

THE PLATFORM ON WHICH THE PARTY WILL MARCH TO VICTORY

THE REPUBLICANS of the United States, through their chosen representatives, met in national convention, looking back upon an unsurpassed record of achievement and looking forward into a great field of duty and opportunity, and appealing to the judgment of their countrymen, make these declarations:

The expectation in which the American people, turning from the Democratic party, entrusted power four years ago to a Republican chief magistrate and a Republican congress, has been met and satisfied. When the people then assembled at the polls, after a term of Democratic legislation and administration, business was dead, industry paralyzed and the national credit disastrously impaired. The country's capital was hidden away and its labor distressed and unemployed. The Democrats had no other plan with which to improve the ruinous conditions which they had themselves produced than to coin silver at the ratio of 16 to 1. The Republican party, denouncing this plan as sure to produce conditions even worse than those from which relief was sought, promised to restore prosperity by means of two legislative measures—a protective tariff and a law making gold the standard of value.

The people, by great majorities, issued to the Republican party a commission to enact these laws. This commission has been executed, and the Republican promise is redeemed. Prosperity, more general and more abundant than we have ever known, has followed those enactments. There is no longer controversy as to the value of any government obligation. Every American dollar is a gold dollar or its assured equivalent, and American credit stands higher than that of any other nation. Capital is fully employed and labor everywhere is profitably occupied.

No single fact can more strikingly tell the story of what Republican government means to the country than this—that while during the whole period of 107 years, from 1790 to 1897, there was an excess of exports over imports of only \$383,028,497, there has been in the short three years of the present Republican administration an excess of exports over imports in the enormous sum of \$1,483,537,094. And while the American people, sustained by this Republican legislation, have been achieving these splendid triumphs in their business and commerce, they have conducted and in victory concluded a war for liberty and human rights. No thought of national aggrandizement tarnished the high purpose with which American standards were unfurled. Its armies in the field and the quick and signal triumphs of its forces on land and sea bore equal tribute to the courage of American soldiers and sailors and to the skill and foresight of Republican statesmanship. To ten millions of the human race there was given "a new birth of freedom," and to the American people a new and noble responsibility.

We endorse the administration of William McKinley. Its acts have been established in wisdom and in patriotism, and at home and abroad it has distinctly elevated and extended the influence of the American nation. Walking untried paths and facing unforeseen responsibilities, President McKinley has been in every situation the true American patriot and the upright statesman, clear in vision, strong in judgment, firm in action, always inspiring and deserving the confidence of his countrymen.

In asking the American people to endorse this Republican record and to renew their commission to the Republican party, we remind them of the fact that the menace to

their prosperity has always resided in Democratic principles and no less in the general incapacity of the Democratic party to conduct affairs. The prime essential of business prosperity is public confidence in the good sense of the government and in its ability to deal intelligently with each new problem of administration and legislation. That confidence the Democratic party has never earned. It is hopelessly inadequate and the country's prosperity, when Democratic success at the polls is announced, halts and ceases in mere anticipation of Democratic blunders and failures.

We renew our allegiance to the principle of the gold standard and declare our confidence in the wisdom of the legislation of the Fifty-sixth congress by which the parity of all our money and the stability of our currency upon a gold basis has been secured.

We recognize that interest rates are a potent factor in production and business activity, and for the purpose of equalizing and of further lowering the rates of interest, we favor such monetary legislation as will enable the varying needs of the season and of all sections to be promptly met in order that trade may be evenly sustained, labor steadily employed and commerce enlarged. The volume of money in circulation was never so great per capita as it is today. We declare our steadfast opposition to the free and unlimited coinage of silver. No measure to that end could be considered which was without the support of the leading commercial countries of the world. However firmly Republican legislation may seem to have secured the country against the perils of a base and discredited currency, the election of a Democratic president could not fail to impair the country's credit and to bring once more into question the intention of the American people to maintain upon the gold standard the parity of their money circulation. The Democratic party must be convinced that the American people will never tolerate the Chicago platform.

