is very great. More than \$1,500 has been paid for a single egg of the great auk, of which there are 65 eggs in existence. America can claim two—one at Vassar college and one at the academy of natural sciences in Philadelphia. The latter collection held for many years among the rarities an egg of the California condor, but it mysteriously disappeared a few years ago, and it is supposed some scientific kleptomane thought it no sin to transfer the treasure to his own collection, where he is holding it for a rise in price.

Information as to the nesting habits of the California condor has been exceedingly limited, and until 1889, when an egg was taken for H. R. Taylor, editor of the *Nidologist*, no eggs had been taken since the '50s. The taking of this egg showed the nesting time to be early in May, and that but one egg is laid. The collector secured the great egg after a hazardous climb down a rope, which he had fastened to a bush on the bluff above. The condor's egg was found lying in a hollow in the cave, with a few feathers for a nest. The condor had been frightened off by the discharge of the collector's gun, and fortunately did not return while he was in the cave. He had not come prepared to carry any eggs, but, making off his shirt he wrapped the egg in it and lowered it to the bottom of the cliff, himself following it safely.

Mr. Walter E. Bryant, for many years curator of birds in the California academy of sciences, showed what a collector may endure for science on one of his expeditions to Lower California. Guadalupe island, lying 150 miles off the coast of Lower California, was almost an unknown territory to bird students, and he determined to visit it. The island is uninhabited, and vessels do not usually pass near it, so it was some time before he managed to secure passage on a freight schooner. They landed him with a supply of provisions, agreeing to return for him in a week.

The week passed, but the schooner came not, and Mr. Bryant found himself marooned. He had collected a large lot of rare specimens, and discovered several new species of birds. From never having seen the face of man, many of the birds could be caught by hand. Delightful as the location was, for the enthusiastic ornithologist, the vanished supply of provisions made his position on a lonely island unenviable. He was reduced to dining on shellfish and such birds as he could secure, and did not escape to the mainland until three weeks afterward, when the schooner returned to the island and took off the naturalist and his specimens.

The nests of nearly all birds are most interesting, and in them the oologist finds much to study and admire, from the tiny, lichen-covered, downy home of the fairy, the humming bird, to the gigantic structure of the fish hawk, or osprey. One of the most curious of nests is that of the California bush-tit, cunningly woven of moss, down and lichen. It is possible, like a long purse, with a tiny round entrance hole near the top for the bird, which is not one-tenth as large as its wonderful nest—San Francisco Examiner.

"It is immaterial, in my judgment, whether the sleep grower receives any benefit from the tariff or not. What he does or does not I am for free wool."—Extract from speech of William J. Bryan in the House of Representatives when the Wilson bill was under consideration.

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## REPUBLICAN PLATFORM.

### Full Text of the Declaration of Principles.

The Republicans of the United States, assembled by their representatives in national convention, appealing for popular and historical justification of their claims to the matchless achievements of 30 years of Republican rule, earnestly and confidently address themselves to the awakened intelligence, experience and conscience of their countrymen in the following declaration of facts and principles:

For the first time since the civil war the American people have witnessed the calamitous consequences of full and unrestricted Democratic control of the government. It has been a record of unparalleled incapacity, dishonesty and disaster. In administrative management it has ruthlessly sacrificed indispensable revenue, entailed an increasing deficit, eked out ordinary current expenses with borrowed money, piled up the public debt by \$262,000,000 in time of peace, forced an adverse balance of trade, kept perpetual menace hanging over the redemption fund, pawned American credit to alien syndicates and reversed all the measures and results of successful Republican rule. In the broad effect of its policy it has precipitated panic, blighted industry and trade with prolonged depression, closed factories, reduced work and wages, halted enterprise and crippled American production while stimulating foreign production for the American market. Every consideration of public safety and individual interest demands that the government shall be rescued from the hands of those who have shown themselves incapable to conduct it without disaster at home and dishonor abroad, and shall be restored to the party which for 30 years administered it with unequalled success and prosperity; and in this connection we heartily endorse the wisdom, patriotism and success of the administration of President Harrison.

