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HARRISON ACCEPTS.

A Letter From the President to Hon. W. McKinley and Others.

REVIEW OF THE DEMOCRATIC PLANK.

What the Republican Party Has Done.—Important Topics Discussed.

By Telegraph to the NEWS.

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

A Lengthy Document Discussing a Great Many Subjects.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3, 1892.

Hon. W. McKinley, Jr., and Others, Committee, Etc.:

Gentlemen—I now avail myself of the first period of relative relief from public duties to respond to the notification, which you brought me June 30, of my nomination for the office of President of the United States by the Republican national convention. I accept the nomination, and am grateful for the general expressed by the convention of the acts of the administration. I have endeavored, without wavering or weariness, so far as the direction of public affairs was committed to me to carry out pledges made the people in 1888. If the policies of the administration have not been distinctively and progressively American and Republican the fault has not been in purpose, but in execution. I shall speak frankly of the legislation by Congress and of the work of the executive department, for the credit of any successes that may have been attained is in such measure due to others, senators and representatives, and to efficient heads of the several departments, that I may do so without impropriety. A vote of want of confidence is asked by our adversaries, and this challenge to a review of what has been done, we promptly and gladly accept.

The great work of the Fifty-first Congress has been subjected to a review of the Democratic House of Representatives, and the acts of the executive department to its scrutiny and investigation. A Democratic national administration was succeeded by a Republican administration and the freshness of events has given unusual facilities for fair comparison and judgment. There has also been a change, I think, when a chance from the declared policies of the Republican to the declared policies of the Democratic party involved such serious results to its business interests of the country. A brief review of what has been done and of what the Democratic party proposes to do will justify this opinion.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY,

during the great civil war, devised a national currency consisting of United States notes issued and redeemable by the government and of national bank notes issued upon the security of United States bonds. A tax was levied upon notes of state banks, and the intended result that such notes should be withdrawn, was realized. There are now among us now who never saw a state bank note. Notes furnished directly or indirectly by the United States have been the only safe and acceptable paper currency of the people. Bank failures have brought no right, delay or loss to bill holders; notes of an insolvent bank are good and current as treasury notes, for the credit of the United States is pledged that their money is all national money. I might almost say international, for our bills are not only equally and indiscriminately accepted at par in all the states, but in some foreign countries.

The Democratic party, if entrusted with control of the government, is now pledged to repeal the tax of state bank issue with a view to putting into circulation again, instead of national as the states may select, a flood of local bank issues. Only those who lived in the years before the war experienced the inconvenience and loss attendant upon the use of such money, can appreciate what a return to that system involves. The denomination of the bill was no indication of its value. A bank detector of yesterday was not a safeguide today as to credit or values. Merchants deposited several times during the day, lest the hour of bank closing should show a depreciation of the money taken in in the morning. The farmer could not use in a journey to the East because of the most solvent banks of the West, and in consequence a money changer's office was a familiar neighbor of the richest office and lunch counter.

The mechanic and laborer found the money received for their products and labor depreciated when they came to make their purchases, and the whole business of the country was hindered and burdened.

CHANGES MAY BECOME NECESSARY

but the material system of our currency is safe and acceptable throughout the whole country. It is fruit of bitter experience, and I am sure our people will not consent to the reactionary proposal made by the Democratic party. Few subjects elicited more discussion or attracted more general interest than that of the recovery by the United States of its appropriate share of the ocean carrying trade. This subject touches not only our pockets but our national pride. Practically all the freight transportation to Europe, the enormous annual supplies of provisions furnished by this country, and the large manufacturing products has for many years been paid to foreign shipowners.

Ten thousand immigrants annually seeking for the states under our flag, have been carried in the ships of other powers, and nearly Hook, while increasing thousands of American citizens bent on European travel had each year to support foreign jurisdiction at the New York docks. Merchandise, the real balance of trade, the money value of which is largely reduced by the annual freight which we pay for freight and passage money, chiefly at the ships, the richest stock the sea, which are now in process profiting by our trades. They are in a secondary sense war ships of their respective governments, and in time of war would, under existing contracts with those governments, speedily take on guns for which their decks are already prepared, and enter with terrible efficiency upon the destruction of our commerce. The undisputed fact is, the steamship lines of Europe were built upon and are now in part sustained by direct or indirect government aid, the latter taking the form of liberal pay for carrying mails or of an annual bonus given in consideration of agreements to construct the ships so as to adapt them for carrying armament and turn them over to the government on demand upon specified terms. It was plain to every intelligent American that if the United States would have such lines, a similar policy must be entered upon. The Fifty-first Congress enacted such a law, and under its beneficent influences sixteen American steamships, of an aggregate tonnage of 5400 tons, and costing $2,620,000, have been built or contracted for in American shipyards. In addition to this it is now practically certain we shall soon have under the American flag one of the finest steamship lines sailing out of New York for any European point. This contract is the result of competitive selection by American yards of

OUR NEW PASSENGER STEAMSHIPS

of 10,000 tons each, costing about $5,000,000, and will add to our national resources six steamships, the fastest upon the seas.