We recognize the necessity and propriety of the honest co-operation of capital to meet new business conditions and especially to extend our rapidly increasing foreign trade, but we condemn all conspiracies and combinations intended to restrict business and to create monopolies, to limit production, or to control prices, and favor such legislation as will effectively restrain and prevent all such abuses, protect and promote competition and secure the rights of producers, laborers and all who are engaged in industry and commerce.

We renew our faith in the policy of protection to American labor. In that policy our industries have been established, diversified and maintained. By protecting the home markets competition has been stimulated and production cheapened. Opportunity to the inventive genius of our people has been secured and wages in every department of labor maintained at high rates, higher now than ever before and always distinguishing our working people in their better conditions of life from those of any competing country. Enjoying the blessings of the American common school, secure in the right of self-government and protected in the occupancy of their own markets, their constantly increasing knowledge and skill have enabled them finally to enter the markets of the world.

We favor the associated policy of reciprocity so directed as to open our markets on favorable terms for articles which we do not ourselves produce in return for free foreign markets.

In the further interest of American workmen we favor a more effective restriction of the immigration of cheap labor from foreign lands, the extension of opportunities of education for working children, the raising of the age limit

for child labor, the protection of free labor as against contract, convict labor and an effective system of labor insurance.

Our present dependence upon foreign shipping for nine-tenths of our foreign carrying is a great loss to the industry of this country. It is also a serious danger to our trade, for its sudden withdrawal in the event of European war would seriously cripple our expanding foreign commerce. The national defense and naval efficiency of this country, moreover, supply a compelling reason for legislation which will enable us to recover our former place among the trade carrying fleets of the world.

The nation owes a debt of profound gratitude to the soldiers and sailors who have fought its battles, and it is the government's duty to provide for the survivors and for the widows and orphans of those who have fallen in the country's wars.

The pension laws founded in this just sentiment, should be liberal and should be liberally administered and preference should be given wherever practicable with respect to employment in the public service to soldiers and sailors and to their widows and orphans.

We commend the policy of the Republican party in maintaining the efficiency of the civil service. The administration has acted wisely in its efforts to secure for public service in Cuba, Porto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippine islands only those whose fitness has been determined by training and experience. We believe that employment in public service in these territories should be confined as far as practicable to their inhabitants.

It was the plain purpose of the fifteenth amendment to the constitution to prevent discriminations on account of race or color in regulating the elective franchise. Devices of state governments, whether by statutory or constitutional enactment, to avoid the purpose of this amendment, are revolutionary and should be condemned.

Public movements looking to a permanent improvement of the roads and highways of the country meet with our cordial approval and we recommend this subject to the earnest consideration of the people and of the legislatures of the several states.

We favor the extension of the rural free delivery service wherever its extension may be ratified.

In further pursuance of the constant policy of the Republican party to provide free homes on the public domain, we recommend adequate national legislation to reclaim the arid lands of the United States, reserving control of the distribution of water for irrigation to the respective states and territories.

We favor home rule for, and the early admission to statehood, of the territories of New Mexico, Arizona and Oklahoma.

The Dingley act, amended to provide sufficient revenue for the conduct of the war, has so well performed its work that it has been possible to reduce the war debt in the sum of \$10,000,000. So ample are the government's revenues and so great is the public confidence in the integrity of its obligations that its newly-funded 2 per cent. bonds sell at a premium. The country is now justified in expecting, and it will be the policy of the Republican party to bring about, a reduction of the war taxes.

We favor the construction, ownership, control and protection of an Isthmian canal by the government of the United States.

New markets are necessary for the increasing surplus of our farm products. Every effort should be made to open and obtain new markets, especially in the Orient, and

the administration is warmly to be commended for its successful effort to commit all trading and colonizing nations to the policy of the open door in China.

In the interest of our expanding commerce we recommend that congress create a department of commerce and industries in the charge of a secretary with a seat in the cabinet. The United States consular system should be re-organized under the supervision of this new department upon such a basis of appointment and tenure as will render it still more serviceable to the nation's increasing trade.

