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DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.

We, the democrats of the United States, in national convention assembled, do reaffirm our allegiance to the essential principles of justice and liberty upon which our institutions are founded, and which the democratic party has advocated from Jefferson's time to our own—freedom of speech, freedom of the press—freedom of conscience, the preservation of personal rights, the equality of all citizens before the law, and the faithful observance of constitutional limitations. During all these years the democratic party has resisted the tendency of selfish interests to the centralization of government power and steadily maintained the integrity of the dual scheme of the 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 rights of the States, and in its assertion of the necessity of confining the general government to the exercise of the powers granted by the Constitution of the United States.

The constitution of the United States guarantees to every citizen the right of civil and religious liberty. The democratic party has always been the exponent of political liberty and religious freedom, and it renews its obligation and reaffirms its devotion to those fundamental principles of the constitution.

Recognizing that the money question is paramount to all others at this time, we invite the attention to the fact that the federal constitution names silver and gold together as the money metals of the United States, and that the first coinage law passed by congress under the constitution made the silver dollar the monetary unit and admitted gold to free coinage at the rate based upon 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, the enrichment of the money lending class at home and abroad, the prostration of industry and impoverishment of the people.

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

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

We demand that the standard

silver dollar shall be a full legal tender, equally with gold for all debts, public and private, and we favor such legislation as will prevent for the future the demonetization of any kind of legal tender money by private contract.

We are opposed to the policy and practice of surrendering to the holders of the obligations of the United States the option reserved by law to the government of redeeming such obligations 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, put an enormous profit to themselves, supply the Federal treasury with gold to maintain the policy of gold monometallism. Congress alone has the power to coin and issue money, and President Jackson declared that this power could not be delegated to corporations or individuals.

We, therefore, denounce the issuance of notes intended to circulate as money by national banks as in derogation of the constitution, and we demand that all paper, which is made a legal tender for require a stricter control by the federal government of these articles of commerce.

We demand enlargement of the power of the interstate commerce commission, and such restrictions and guarantees in the control of railroads as will protect the people from robbery and oppression.

The money wrong from the people by oppressive taxation and the lavish appropriation of the recent republican congress, 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 befits a democratic government, and a reduction in the useless offices, the salaries of which drain the substance of the people.

We denounce the arbitrary interference by federal authority 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 the laws of States and rights of citizens, become at once judges, legislatures and executioners; and we approve the bill passed at the last session of the United States Senate, and now pending in the House of Representatives, relative to contempt in Federal Courts and providing trials by jury in certain cases of contempt.

No discrimination should be indulged by the government in favor of its debtors. We approve of the refusal of the Fifty-Third Congress to pass the Pacific railroad funding bill, and denounce the efforts of the present republican Congress to enact a similar measure.

Recognizing the just claims of deserving Union soldiers, we heartily endorse the rule of the present commissioner of pensions, that no names shall be arbitrarily dropped from the pension rolls and the fact of enlistment and service should be deemed conclusive evidence against disease and disability before enlistment.

We favor the admission of the territories of New Mexico, Arizona and Oklahoma to the Union as States, and we favor the early 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 or district in which their duties are to be performed.

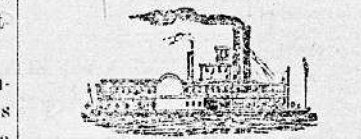
The democratic party believes in home rule and that all public lands of the United States should be appropriated to the establishment of free homes for American citizens.

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

The Monroe doctrine as originally declared and as interpreted by succeeding Presidents, is a permanent part of the foreign policy of the United States and must at

all times be maintained. We extend our sympathy to the people of Cuba in their heroic struggle for liberty and independence. We are opposed to life tenure in the public service. We favor appointment based upon merit, fixing terms of office, and such an administration of the civil service laws as will afford equal opportunities to all citizens of ascertained fitness. We declare it to be the unwritten law of this republic, established by custom and usage of 100 years, 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 for 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 cheap transportation to tide water. When any waterway of the republic is of sufficient importance to demand aid from the government, such aid should be extended upon a definite plan of continuous work until permanent improvement is secured. Confiding 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.

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JOHN SHEVYN, N. G.
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KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.—Alexandria Lodge, No. 33, meets the First and Third Thursdays at 8 p. m. Visiting brethren cordially invited.
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KNIGHTS OF HONOR.—Alexandria Lodge, No. 319, meets on the Second and Fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8 p. m. Visiting brethren are invited to attend.
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PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the regular meetings of Oliver Lodge, No. 81, F. & A. M., have been changed from the 1st and 3d Saturdays of each month, to the 1st and 3d Wednesdays of each month.
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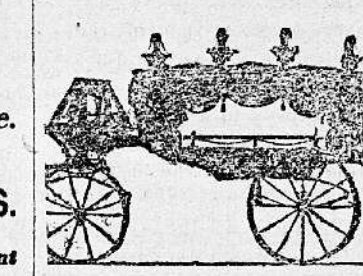


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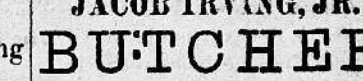
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