#### THE TARIFF.

We renew and emphasize our allegiance to the policy of protection as the bulwark of American industrial independence and the foundation of American development and prosperity. This true American policy taxes foreign products and encourages home industry and puts the burden of revenue on foreign goods; it secures the American market for the American producer; it upholds the American standard of wages for the American workman; it puts the factory by the side of the farm, and makes the American farmer less dependent on foreign demand and price; it diffuses general thrift, and founds the strength of all on the strength of each. In its reasonable application it is just, fair and impartial, equally opposed to foreign control and domestic monopoly; to sectional discrimination and individual favoritism. We denounce the present Democratic tariff as sectional, injurious to public credit and destructive to business enterprise. We demand such equitable tariff on foreign imports which come into competition with American products as will not only furnish adequate revenue for the necessary expenses of the government, but will protect American labor from the degradation to the wage level of other lands.

We are not pledged to any particular schedule. The question of rates is a practical question to be governed by conditions of the time and of production. The ruling and uncompromising principle is the protection and development of American labor and industry. The country demands a right settlement and then it wants rest.

#### ON RECIPROCIITY.

We believe the repeal of the reciprocity arrangements negotiated by the last Republican administration was a national calamity and we demand their renewal and extension on such terms as will equalize our trade with other nations, remove restrictions which now obstruct the sale of American products in ports of other countries, and secure enlarged markets for the products of our farms, forests and factories.

Protection and reciprocity are twin measures of Republican policy, and go hand in hand. Democratic rule has recklessly struck down both, and both must be re-established; protection for what we produce; free admission for the necessities of life which we do not produce; reciprocal agreement of mutual interests which gain open markets in return for our open markets to others. Protection builds up domestic industry and trade, and secures our own market for ourselves; reciprocity builds up foreign trade and finds an outlet for our surplus.

#### SUGAR.

We condemn the present administration for not keeping faith with the sugar producers of this country. The Republican party favors such protection as will lead to the production on American soil of all sugar which American people use and for which they pay other countries more than \$100,000,000 annually.

#### WOOL AND WOOLENS.

To all our products, to those of mine and field as well as those of the shop and factory; to hemp, to wool, to the product of the great industry husbandry, as well as to finished woollens of the mill, we promise most ample protection.

#### MERCHANT MARINE.

We favor restoring the early American policy of discriminating duties for the upbuilding of our merchant marine and the protection of our shipping interests in the foreign carrying trade, to American ships—the product of American labor employed in American shipyards, sailing under the Stars and Stripes, and manned, officered and owned by Americans—may regain the carrying of our foreign commerce.

#### FINANCIAL PLANK.

The republican party is unreservedly for sound money. It caused the enactment of the law providing for the resumption of specie payments in 1879; since then every dollar has been as good as gold.

We are unalterably opposed to every measure calculated to debase our currency or impair the credit of our country.

We are, therefore, opposed to the free coinage of silver, except by international agreement with the leading commercial nations of the world, which we pledge ourselves to promote, and until such an agreement can be obtained, the existing gold standard must be preserved. All of our silver and paper currency now in circulation must be maintained at a parity with gold, and we favor all measures designed to maintain inviolable the obligations of the United States and all our money, whether coin or paper, at the present standard—the standard of the most enlightened nations of the earth.

#### AS TO PENSIONS.

The veterans of the Union armies deserve and should receive fair treatment and generous recognition. Whenever practicable they should be given preference in the matter of employment and they are entitled to the enactment of such laws as are best calculated to secure the fulfillment of pledges made to them in the dark days of the country's peril. We denounce the practice in the pension bureau, so recklessly and unjustly carried on by the present administration, of reducing pensions and arbitrarily dropping names from the rolls as deserving the severest condemnation of the American people.

#### OUR FOREIGN POLICY.

Our foreign policy should be at all times firm, vigorous and dignified, and all our interests in the western hemisphere carefully watched and guarded. The Hawaiian islands should be controlled by the United States, and no foreign power should be permitted to interfere with them; the Nicaragua canal should be built, owned and operated by the United States; and by the purchase of the Danish islands we should secure a proper and much needed station in the West Indies.

