

AN ADDRESS

REPUBLICANS OF LOUISIANA.

REC. - REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, New Orleans, September 21, 1878.

The Republican State Central Committee appointed by the State Convention of 1876, met in the month of August last, and considering the disorganized condition of the party and the peculiar state of political affairs, and desiring it wise to make the Committee as representative as possible, elected fifty additional members from all parts of the State. The Committee is now constituted of eighty-five members. At that time it was thought that it might not be necessary to convene a State Convention. But at a full meeting held in August a convention was called to meet in New Orleans on the sixteenth of September. Delegates were elected, and on that day a large number assembled in New Orleans under the call, but, owing to the prevalence of the epidemic and to the establishment of a rigid quarantine in many of the parishes, a quorum of the delegates did not meet, and the minority present adjourned subject to the call of the President of this Committee as has been fully set forth in an address heretofore published. We now find it necessary to announce that the same causes which prevented the attendance of a quorum of delegates on the sixteenth instant may prevent the reconvening of the Convention in time to take measures for the pending campaign.

Therefore, in view of the approaching election for members of the State Convention, for State Treasurer, for members of the General Assembly, and for many parish and municipal officers, this Committee deems it proper to urge certain considerations upon Republican voters throughout the State. First, however, it is pertinent that we should say that at and before the meeting of this committee on the sixteenth of August, when the call for a State Convention was issued, it was generally considered among the representatives men from all portions of the State that, under the existing political circumstances, it was not advisable to recommend measures looking to a general campaign. It was not thought to be expedient to make a formal nomination for the only State officer to be voted for. Accordingly the call for the Convention did not specify the nomination of any individual, but the Convention was assembled to select a new State Central Committee and to determine upon a line of policy for the party for the future. But a committee which lay down its authority until its successors are chosen, and since the party can not remain without an authoritative head, we feel justified in exercising the powers we do.

Preliminary to the suggestions we have to make in relation to practical measures, we make the following declaration of principles subject to the approval of the Convention when it shall assemble: 1. The Republican party of Louisiana continues to adhere to the National Republican party. With that party we emphatically regard the United States of America as a nation, and not a league. We reaffirm the platform adopted by the Cincinnati Convention of 1876. We proudly cherish the noble history of that party which saved the Union, destroyed slavery, and granted political and civil rights to all men within the nation.

2. The Republicans of Louisiana announce that with regard to national finances, they favor a bi-metallic and national currency, interchangeable at par, and adjusted to meet the demands of the business and industry of the country. We maintain that every promise given by the nation, during the perils of the civil war, should be faithfully kept. We believe, as our party has always believed and asserted, that the money of the nation must rest upon an ultimate basis of coin, having an intrinsic value, and not a league of debased paper. We arraign the Democratic party for its dishonesty, its inconsistency and its inanity in reference to the most serious questions of financial policy. Pretending anything and everything to anybody and everybody, in the hope of political preferment, the course of the Democratic party in this regard has only succeeded in disturbing the commercial relations and productive industries of the country. In our own State, we witness the strange spectacle of a party supporting candidates for Congress who hold extreme views in opposition to the so-called "Greenback" doctrine, running upon a platform which demands unlimited issuance of paper money under national and State auspices, and advocates substantial repudiation.

3. We advocate a system of revenue taxation and import duties, which, while it shall provide ample means to meet the public expenditures and obligations, shall assume the protection of certain national interests against destructive competition of foreign production; especially insisting that the capital and labor employed in the production of the national staples of rice and sugar shall be included in articles to be protected.