The American government must protect the person and property of every citizen wherever they are wrongfully violated or placed in peril.

We congratulate the women of America upon their splendid record of public service in the volunteer aid association and as nurses in camp and hospital during the recent campaigns of our armies in the eastern and western Indies, and we appreciate their faithful co-operation in all works of education and industry.

President McKinley has conducted the foreign affairs of the United States with distinct credit to the American people. In releasing us from the vexatious conditions of a European alliance for the government of Samoa his course is especially to be commended. By securing to our undivided control the most important island of the Samoan group and the best harbor in the Southern Pacific every American interest has been safeguarded.

We commend the part taken by our government in the peace conference at The Hague. We assert our steadfast adherence to the policy announced in the Monroe doctrine. The provisions of The Hague convention were wisely guarded when President McKinley tendered his friendly offices in the interest of peace between Great Britain and the South African republics. While the American government must continue the policy, prescribed by Washington, affirmed by every succeeding president and imposed upon us by The Hague treaty, of non-intervention in European controversies, the American people earnestly hope that a way may soon be found, honorable alike to both contending parties, to terminate the strife between them.

In accepting by the treaty of Paris the just responsibility of our victories in the Spanish war, the president and the senate won the undoubted approval of the American people. No other course was possible than to destroy Spain's sovereignty throughout the Western Indies and in the Philippines. That course created our responsibility, before the world and toward the unorganized population whom our intervention had freed from Spain, to provide for the maintenance of law and for the establishment of good government and for the performance of international obligations. Our authority could not be less than our responsibility and wherever sovereignty rights were extended it became the high duty of the government to maintain its authority to put down armed insurrection and to confer the blessings of liberty and civilization upon all the rescued peoples. The largest measure of self-government consistent with their welfare and our duties shall be secured to them by law.

Cuban independence and self-government were assured in the same voice by which war was declared, and to the letter this pledge shall be performed.

The Republican party upon its history and upon this declaration of its principles and policies confidently invokes the considerate and approving judgment of the American people.

HOW THE SPANISH TAXED PORTO RICO

EVERYBODY AND EVERYTHING WAS LEVIED UPON.

If It Had Not Been for the Ease with Which Many of These Taxes Could Be Evaded by Bribery of the Spanish Officials Life Would Not Have Been Endurable.

The present discussion regarding methods of raising revenues for Porto Rico lends especial interest to a statement regarding the system of taxation enforced under Spanish rule made by Dr. Henry K. Carroll, special commissioner, who was sent to Porto Rico last year. The statement is as follows: "Customs duties were levied both on imports and exports. There was also a special tax on the loading and unloading of freight, the embarkation and disembarkation of passengers and transitory duties of 10 per cent. on imports. The revenues from these sources, as has already appeared, constituted by far the largest item of the receipts of the insular treasury. "There was a system of direct taxation, resting on the basis of income and not on valuation. The territorial tax, yielding \$410,000 to the insular treasury, affected urban and suburban property; the industrial and commercial, yielding \$240,000 to the insular treasury, included all kinds of manufactures and industries, all branches of the mercantile and banking business and all occupations.

TAX ON COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

"The industrial and commercial tax was divided according to the population of cities and towns, classified according to the character of business and graded according to the amount of business. There were six divisions on the basis of population. San Juan, Ponce and Mayaguez constituted the first division, towns with custom houses of the first class the second, towns with more than 12,000 inhabitants the third, the other three divisions being graded down from 12,000 to 4,000 and less. "Then there were five classes of tariff. The first, with eight grades, included merchants, wholesale and retail; the second, importers and export-

