

## The Democratic Platform

Following is the platform which the committee on resolutions reported to the Chicago Democratic convention:

We, the Democrats of the United States in national convention assembled, do reaffirm our allegiance to those great essential principles of justice and liberty upon which our institutions are founded and the Democratic party has advocated from Jefferson to our own time, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of conscience, the preservation of personal rights, equality of all citizens before the law, and the faithful observation of constitutional limitations.

During all these years the Democratic party has resisted the tendency of selfish interests to the centralization of governmental power, and steadfastly maintained the integrity of the dual scheme of government established by the founders of this republic of republics. Under its guidance and teachings the great principle of local self-government has found its best expression in the maintenance of the rights of the states, and this assertion of the necessity of confining the general government to the exercise of the powers granted by the constitution of the United States.

Recognizing that the money question is paramount to all others at this time, we invite attention to the fact that the federal constitution names silver and gold together as the money metals of the United States and the first coinage law passed by congress under the constitution made the silver dollar the unit of value and admitted gold to free coinage at a ratio measured by the silver dollar unit.

We declare that the act of 1873 demonetizing silver without the knowledge or approval of the American people has resulted in the appreciation of gold and a corresponding fall in the prices of commodities produced by the people, a heavy increase in the burden of taxation, and of all debts public and private; enrichment of the money lending class at home and abroad; paralysis of industry and impoverishment of the people.

We are unalterably opposed to the single gold standard, which has locked fast the prosperity of an industrious people in the paralysis of hard times. Gold monometallism is a British policy founded upon British greed for gain and power, and its general adoption has brought other nations into financial servitude to London. It is not only un-American, but anti-American and it can be fastened upon the United States only by the stifling of that indomitable spirit and love of liberty which proclaimed our political independence in 1776 and won it in the war of the revolution.

We demand the immediate restoration of the free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1, without waiting for the aid or consent of any other nation.

Congress alone has the power to coin and issue money and this power cannot be delegated to corporations or individuals. We therefore denounce the issuance of national bank notes as in derogation of the constitution and demand that all paper made legal tender for debts and for the payment of duties to the United States shall be issued by the government of the United States.

We are opposed to the policy and practice of surrendering to the holders of the obligation of United States the option reserved by law to the government of redeeming such obligation in either silver coin or gold coin.

We are opposed to the issuing of interest bearing bonds of the United States in time of peace, and condemn the trafficking with banking syndicates, which, in exchange for bonds and at enormous profit to themselves, supply the federal treasury with gold to maintain

the policy of gold monometallism. Congress alone has power to coin and issue money, and President Jackson declared that this power could not be delegated to corporations or individuals.

We therefore demand that the power to issue notes be taken from the national banks and that all paper money shall be issued directly by the treasury department; be redeemable in coin, receivable for all debts, public and private.

We hold that tariff duties should be levied solely for the purpose of revenue, such duties to be so adjusted as to operate equally throughout the country, and not discriminate between class or section, and that taxation should be limited by the needs of the government, honestly and fairly administered. We denounce as disturbing to business the threat to restore the McKinley law, which has been twice condemned by the people in national elections, and which, enacted under the false plea of protection to home industry, proved a prolific breeder of trust, monopolies, enriched the few at the expense of many, restricted trade and deprived the producers of the great American staples of access to their natural markets. Until the money question is settled, we are opposed to any agitation for further changes in our tariff laws, except such as are necessary to make up the deficit in revenue, caused by the adverse decision of the supreme court on the income tax.

There would have been no deficit in federal revenue but for the annulment by the supreme court of a law passed by the Democratic congress, in strict pursuance of the uniform decisions of that court for nearly 100 years, that court having sustained constitutional objections to this enactment which has been overruled by the ablest judges who had ever sat on that bench. We declare that it is the duty of congress to use all the constitutional power which remains after that decision, or which may come from its reversal by the court as it may hereafter be constituted so that the burdens of taxation may be equally and impartially laid, to the end that wealth may bear its proportion of the expense of the government.

