

ating 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 of legalized force 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 100 years of unexampled 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 whenever the tax is unnecessary it is unjustifiable. The impositions 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 grossly unjust shares of the expenses of the government, and we demand such revision of the tariff laws as will remove their iniquitous inequalities, lighten the oppressions 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 continuance, so any change in the law must be at every step regardful of the labor and capital thus involved. The process of reform must be the subject in execution. It is the plain dictates of justice.

We denounce the McKinley tariff law enacted as a culminating atrocity 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 materials and cheaper manufactured goods than enter into consumption, and we promise its repeal as one of the beneficent results that will follow the action of the people in entrusting power to the Democratic party. Since the McKinley tariff went into operation there have been ten reductions in the wages of laboring men to one increase. We point to the failures in the country since the tariff went 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 thirty years of restrictive taxes against the importation of foreign wealth in exchange for the 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 Sheriff.

Trade interchange on the basis of reciprocal advantages to the countries participating is a time-honored doctrine of the Democratic faith, but we denounce the sham reciprocity which juggles with the people's desire for enlarged foreign markets and freer exchanges by pretending to establish closer relations for a country whose articles of export are almost exclusively agricultural products, with other countries that are also agricultural, while erecting a custom-house barrier of a prohibitive tariff taxes against the rich countries of the world that stand ready to take our entire surplus product and exchange therefor commodities which include the necessities of life.

TRUSTS AND COMBINATIONS.

We recognize in trusts and combinations, something designed to enable capital to secure more than a just share of the joint produce of capital and labor, the natural consequence of prohibitive taxes which prevent free competition, which is the life of honest trade; but we believe their worst evils can be abated by law and we demand the rigid enforcement of laws made to prevent and control them together with such further 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 for small holding by actual settlers, has given away the people's heritage until now a few railroads and non-resident aliens, individual and corporate, 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 should make all of its supporters as well as the author anxious for speedy repeal. We hold to the use of both gold and silver as the standard money of the country and to the coinage of both gold and silver without dis-

criminating against either metal or a charge for minting, but a dollar of unit coinage of both metals must be of equal in intrinsic and exchangeable value or adjusted through international agreement or by such safeguards in legislation as shall insure the maintenance of a parity between the two metals, and the equal value of every dollar at all times in the market and in the payment of debts, and we demand that proper currency be kept a par with and redeemable in such coin. We insist upon this policy as especially necessary for the protection of farmers and laboring classes, the first and most defenseless victims of unstable money and fluctuating currency.

We recommend that the prohibitory ten per cent. tax on State bank issues be repealed. "A public office is a public trust."

REFORM OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

We reaffirm the declaration of the Democratic National convention of 1876 for a reform of the civil service and call for honest enforcement of all laws regulating the same. The nomination of a President, as in the recent Republican convention, by delegations composed largely of his appointees, holding office at his pleasure, is a scandalous satire on free popular institutions and a startling illustration of the methods by which a President may gratify his ambition. We denounce the policy under which Federal office-holders usurp control of the party conventions in the States, and pledge the Democratic party to reform these and all other abuses which threaten individual liberty and local self-government.

THE FOREIGN POLICY.

The Democratic party is the only party that has ever given the country a foreign policy consistent and vigorous, compelling respect abroad and inspiring confidence at home. While avoiding entangling alliances, it has aimed to cultivate friendly relations with other nations, and especially with the neighbors in the American continent whose destiny is closely linked with ours, and we view with alarm the tendency to a policy of irritation and bluster which is reliable at any time to confront us with the alternatives of humiliation or war. We countenance a navy strong enough for all purposes of national defense and to properly maintain the honor and dignity of our country abroad. The country has always been the refuge of the oppressed from every land, exiles for conscience sake. We condemn the oppression practiced by the Russian government upon Russian and Jewish subjects, and call upon the national government in the interest of justice and humanity, by all just and proper means to use prompt efforts to bring about a cessation of these cruel persecutions in the Czar's dominion and secure to the oppressed equal rights. We tender our profound and earnest sympathy for those lovers of freedom who are struggling for home rule and the great cause of local self-government of Ireland.

IMMIGRATION.

We heartily approve of legitimate efforts to prevent the United States being used as a dumping ground for known criminals and paupers and we demand the rigid enforcement of laws against Chinese immigration and the importation of foreign labor to reduce