The massacres in Armenia have aroused the deep sympathy and just indignation of the American people, and we believe the United States should exercise all the influence it can properly exert to bring these atrocities to an end. In Turkey American residents have been exposed to the gravest dangers and American property destroyed. There and everywhere American citizens and American property must be absolutely protected at all hazards and at any cost.

#### MONROE DOCTRINE.

We reassert the Monroe doctrine in its fullest extent and we reaffirm the right of the United States to give the doctrine effect by responding to the appeals of any American state or friendly intervention in case of European encroachment.

We shall not be interfered with and shall not interfere with the existing possessions of any European power in this hemisphere, but those possessions must not, on any pretext, be extended. We hope to look forward to the eventual withdrawal of European powers from this hemisphere and in the ultimate union of all English speaking parts of the continent by free consent of its inhabitants.

#### CUBAN RESOLUTION.

From the hour of achieving their own independence, the people of the United States have regarded with sympathy the struggles of other American people to free themselves from European domination. We watch with deep and abiding interest the heroic battle of the Cuban patriots against cruelty and oppression; and our best hopes go out for the success of their determined contest for

liberty. The government of Spain having lost control of Cuba and being unable to protect the property or lives of resident American citizens or to comply with its treaty obligations, we believe the government of the United States should actively use its influence and good offices to restore peace and give independence to the island.

#### THE NAVY.

The peace and security of the republic and the maintenance of its rightful influence among the nations of the earth demand a naval power commensurate with its position and responsibility. We, therefore, favor continued enlargement of the navy and complete system of harbor and seacoast defenses.

#### FOREIGN IMMIGRATION.

For the protection of the quality of our American citizenship and of wages of our workmen against the fatal competition of low priced labor, we demand that the immigration laws be thoroughly enforced and so extended as to exclude from entrance to the United States those who can neither read nor write.

#### CIVIL SERVICE.

The civil service law was placed on the statute books by the republican party, which has always sustained it, and we renew our repeated declarations that it shall be thoroughly and honestly enforced and extended wherever practicable.

#### FREE BALLOT.

We demand that every citizen of the United States shall be allowed to cast a free and unrestricted ballot, and such ballot shall be counted and returned as cast.

#### LYNCHING.

We proclaim our unqualified condemnation of the uncivilized and barbarous practice known as lynching or killing of human beings suspected or charged with crime, without process of law.

#### NATIONAL ARBITRATION.

We favor the creation of a national board of arbitration to settle and adjust the differences which may arise between employers and employed engaged in interstate commerce.

#### HOMESTEADS.

We believe in the immediate return to the free homestead policy of the Republican party, and urge the passage by congress of the satisfactory free homestead measure which has already passed the house and is now pending in the senate.

#### TERRITORIES.

We favor the admission of the remaining territories at the earliest practicable date, having due regard to the interest of the territories and the United States. All federal officers appointed for territories should be selected from bona fide residents thereof, and the right of self-government should be accorded as far as practicable. We believe the citizens of Alaska should have representation in the congress of the United States to the end that needed legislation may be intelligently enacted.

#### TEMPERANCE.

We sympathize with all wise and legitimate efforts to lessen and prevent the evils of intemperance and promote morality.

#### RIGHTS OF WOMEN.

The Republican party is mindful of the rights of women. Protection of American industries includes equal opportunities, equal pay for equal work and protection to the home. We favor the admission of women to wider spheres of usefulness and welcome their co-operation in renewing the country from Democratic and Populist mismanagement and misrule.

Such are the principles and policies of the republican party. By these principles we will abide, and these policies we will put into execution. We ask for them the considerate judgment of the American people. Confident alike in the history of our great party and in the justice of our cause we present our platform and our candidates in the full assurance that the election will bring victory to the Republican party and prosperity to the people of the United States.

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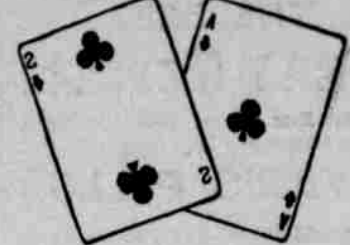
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