ers, money lenders, transportation, salaries of officials of banks, railroads and other companies; the third, the manufacture of sugar, rum, machinery, chemicals, chocolate, ice, etc.; the fourth, the professions and occupations, and the fifth, patents or new shops, factories, etc., which had to pay a special installation tax. Merchants in the first class of the first tariff would pay 130 pesos in San Juan, Ponce or Mayaguez; 104 in Aguadilla, Humacao, etc.; 72 in Adjuntas, Bayamo, etc.; 52 in Ceano, Camuy, etc.; 39 in Cienfuegos, Barranquitas, etc., and 25 in the towns of Santa Isabella, etc. Merchants, wholesale or wholesale and retail dealers in various lines of wares, on commission or on their own account, paid according to the first grade: retail shops, hotels and restaurants, according to the second; pharmacists, shoe, provision and other retail stores were in the third; stationery shops in the fourth; wholesale and retail tobacco shops in the fifth; cafes for the sale of soda waters, etc., in the sixth; boarding houses in the seventh, and shops for the sale of native flowers in the eighth.

TAX ON SALARIES.

"The second tariff embraced salaries, wages, commissions and the like. Governors or directors of banks, railroad companies, etc., paid 5 per cent. of their wages or salaries, contractors 6 per cent. of the amount of their contracts, banks 10 per cent. of their profits, importers and exporters, receiving and remitting, buying and selling, shipping and conducting banking operations, paid \$700 in cities of the first division. Provincial and municipal officers were not required to pay tax on their salaries. But no kind of business seems to have escaped the sharp eye of the state experts. Public baths, balls and concerts, periodicals, including daily papers, laundries, funeral agencies, gymnasiums, livery stables, all kinds of industries, even the manufacture of artificial feet, were taxed. Blacksmiths paid, according to the towns in which their business was conducted, from 12 to 3 pesos; architects, from 30 to 6; dentists and pharmacists, the same; physicians and surgeons, 45 to 25; nurses and midwives, 18 to 5; veterinarians, 15 to 5; barbers, 12 to 5; lawyers, registers of property and notaries, 45 to 10; white carpenters, cabinet makers, bookbinders, professors of music, languages, painters, etc., paid according to their class and grade. Among the exceptions may be noted washerwomen, barbers without shops, clerks in commercial houses and similar classes. Day laborers were assessed on the basis of one-third the value of half a year's wages.

"According to the law, some classes of business and occupations are assessable and some are not. A particular class is called a gremio. The lawyers, for example, would form one (class), the doctors another, the mechanics another and so on. The custom was for the state to announce the amount it needed, and those composing this various gremios (classes) would meet and divide the amount among its members on the basis of the tariff.

TAX ON LAND.

"The territorial tax was levied on the income of real estate, both urban and rural. It yielded nearly twice as much as the tax on commerce and industry. The valuation was made in each municipal district by a commission of three, with three sub-commissioners for each class of wealth, the three sub-commissioners representing, respectively, the largest, medium and the smallest class of taxpayers. These commissioners were appointed at a joint meeting of the councilmen, with three times as many taxpayers, elected in equal parts by the three classes of taxpayers. In valuing the income of a farm the commissioners would fix a certain price for the respective products. Sugar, for example, was estimated at \$3 a quintal (220 lb. pounds), and 75 per cent. was deducted for expenses; coffee, at \$12, and \$8 was allowed for expenses. On urban property 25 per cent. discount was allowed; on pasture lands, 10 per cent. "All taxes were payable quarterly. The amount assessed for the benefit of the state was 5 per cent., both on urban and suburban property. The rate for the municipality varied according to its needs, but was generally 7 or 7 1/2 per cent. The complaint was quite general that those who had much property, and ought to have paid large sums, escaped with small payments.

BRIBERY OF OFFICIALS.

"Methods of evasion not unknown in other countries seem to have been practiced in Porto Rico, including bribery of officials. A German resident of an interior district told the commissioner how he got his annual tax reduced by bribery, learning the trick from older residents. It is charged that Spaniards were favored by the state at the expense of the natives. "Mr. Andreu Crosas, a merchant of many years' standing in San Juan, but an American citizen, informed the commissioner that a Spaniard who rented a farm had agreed to pay the tax on it, which, while he had it, was only \$50 a year. The farm afterward came into Crosas' possession, and the tax was raised from \$50 to \$400. As to the

tax on commerce, he said that formerly he paid \$700 a year to the state as an importer of the first class, and \$1,000 as the municipality, making \$1,700 a year. He then placed himself in the second class and paid \$421 to the state, refusing the municipality's demand for its 7 1/2 per cent.

