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THE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

ADOPTED BY THE STATE CONVENTION LAST WEEK.

Declaration of Party Principles for the State Campaign for 1902--Demands Flat Salaries for State Officers.

To the Democratic Convention of the State of Oregon, in convention assembled:

We, your committee on platforms and resolutions, beg leave to report the following as the declaration of the principles of the Democratic party of the State of Oregon:

The Democratic party of the State of Oregon, in convention assembled, declares its allegiance to the principles of Democracy as enunciated by its founder, Thomas Jefferson.

We believe that at this day, when the wealth of the country is fast passing into the hands of the favored few, the preservation of the inherent rights of mankind demands a return of the country to the principles of true democracy, as a basis of our government.

The Republican party in this state has repeatedly and insolently failed, neglected and scorned, to keep its promises of economical legislation and administration. The state's expenses have grown far out of proportion to its increase of population, wealth, business and public service. The Democratic party and its candidates are hereby pledged, in general and in particular to give the people of Oregon a clean, capable and economical administration of state affairs, not only in promise, but in performance.

The rapid growth of the municipalities of the state demands a radical reform in their system of government, by which intelligent, non-partisan and home rule for cities will become established, and long-distance log rolling, partisan rule through legislative charters shall be abolished. We demand that municipal government shall be placed and kept on a strictly business basis; that valuable franchises shall not be granted or extended except upon the basis of fair payment therefor by the grantees. And we believe in the extension of expansion of the doctrine of public ownership, or control of public utilities; as is exemplified by the successful control of their water works system by the various cities of the state.

We demand that the state officers of Oregon all be placed on flat salaries, which shall not be increased during their incumbency in office, and beyond such salaries such officers shall be allowed no other fees or perquisites whatever. All fees earned by them shall be paid into the state treasury. The amount of some of the state officers' fee are simply scandalous. The Republican party, judging by long-past experience, will not and does not intend to remedy this evil. It has had many opportunities, and has never even made an attempt in this direction, hence we must believe its promise insincere.

The Democratic party pledges itself to save the taxpayers on this score a very large sum if given an opportunity to enact and execute such necessary law.

We favor such amendments to the interstate commerce law, and such legislation by the legislature of this state as will regulate railway traffic within the State of Oregon, and we favor such legislation as will prevent discrimination by railway and other corporations in favor of or against persons, places or products.

There should be no question of the right of labor to combine for the assertion of its rights. The burdens of the unjust and discriminating laws enacted by the Republican party fall chiefly on those who till the soil, or labor at other forms of production. These constitute a large proportion of our citizens; they have never sent lobbyists to federal or state legislatures nor founded monopolies nor demanded special privileges. The democratic party [illegible] relieve them of this burden of class legislation which the republican party has placed upon them. We favor the creation by congress of a department of labor, in charge of secretary entitled to a seat in the cabinet.

We denounce the manner in which the republican party has gerrymandered the state for partisan purposes, and insist that by reason thereof many counties of the state are practically denied local representation in the legislature, and we demand a fair reapportionment of our legislative assembly under the census of 1900.

We are unalterably opposed to all laws, plans or schemes made or devised for the leasing of any part of the public domain to individuals or corporations for any purpose whatever. And we favor the enactment of a law by congress providing for a commission or some means of selecting and segregating the mineral lands from railway grants, for the purpose of preserving the same for the prospector and miner, as has been done in other mining states.

We reaffirm the broad, fundamental principle of democracy well summarized in the phrase, "Equal rights for all, special privileges to none." We make no war on deserved business success nor legitimately acquired wealth, but abhor and denounce all laws and the spirit and motive which enact them which give special privileges to a few, and particularly the trust-breeding, high-tariff laws, framed by its beneficiaries for the purpose of plundering the masses of the people and enriching the few individuals and corporations in whose interest they are enacted. We are in favor of a tariff for revenue only, and are opposed to any protection whatever of million-dollar and billion dollar trusts, combines and corporations, with which the republican party is in iniquitous alliance, and which partnership is calculated to overthrow republican institutions and subvert the liberties of the people; and we favor placing upon the free list all trust-manufactured articles of every kind.

The inhabitants of the Philippines have petitioned for free trade with the United States, and their request has been seconded by the Philippine Commission, and the sentiment of the American people, yet a republican congress refuses any proper relief, but enacts tariff laws for these islands more burdensome and less defensible than the acts of the British Parliament against which our forefathers rebelled. The policy that makes one law for the Hawaiian Islands, another for Porto Rico, and another for the Philippines, cannot be upheld on any ground except that of subserviency to the sugar and tobacco trusts. Our insular possessions are either part of our country or are foreign territory. If part of our territory, the people are entitled to the trade privileges that are granted any of our territories, and any legislation that restricts that privilege is odious to the American spirit and disgraceful to the American Government. We believe that the true policy is to prepare the people of those islands for self-government as speedily as possible, and when so prepared to grant them their independence, retaining such coaling stations and ports as may be necessary to protect those islands from foreign interference, and to maintain our trade relations in the Orient.

We demand the improvement by the Federal Government of the Columbia River, both at its mouth and below the mouth of the Willamette; and of the construction, under contract, as rapidly as possible, of a canal and locks between The Dalles and Celilo, and also of the improvement of other rivers and harbors of Oregon, believing that, if judiciously expended, public money cannot be better used. We are in favor of the speedy construction of the Nicaragua Canal, which, from present indications, the republican party in congress, controlled by great selfish corporate interests, intends to indefinitely delay, if not ultimately defeat. We are in favor of the election of United States Senators by direct vote of the people.