Special interest has been taken by me in the establishment of lines from our South Atlantic and Gulf ports, and, though my expectations have not as yet been realized, attention has been called to the advantages possessed by those ports, and when those people more fully aware of their interests I do not doubt they will secure the capital required to enable them profitably to employ their great natural advantages. The Democratic party found no place in their platform for any reference to this subject and has shown its hostility to the general policy by refusing by extremist the appropriation made during the last administration for ocean mail contracts with the American lines. Patriotic people, workmen in our shops, capitalists seeking new enterprises, would provide another great ships owned by Americans which have sought American registry, shall again humbly ask a place in the English naval register. Great ships now on the designer's table go to foreign shops for construction. Every such order has a brightening opportunity of recovering a place commensurate with its wealth, the skill of its constructors, and the courage of its sailors in the carrying trade; and if with these great steamships and the other related measures, as furnishing increased foreign traffic for our ships and of great and permanent benefit to farmers and manufacturers as well, is the reciprocity policy declared by section 3 of the tariff act of 1875, now in practical operation with five nations of Central and South America, San Domingo, the Spanish and British West India Islands, and with Germany and Austria, with several trade arrangements with each. The removal of the duty on sugar, and the continuance of coffee and tea on the free list, while giving great relief to our own people by cheapening articles used increasingly in every household, was of such enormous advantage to countries exporting these articles as to beget the continuation thereof if reciprocal favors should be shown in their tariffs to articles exported by us to their markets. Great credit is due Mr. Blaine for the vigor with which he pressed this view upon the country. We have only begun to realize the benefit of these trade arrangements, work of creating new events and adapting our goods to new markets. It has necessarily taken time, but the results already shown are such, I am sure, as to establish a rule in favor of the policy of

RECIPROCAL TRADE

upon free imported list of such articles as do not compete with the products of our own farms, mines and factories, in exchange for free or favored introduction of our products into their countries. The obvious efficacy of this policy in increasing the foreign trade of the United States at once attracted the alarmed attention of European trade journals and boards of trade. A British board of trade presented to the government a memorial asking for the appointment of a commission to consider the best means of counteracting what is called the commercial trade of the United States.

At a meeting in March last of the associated chambers of commerce of Great Britain the president reported that exports from Great Britain to the Latin-American countries during last year decreased $23,750,000, and this is due not to temporary causes, but chiefly to the reciprocity policy of the United States, Germany and France also have shown a startled appreciation of the fact that a new and vigorous continental line appeared in the cattle markets and already secured important advantages. The most important work of the commercial strength of our position is found in the fact that Great Britain and Spain found it necessary to make special trade agreements with the rest of her West Indian colonies and that Germany and Austria have given us important concessions in exchange for the continued free importation of their best sugar product.

A few details as to the increase in our trade can be given here. Taking all the countries with which arrangements have been made, our trade in June 30, 1892, had increased 25.75 per cent. With Brazil the increase was nearly 11 per cent. With Cuba during the first ten months our exports increased $8,992,193, or 54.8 per cent. The liberal policies of our Government in the benefits of this policy is shown by the following report from our consul-general at Havana under date of July 20th inst. During the first half year of 1891, Havana received 140,586 bags of flour from Spain, and other parts of the island about an equal amount, or approximately 208,112 bags. During the same period Havana received 15,879 bags of American flour, and other ports somewhat for an equal amount, making about 30,000 bags. But for the first half of this year Spain has sent less than 1000 bags to the whole island and the United States has sent Havana 136,780 bags and about an equal amount to other ports of the island, making approximately 257,000 for the first half of 1892. Partly by reason of the reciprocal trade, but more largely by reason of the removal of the sanitary restrictions, the American export of pork products to Guinea increased during the ten months ending June last $202,570, or about 32 per cent.

THE "BRITISH TRADE JOURNAL"

of London, in a recent issue, speaking of the increase of American coal exports to Cuba, says: "It is another case of American competition. The United States now supply Cuba with about 150,000 tons of coal annually, and there is every prospect of this trade increasing as the forests of the island become exhausted and the use of steam machinery on the estates is developed. Alabama coal especially is securing a reputation in the Spanish West Indies and the manufacture and improvements of the Southern States will undoubtedly create an important coal trade. The new reciprocity treaty by which the United States are enabled to import Cuban sugar, will of course boost the American coal exporter even more effectually than the new lines of railway.