EVERY ONE AND EVERYTHING TAXED.

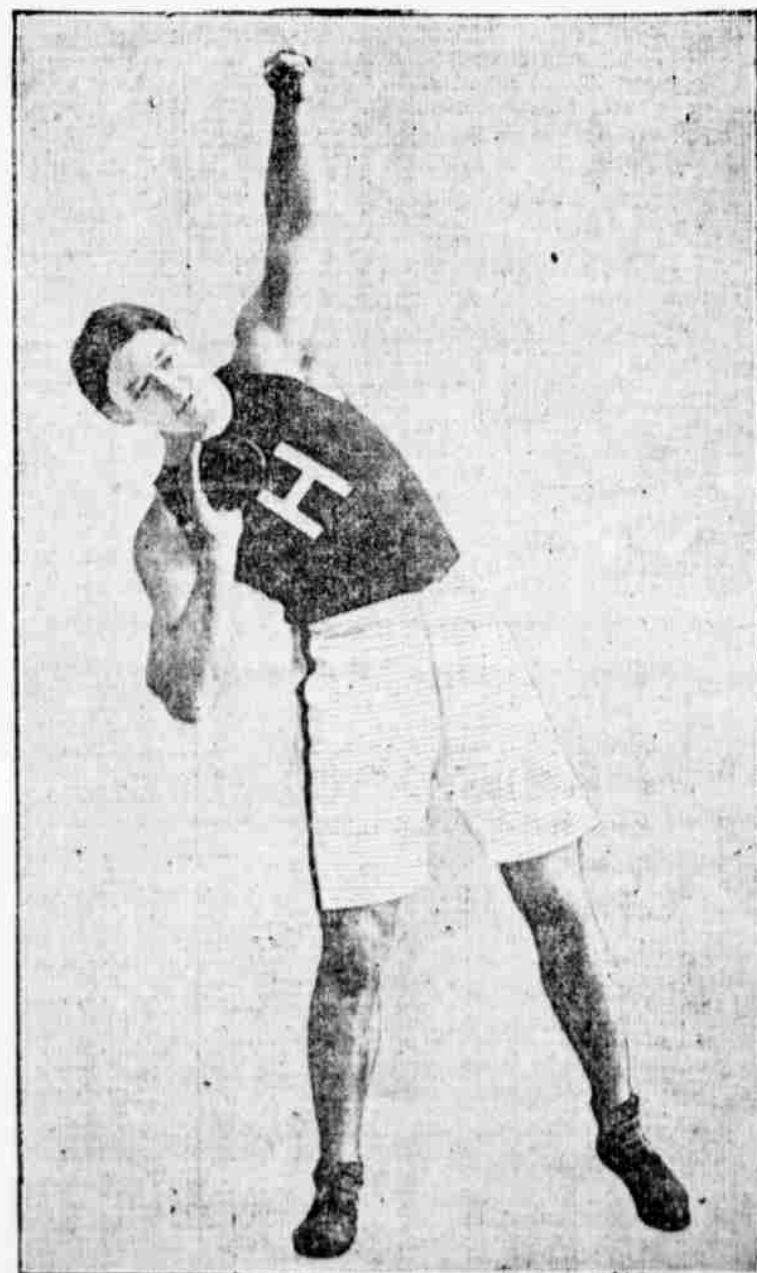
"From this brief review of the systems of taxation it will be seen that if the laws had been faithfully administered no person and no article or form of property could have escaped his or its share of the public burden. The direct taxes would seem to have been extremely onerous. The earnings of merchants, manufacturers and other producers were subject to a tax of 12 1/2 per cent. or more, according to the financial exigencies of the treasury, provincial and municipal. For example, if a merchant's income was valued at \$10,000 a year he would pay in direct taxes \$1,250. He would also pay for his cedula or personal passport, the amount of which was graduated, according to personal means from 12 cents up to \$25 or more. He would pay direct taxes on his residence and furniture, and on his horses and other live stock, if not used for labor. If he were just starting in business he would pay a patente or tax for privilege; yet the general testimony, as will appear elsewhere in this report, was to the effect that taxation was not really oppressive, or would not have been, if it had been impartially assessed and collected. But the fact that it was so heavy doubtless had an influence on people to conceal their property as much as possible and undervalue their annual income. Articles of common use, such as rice, flour, corn, charcoal, wines, etc., not only paid heavy import duties, but were subject, together with fresh beef, milk and sugar, produced on the island to a consumo tax at the gates of the municipalities. For example, flour, which had paid a duty of 400 kilos at the custom house, paid at the city gates \$2.50 consumo tax, or a total of \$2.50, which was at the rate of \$2 a hundredweight; rice, the common article of diet, paid \$2.70 import duty and \$1 consumo tax; fresh beef paid a consumo tax of \$2 a hundred kilos, or 220 pounds. This was in addition to the head tax paid the city by the slaughterer."