We hold that the most efficient way of protecting American labor is to prevent the importation of foreign pauper labor to compete with it in the home market, and that the value of the home markets to our American farmers and artisans is greatly reduced by a vicious monetary system which depressed the price of their products below the cost of production and thus deprives them of the means of satisfying their needs.

We denounce the profligate waste of the money wrung from the people by oppressive taxation and the lavish appropriations of recent republican congresses, which have kept taxes high, while the labor that pays them is unemployed, and the products of the people's toil are depressed in price till they no longer repay the cost of production. We demand a return to that simplicity and economy which best befits a Democratic government, and a reduction in the number of useless offices, the salaries of which drain the substance of the people.

We denounce arbitrary interference by federal authorities in local affairs as a violation of the constitution of the United States and a crime against free institutions, and we especially object to government by injunction, as a new and highly dangerous form of oppression by which federal judges, in contempt of laws of states, and the rights of citizens become at once legislator, judge and executioner, and we approve the bill passed at the last session of the United States senate and now pending in the house, relative to contempt in federal courts and providing for trials by jury in certain cases of contempt.

No discrimination should be indulged by the government of the United States in

favor of any of its debtors. We approve of the refusal of the fifty-third congress to pass the Pacific railroad funding bill, and denounce the effort of the present Republican congress to enact a similar measure.

Recognizing the just claims of deserving Union soldiers we heartily endorse the rule of Commissioner Murphy that no names shall be arbitrarily dropped from the pension roll and the fact of enlistment and service shall be deemed conclusive evidence against disease and disability before enlistment.

We favor the admission of the territories of New Mexico and Arizona into the Union as states, and we favor the admission of all the territories having the necessary population and resources to entitle them to statehood, and while they remain territories we hold that the officials appointed to administer the government of any territory, together with the District of Columbia and Alaska, should be bona fide residents of the territory of the district in which their duties are to be performed. The Democratic party believes in home rule and that all public lands of the United States should be appropriated to the establishment of free homes for American citizens.

We recommend that the territory of Alaska be granted a delegate in congress, and that the general land and timber laws of the United States be extended to said territory.

We extend our sympathy to the people of Cuba in their heroic struggle for liberty and independence.

We are opposed to life tenured public service. We favor appointments based upon merit, fixed terms of office, and such an administration of the civil service laws as will afford equal opportunities to all citizens of ascertaining fitness.

We declare it to be the unwritten law of this republic, established by custom and usage of 100 years and sanctioned by the examples of the greatest and wisest of those who founded and have maintained our government, that no man should be eligible for a third term of the presidential office.

The federal government should care for and improve the Mississippi river and other great waterways of the republic so as to secure for the interior states easy and cheap transportation to tide-water. When any waterway of the republic is of sufficient importance to demand aid of the government, such aid should be extended upon a definite plan of continuous work until permanent improvement is secured.

Confidant in the justice of our cause and the necessity of its success at the polls, we submit the foregoing declaration of principles and purposes to the considerate judgment of the American people. We invite the support of all citizens who approve them, and who desire to have them made effective through legislation for the relief of the people and the restoration of the country's prosperity.

A case that is expected to develop the cost of manufacturing certain grades of bicycles and parts thereof will come up before Judge Hagner, of the district supreme court at Washington, United States. It is in the form of an allegation of fraud made by manufacturers of the Loyal wheel, of New York, against the Thorne company of Washington, makers of the Hawthorne wheel, alleging that the latter company is contemplating an assignment and meanwhile is selling wheels by auction for an average of \$22.15, or less than cost. The complainants are the Weston-Nivinson company. The Thorne company will assert that there is a good profit in the wheel's at the price received for the Hawthorne, and it is said will go into details as to the cost of bicycle sundries. Wheelmen are much interested over expected developments.