THE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

promises a repeal of the tariff law embodying these provisions, and especially denounces as a sham reciprocity that section of the law under which these trade arrangements have been made. If no other issue were involved in the campaign, this alone would give it momentous importance. Are the farmers of the great grain-growing States willing to surrender these new, large and increasing markets for their surplus? Are we to have nothing in exchange for the free importation of sugar and coffee, and at the same time to destroy the sugar planters of the South and the best sugar industry of the Northwest and of the Pacific coast, or are we to have the taxes on sugar and coffee which a tariff for revenue only necessarily involves, with the added loss of the new markets which have been opened, as I have shown? Our commercial rivals in Europe do not favor the reciprocity policy as a "sham," but as a serious threat to a trade supremacy they have long enjoyed. They would rejoice, and if prudence did not restrain, would illuminate their depressed manufacturing over such a result. Are the United States had abandoned its system of protection and reciprocity. They see very clearly that retribution at American products and in the end a corresponding increase of European importations and trade would follow, and I will not believe that what is so plain to them can be hidden from our own people. The declaration of the platform in favor of the American doctrine of protection meets my most hearty approval. The convention did not adopt a schedule, but one principle is to control all the tariff schedules. There may be differences of opinion among gentlemen as to the rate upon particular articles necessary to effect an equalization between wages abroad and at home. In some not remote national campaigns the issue has been, or more correctly has been made to appear between a high and low protective tariff, but the true principle of protection regards the wages of our working people and for the prosperity of our domestic industries. But under a more courageous leadership the Democratic party has now practically declared that if given power it will enact a tariff law without any regard to its effect on wages or upon the capital invested in our great industries. The majority report of the committee on platform in the Democratic national convention at Chicago contained this clause, that "when custom house taxation is levied upon articles of any kind produced in this country, the difference between the cost of labor here and abroad when such a difference exists, fully measures any possible benefits to labor and the enormous additional importation of the existing tariff fall with crushing force upon the factory and the employment." Here we have a distinct admission on the Republican contention that American workingmen are advantaged by a tariff equal to the difference between him and foreign wages, and a declaration that the alleged "additional importations of the existing tariff."

Again the majority report further declared: "But in making a reduction in taxes it is our purpose to injure no domestic industry, but rather to promote their healthy growth. Moreover, many industries have come to rely upon legislation for successful continuance, so that every change of law must at every step be regarded with care and capital and business interest." Here we have an admission that many of our industries depend upon protective duties for successful continuance, and the declaration that tariff changes shall be regardful of the workmen in such industries and of invested capital. Nothing is more indicative of new and more courageous leadership, to which the party now committed itself, than the substitute which was adopted. This substitute declares

PROTECTIVE DUTIES UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

—high protection or low protection—all unconstitutional. A Democratic Congress holding this view cannot enact, nor a Democratic President approve any tariff schedule, the purpose or effect of which is to limit appropriations or give any advantage to the American workmen or producer. Bounty might, I judge, be paid to the importer under this view of the Constitution in order to increase importations.

This destructive un-American doctrine is not held or taught by history, by Democratic statesmen whose fame as American patriots reached this generation, certainly not by Jefferson or Jackson. The strong argument of the early party as a "sham," but as a serious threat to a trade supremacy they have long enjoyed. They would rejoice, and if prudence did not restrain, would illuminate their depressed manufacturing over such a result. Are the United States had abandoned its system of protection and reciprocity. They see very clearly that retribution at American products and in the end a corresponding increase of European importations and trade would follow, and I will not believe that what is so plain to them can be hidden from our own people. The declaration of the platform in favor of the American doctrine of protection meets my most hearty approval. The convention did not adopt a schedule, but one principle is to control all the tariff schedules. There may be differences of opinion among gentlemen as to the rate upon particular articles necessary to effect an equalization between wages abroad and at home. In some not remote national campaigns the issue has been, or more correctly has been made to appear between a high and low protective tariff, but the true principle of protection regards the wages of our working people and for the prosperity of our domestic industries. But under a more courageous leadership the Democratic party has now practically declared that if given power it will enact a tariff law without any regard to its effect on wages or upon the capital invested in our great industries. The majority report of the committee on platform in the Democratic national convention at Chicago contained this clause, that "when custom house taxation is levied upon articles of any kind produced in this country, the difference between the cost of labor here and abroad when such a difference exists, fully measures any possible benefits to labor and the enormous additional importation of the existing tariff fall with crushing force upon the factory and the employment." Here we have a distinct admission on the Republican contention that American workingmen are advantaged by a tariff equal to the difference between him and foreign wages, and a declaration that the alleged "additional importations of the existing tariff."

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