THE OCEAN HOTEL.

From Atlantic Magazine. It is difficult to make the ocean voyager of the present day understand how great has been the improvement in the lot of his kind since the days when

his father or grandfather looked forward in terror to the necessity of a trans-Atlantic trip. In those days the

best of ocean steamships was an ill-smelling and uncomfortable place. The berths, rough wooden cots, were un-



A GREAT SHOT PUTTER.

S. G. Ellis, of whom this is a new portrait, is one of the best shot putters in Harvard University. He has developed wonderfully under the guidance of Trainer "Mike" Murphy. His work is expected to create surprise during the coming season.

lighted and generally so uncomfortable that only the necessity of illness kept the passenger in them. Such a thing as a smoking room was unknown, and the passengers indulged their fondness for tobacco sitting in the companion-ways. The suggestion of tiled bathrooms on shipboard would have made a skipper of that day laugh in derision. The food consisted of salt meats, and was generally unpalatable. The vessels themselves, being much smaller than those of the present day, and none of them with the modern advantages of construction, rolled and pitched frightfully, and the passengers generally were kept in such a state that they would have welcomed land even if the only way of reaching it had been by going to the bottom.

Compare this picture with that of the modern ocean liner. In the latter fortunes are lavished in costly furnishings, carvings, decorations, carpets and general equipment. There are libraries well stocked with books, smoking rooms luxuriously furnished for the comfort of all who care to use them; barber shops, numerous baths, and, in fact, all the conveniences of the best-equipped establishment on land. If the passenger is willing to pay for it, he may have a suite of apartments, in which he will find real beds instead of berths, private bath-rooms, and all the comforts and luxuries to which he is accustomed in his daily life.

In the dining-room perhaps the change is the most marked of all. The development of modern refrigeration makes it possible for the table that is spread in the mid-Atlantic to be equipped with all the delicacies of the season. Game, fruit, ice—everything is to be had, and the deadly monotony palatable and tempting to the appetite of sea fare is no longer the scourge of the hapless passenger. On many of the largest liners the music of an orchestra is now provided as an accompaniment to the daily dinner. The vast scale on which travel is carried on at the present day and the giant steamships which it has developed make the organization of a modern ocean liner entirely different from that of its early prototype. The sailor is no longer the supreme factor in the management of an ocean steamship. In fact, the sailor as he existed in the old day has practically disappeared. The modern steersman of the large ship carries a crew of 500 men. Of these, perhaps seventy-five are classed as sailors, but their duties relate chiefly to cleaning decks, operating the auxiliary machinery and carrying on such menial tasks. The old glory of Jack Tar has departed since the days of steam.