We are opposed to such of our navigation laws as hamper the upbuilding of our foreign merchant marine, which the policy of the republican party has nearly destroyed; but we demand, in justice to western farmers and taxpayers, the defeat of the Fry-Hanna ship-subsidy bill, which is a piece of audacious robbery of the people, for the purpose of building up another great trust. We favor the proposed constitutional amendment proposing the initiative and referendum system, believing that the people should have a more direct voice in the enactment of laws. We favor an eight-hour day on all public work, and less hours and larger pay for workingmen whenever the employer's profits will admit, and the arbitration of labor disputes in all practicable cases, with labor having fully as potent a voice as capital in the settlement of disputes.

We favor the pending Chinese exclusion bill and its strict and honest enforcement, and we declare that we favor the taking of such steps as may be necessary by congress to restrict the immigration of Japanese labor, with which in many places American labor is being supplanted. We sympathize with the efforts of the railway employes in attempting to secure the enactment of laws modifying the doctrine of the fellow-servant law. The oldest states of the Union have enacted laws giving these men, maimed and crippled in the service of the railroad, the right to recover for injuries received by them when not in fault. Such laws are eminently just, and a refusal to enact them is inhuman and we pledge our support for such measures. The experience of the past must prove the hopelessness of relief at the hands of the republican party of Oregon.

We condemn the autocratic prohibitive order of the President denying the constitutional right of mailcarriers and others engaged in the public service to petition for an increase of salaries or for any other purposes. And we also condemn all government by injunction.

We are in favor of the irrigation by the government of arid lands, and urge prompt national and state action in this respect, and the disposal of such lands to actual settlers only. We are in favor of liberal appropriations for the protection of salmon, and favor the enactment of such laws as will amply protect the fishing industry of the state.

We favor the immediate enactment of a liberal pension law for Indian War Veterans.

We oppose and declare against any such combinations of competing railroads, as was made in the formation of the Northern Securities Company, and all other combinations and usurpations of railroad corporations in defiance of federal and state laws and in antagonism to the best interests and rights of the public.

The Democracy of Oregon believe and declare in favor of the expansion of trade without the slaughter of a weaker people; of prosperity and success without turning the government over to multimillionaires to be run for their benefit, as the republican party practically does; of reason and righteousness, rather than hypocrisy and delusion; of honesty and efficiency in the performance as much as in promise; and not forgetful of past events and experiences, watchful of the present, it yet looks forward and upward, with a view to keeping step with the march of progress in nation and state, and being an agency therein to benefit the many rather than the few. We present this expression of our faith to all the people of Oregon, and invoke their aid in the interest of just, honest and clean government.

A good 8x10 combination view camera for sale cheap at the Weider [illegible]

Probably a Three-Story Structure.

The K. of P., I. O. O. F. and Masonic orders of Burns are taking an interest in the proposed city hall, and it is possible a three-story structure will be the outcome. The Odd Fellows have the Durkheimer lot on Main street, and would be glad to take stock in the building on the property. It is being talked among the membership of the three orders to go in with the city and put up a building 50x100 feet on this lot. The first floor is to be used by the city for engine rooms, council chambers, recorder's office and jail. The second floor is to be fitted up and furnished for an opera house and public hall, and the third floor for the fraternal societies.

There has been no definite arrangements as yet, however, and possibly the scheme will not be accomplished. The societies have never had a home in Burns, and have paid out enough in rent to put up half a dozen such buildings. The Odd Fellows had this idea in view when they bought the Durkheimer property, but could not see their way clear at that time to build a hall they desired.

Should the different lodges look upon this proposition with favor and the "city dads" can arrange to dispose of the lots now owned by Burns, it will be pushed to completion at once. With $2000 each in stock a fine building could be erected. Each of the societies could afford this amount and the city could raise its share with very little trouble and thus save a considerable amount at the same time having just what it needs and all it needs.

We consider this proposition the best yet conceived, and we hope it will be agitated by those interested. Many do not wish to bond the city for the purpose of building a hall. In this last proposition the amount could be raised without bonds.

Geer for Senate.

A recent dispatch from Portland to the Boise Capital News says:

Governor Geer is expected to go before the legislature at Salem next winter as a candidate for United States senator. He will make a combination with Congressman Moody, who was defeated for the renomination, and between them both it is said that the senatorial contest will be tied in a bow knot. Multnomah county will send to Salem a citizens' delegation backed by a combination between the Simon republicans and the democrats. That the republican legislative ticket now before the people will be defeated in many places is considered a foregone conclusion.

Montie B. Gwinn, of Boise, has offered to put up $100 toward making a good road leading to the interior. He guarantees that other large sheep owners will do the same. This work is to be done on the county road far in the interior and would consist of blowing boulders out of dugways and leveling up places where heavy wagons cannot now get around with wool. The county can now get a portion of the funds donated that is necessary for repairs of the road in question.—Ontario Democrat.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

Notice is hereby given that by an order of the County Court of date March 26th the undersigned was appointed and has since duly qualified is now acting as Administrator of the Estate of Joseph Warren Curtis deceased. All persons having claims against the said Estate will therefore present them with the proper vouchers as by law required to me at the office of Attorney Thornton Williams at Burns, Oregon within 6 months from the expiration of the publication of this notice.

Published in the Times-Herald 4 full weeks the first publication being dated the 29th day of March 1902.

JAMES F MAHON,
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