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### COUNTRY ROADS.

#### Haphazard System of Improving Them in This Country.

Some Reasons Advanced for the Poor Highways of Our Rural Districts.—The States Should Act Individually.

Some time ago, in speaking of the widening use of electric cars, we pointed out that in the cities they have largely supplanted the horse as an agent of transportation. It may be well to say a word now concerning the state of our country highways, on which as yet the horse has no rival, except, perhaps, the bicycle. The growth of our railways, steam and electric, is no excuse for the neglect of our common roads.

If anyone doubts that we have neglected them most culpably, let him look into the volume of consular reports on foreign streets and highways, issued in 1891 by the government at Washington. From these reports it appears that no other country in Christendom, with the possible exception of Russia, has been so negligent.

In France, for instance, the highways approach perfection—a fact to which the prosperity of the French peasantry is generally attributed. The first Napoleon, in the intervals of his many wars, laid the foundations of the system. Napoleon III. completed it. The result is a network of admirable roads stretching out over the whole country, under the constant inspection and care of specially trained engineers.

Germany is not far behind. Great Britain learned her lesson a century ago from the celebrated Mr. Macadam, and has never forgotten it. The countries of southern Europe have profited richly by their legacy from the Romans, the great road builders of antiquity. Hardly anywhere on the continent, in fact, would the mud and ruts of our American roads be tolerated.

Our backwardness may be attributed to the newness of the country and the rapidity with which it has been settled; but a more abiding cause is found in the nature of our constitution, and in the strong instinct of local self-government among our people. Since the abandonment of the Cumberland road in 1838, the national government has done practically nothing. The states have for the most part confined themselves to general and merely permissive legislation on the subject. Every where the highways have been left to the local authorities.

The result has been the wildest diversity of plan and method. In some sections the work is done mainly by convicts, all others, any citizen is liable to be called out to work on the roads for a certain number of days in the year. In certain counties of Virginia, and elsewhere, the toll system is still prevalent.

The practical advantages of a more centralized system, like that of France, are manifest. Frequently towns and counties through which important highways pass are too poor to maintain them properly. Important questions of routes, topography and materials constantly arising, which require investigation on a wide scale.

Scientific training is needed to fit a man for the difficult work of road-building, and this is certainly not common among town and county officers. An authority on the subject declares that the present haphazard system has not produced fifty competent highway engineers throughout the United States.

It has been demonstrated by actual tests that the force required to draw a ton on a muddy earth road is sufficient to draw four tons on a hard macadamized road. When we remember that nearly all agricultural products, not to speak of other commodities, must be hauled at least two or three miles in wagons before the railroads can touch them, it is apparent what an advantage European has over the American farmer in this respect.

Multiply by three or four the cost of hauling to the stations the total of the crops which the railroads handle every year, and you have a rough estimate of the annual saving to the farmers alone which would result from a system of properly constructed highways. In the long run other classes would derive almost an equal benefit from the change.

Even if we concede that the abandoning of road-building by the national government is the wisest course, it follows the example. Some of the older states have recently awakened to the importance of the subject. Certainly it is hard to find a better investment for the public money than the betterment of the common roads.—Youth's Companion.

#### Rustic Physiology.

Old Farmer Reed was driving some of the boarders over the beautiful New Hampshire hills, where the winding roads are either uphill or downhill, and a level space is not found in many miles. As he urged the strong, wiry horses up one of the steep ascents, he worked out the following line of argument: "Now, I s'pose you city folks think it kinder tough to make the critters pull up these hills, but 'tain't so much as you think. It's a big sight easier to run 'em downhill, and I'll tell yer why. Now, when a hoss runs uphill, his vitals presses on his innards, but when you run him downhill, his innards presses on his vitals. An' that's a sight wuss, now ain't it?" —Youth's Companion.

#### Bought an Easy Fate.

Captain (to belated passenger who has suddenly appeared on the deck of the abandoned ship)—Jump, man; jump quick! Don't you see she's going down? Passenger—Is my wife saved? "Yes." "Well, so long. I can't spend the rest of my life explaining why I let her take this steamer."—Boston Commercial Bulletin.

#### "It is immaterial, in my judgment,

whether the sheep grower receives any benefit from the tariff or not. Whether he does or does not I am far from sure."—Extract from speech of William J. Bryan in the House of Representatives when the Wilson bill was under consideration.

#### The life of women.

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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 ineptitude, dishonor and disaster. In administrative management it has ruthlessly sacrificed indispensable revenue, entailed an increasing deficit, added ordinary current expenses with borrowed money, piled on 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 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 schedules. 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 RECIPROcity.

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 two 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 to return for our open markets to others.

Protection builds up domestic industry and trade, and secures our own market for ourselves; reciprocity works 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 PLAN.

The republican party is unreservedly for sound money. It caused the enactment of the law providing for the resumption of specie payments in 1873; 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 role 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 so 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 hopefully look forward to the eventual withdrawal of European powers from this hemisphere and to the ultimate union of all English speaking parts of the continent by free consent of its inhabitants.

#### OCEAN RESOLUTIONS.

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 full 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 declaration 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 the 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.

#### HOMESTADS.

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 remedying 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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The skeleton of an Indian warrior at least six feet six inches tall was found in Muskegon, Mich., a few days ago by two men who were digging a cellar. The body had been buried in a sitting posture, facing east, and about it were found iron implements and spear and arrow heads, while around the arm bones were copper bands covered with curious carvings.

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or Tonic for Cataract in liquid form to be taken internally, usually contains either Mercury or Iodine or Potassium, or both, which are injurious if too long taken. Cataract is a local, not a blood disease, caused by sudden change in cold or damp weather. It starts in the nasal passages, affecting eyes, nose and throat. Cold in the head causes excessive flow of mucus, and, if repeatedly neglected, the results of cataract will follow: severe pain in the head, a roaring sound in the ears, bad breath, and sometimes an offensive discharge. The remedy should be quickly taken (information and how the medicine). Eye's Green Balm is the acknowledged cure for Green Balm and contains no mercury for any injurious drug. Price, 50 cents.

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