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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, dishonor 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 workmen; 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.

GAS PRESSURE DECREASES.

Notable Feature of the Year in a Great Industry.

The natural gas production in the United States in 1895 is reviewed in a report of the geological survey, compiled by Expert Joseph D. Wycke. The total value was \$15,000,000, against \$12,354,400 in 1894. The value of the product consumed was \$7,923,187, and \$9,765,220 was the value of coal or wood displaced by gas. The total pipe laid was 43,836,541 feet, and producing wells opened 3,329. The value of the consumption during 1895-96 was greatest in 1888, when it was \$22,620,975. From then to 1891 the decrease was rapid, and in the last four years there has been a gradual decline. The most notable feature of the year was the decreasing pressure in all of the natural gas fields of the country. The life of the wells also has been greatly reduced.

ON RECIPROITY.

We believe the repeal of the reciprocal 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.

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.

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 shaming 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

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 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.

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 to the ultimate union of all English speaking parts of the continent by free consent of its inhabitants.

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.

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 rescuing the country from Democratic and Populist mismanagement and misrule.

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