DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Thursday, June 23, 1892.

PLATFORM ADOPTED.

A Lengthy Document Embodying the Doctrines of the Democratic Party.

THE McKINLEY TARIFF LAW ASSAILED.

Reforms Promised.—Immigration.—Foreign Policy.—Pensions.—World's Fair.—Other Planks.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE NEWS.

THE PLATFORM.

Principles to Be Fought for by the Democracy.

CHICAGO, June 22.—The Democratic platform as unanimously adopted by the convention is as follows:

The representatives of the Democratic party of the United States, in national convention assembled, do affirm their allegiance to the principles of the party as formulated by Jefferson and exemplified by a long, illustrious line of successors in the democratic leadership, from Madison to Cleveland. We believe the public welfare demands that these principles be applied in the conduct of the federal government through the accession to power of the party that advocates them, and we solemnly declare that the mass of the returns to Democratic governmental principles of free popular government, based on home rule and individual liberty, was never more urgent than now, when a tendency to centralize all the power of the federal capital has become a menace to the reserved rights of States, that strikes at the roots of our government under the Constitution as framed by the fathers of the republic.

A WARNING.

We warn the people of the common country against the fatal consequences of blind faith in the preservation of their free institutions, that the policy of the Federal control of elections to which the Republican party has committed itself is fraught with the gravest dangers scarcely less momentous than would result from a revolution practically establishing a monarchy on the ruins of the Republic. It alienates the North as well as at the South and injures the colored citizen more than the whites. It means hordes of deputy marshals at every polling place, armed with Federal power, returning boards appointed and controlled by Federal authority; the outrage of the electoral rights of the people in the States; subjugation of the colored people to the control of the party in power and reviving the racial antagonism, now happily abated; the utmost jeopardy to safety and happiness to all. The measure was deliberately and justly described by the Republican senator as the most infamous bill that ever crossed the threshold of the Senate. Such a policy if sanctioned by law would mean the domination of a self-perpetuating oligarchy of officeholders, and the party first entrusted with the machinery could be dislodged from power only by an appeal to the reserved right of the people to resist oppression which is inherent in all self-governing communities.

Two years ago this revolutionary policy was emphatically condemned by the people at the polls, but in contempt of that verdict the Republican party has defiantly declared in its latest authoritative utterances that its success in the coming elections will mean the enactment of a force bill and the usurpation of despotic control over the elections of all States. Believing that the preservation of a Republican government is dependent upon the defeat of a policy at logger heads fires and fraud, we invite the support of all citizens who desire to see the Constitution maintained in its integrity with the laws pursuant thereto which have given our country for years of unprecedented prosperity, and we pledge that the Democratic party will not only defeat the Force bill, but also the Republican policy of profligate expenditure which in the short space of two years has squandered an enormous surplus and emptied the overflowing treasury after piling new burdens of taxation upon the already overtaxed labor of the country.

THE TARIFF.

We reiterate the oft-repeated doctrine of the Democratic party that the necessity of the government is the only justification for taxation, and wherever the tax is unnecessary it is unjustifiable. The imposition of the existing tariff fall with crushing force upon our farmers and workingmen, and for the mere advantage of a few whom it enriches they exact from labor grievous unjust sums of the expenses of the government, and we demand such revision of the tariff laws as will remove these iniquitous burdens, lighten the oppression and put them on a constitutional and equitable basis. But in making a reduction in taxes it is not proposed to injure any domestic industries, but rather promote their healthy growth. From the foundation of the government the taxes collected at the custom house have been their chief source of Federal revenue. Such they must continue to be. Moreover, many industries have come to rely on legislation for successful competition in our home market, and whatever duties are imposed on imports to the law must be at every step regarded of the labor and capital thus involved. The process of reform must be applied with care and caution. It is the plain dictate of justice.

We denounce the McKinley tariff law enacted as a cruel, unjustifiable act of class legislation. We endorse the efforts of the Democrats of the recent Congress to modify its most oppressive features in the direction of free raw material and cheaper manufactured goods that enter into consumption, and we promise its repeal as one of the immediate results that will follow the action of the people in entrusting power to the Democratic party. Since the McKinley tariff went into operation the wages have been the reduction in the wages of laboring men to one-half. We point to the failures in the country since the tariff was into operation, and point to the dullness and distress, wage reductions and strikes in the iron trade as the best evidence that no such prosperity resulted from the McKinley act. We call the attention of thoughtful Americans to the fact that after fifty years of protective taxes against the importation of foreign wealth in exchange for our agricultural surplus, the homes and farms of the country have become encumbered by mortgages.

There are over two thousand five hundred million dollars, exclusive of all other forms of indebtedness, in one of the agricultural States in the west, and similar conditions are shown to exist in other agricultural exporting States. We denounce the policy which fosters no industry so much as it does that of the Shylock.

Trade interchange on the basis of reciprocal advantage to the countries participating is a time-honored doctrine of the Democratic party, but we denounce the whole reciprocity work jugglery with the people's desire for enlarged foreign markets and freer exchanges by pretending to establish closer relations for a few months with nations of export are almost exclusively agricultural products, with other countries that are also agricultural, while erecting custom-house barriers of a prohibitive tariff types against the rich countries of the world that stand ready to take our surplus products and pay the highest price for manufactures which bolster the prosperity of life.

TRUSTS AND COMBINATIONS.

We recognize in trusts and combinations, sometimes designed to enable capital to secure more than a just share of the profits of production and labor, the natural consequence of prohibitive taxes which prevent free competition, which is the life of honest trade; but we believe that these evils can be abated by law and we demand the right and enactment of laws made to prevent and control them together with such other legislation in restraining their abuses as experience may show to be necessary.

PUBLIC LANDS.

The Republican party while professing the policy of reserving public land in small holdings by actual settlers, has given away the people's heritage until now a few railroads and non-resident aliens, individual and syndicate, possess a larger area than that of all the farms between the two seas. The last Democratic administration reversed the improvident and unwise policy of the Republican party touching public domain and reclaimed from corporations and syndicates alien and domestic and restored to the people nearly 100,000,000 acres of valuable land to be sacredly held as homesteads for our citizens, and we pledge ourselves to continue this policy until every acre of land so unlawfully held shall be reclaimed and restored to the people.

THE SHERMAN ACT.

We denounce the Republican legislation known as the Sherman act of 1890 as a cowardly makeshift fraught with possibilities of danger in the future which threaten the business interests of the south and injure the colored citizen more than the whites. It means hordes of deputy marshals at every polling place, armed with Federal power, returning boards appointed and controlled by Federal authority; the outrage of the electoral rights of the people in the States; subjugation of the colored people to the control of the party in power and reviving the racial antagonism, now happily abated; the utmost jeopardy to safety and happiness to all. The measure was deliberately and justly described by the Republican senator as the most infamous bill that ever crossed the threshold of the Senate. Such a policy if sanctioned by law would mean the domination of a self-perpetuating oligarchy of officeholders, and the party first entrusted with the machinery could be dislodged from power only by an appeal to the reserved right of the people to resist oppression which is inherent in all self-governing communities.

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