4. We favor a national system of internal improvements. The public works affecting inter-State communication and the general commercial and industrial prosperity of the country should be constructed and supported out of the national resources. We arraign the Democratic majority in Congress for their refusal to grant that aid justly due to the South in this direction. Our Representatives in Congress have been so useful to this State and its interests in this regard as if they had had seats in the Parliament of the Canadian Dominion. The experience of the past justifies us in affirming that the South can expect no assistance from the ascendancy of the Democratic party in the councils of the nation. We therefore make our appeal to and place our reliance upon the Republicans in Congress, and to such just minded Democrats as may not be under the party whip. We ask, in common justice to the South, that the following measures be adopted: 1. The construction of a national railroad from the Mississippi, south of the 33d parallel, passing through the State of Texas to a port or ports upon the Pacific Ocean within the territory of the United States or of the Republic of Mexico. 2. The construction, at national expense and under national supervision, of a levee for the reclamation and protection of alluvial lands within the latitudes adapted to the culture of rice and sugar. 3. The grant of a subvention from the national treasury adequate to secure postal steam service between our remote Gulf ports of the Union and the principal ports on the Southern Atlantic Coast of this Continent.

5. We affirm with the National Republican party that the public school system of the several States is the bulwark of the American Republic. We remark with gratitude that the constitution of our State contains among the several compacts public schools that claimant. It cannot in the National Republican platform prohibiting the application of the public funds to the support of private or sectarian schools. We notice the significant fact that the Democratic party of Louisiana is silent in the platform adopted at its recent convention of that party upon the subject of public education. We arraign the existing government for its frequent violation of the constitutional provisions which accord equal privileges in the public schools to the children of all classes of citizens. We charge that the Democratic party of Louisiana is opposed to the continuance of the system of public education as is shown by the declaration recently made by a prominent school official in this city announcing that he was opposed to public schools, which declaration has not been rebuked or repudiated by the Democratic party or the Democratic press. We charge that the school authorities have, in many instances, neglected and refused to establish schools in various neighborhoods and communities throughout the State, although taxes were levied and collected for that purpose.

6. In view of the impoverished condition of the State Treasury, we deem it inexpedient and unnecessary to call a constitutional convention. If the object of those who favor a convention, be to improve the machinery of the government, that can be done by amendments to the constitution. We are confident that the Republicans have placed any obstruction in the way of such amendments. This is shown by the fact that the recent General Assembly submitted a number of important and excellent amendments, which were voted for indiscriminately by the members of both parties. We ask the Republicans to support these amendments and ask Republican voters to do so. But we apprehend that the object of the extreme Democrats in demanding a constitutional convention is not to improve the methods of administration; it is to change the substantial and essential groundwork of the government.

7. The Democratic party has been in actual possession of the State government for nearly six years. We assert that it has signally failed in its administration. It has failed to reform, and fed the people with promises that the burden of taxation should be reduced, and the burdens of government lightened. It has done nothing to this end; on the contrary, the tax has been increased, by the increase of assessments; the poor have been forced to pay taxes, in order that the higher officials should have their salaries while the rich have not been compelled to pay, and consequently the minor officers—the teachers of our children, and the guardians of the public peace, have been left to starve. They have thrown unwarrantable obstructions in the way of the public schools, and the efficiency of the government is marred and its failure noticed. We express the belief that the leaders of the Democratic party will find it difficult to organize violence, in order to defeat the will of the majority and retain their party in power.

8. The inadequateness of the present rate of taxation to properly support the Government is now so manifest, and the manifest impropriety of increasing the rate renders it necessary that among other needed measures of reform the laws should be so amended as to reduce the compensation of all officers not established by the Constitution to the rate of pay for similar or equivalent services in the business pursuits of the people.

9. The administration of Municipal Government of New Orleans and of several of the cities and towns throughout the State demonstrates that the system of government by administrators who are not held to account nor made responsible is defective and ruinous. We demand the repeal of the charters and the restoration of Councils of Aldermen to be elected by vote of the people.

10. Having laid down this platform of principles we consider it proper to advert to a few other matters of general interest and concernment. Without the most remote allusion to the political policy of the past the Committee must refer to the joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of Louisiana on the nineteenth of April, 1877, and subsequently by the Governor of the State. In these resolutions it was understood that the State government pledged itself for the preservation of the public peace, and for equal justice to all citizens, without regard to color or other political condition. Upon a review of these resolutions they will be found to contain no allusion to engagements. They pledge the government of Louisiana to the support of good faith the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth amendments of the Constitution of the United States in letter and in spirit. They guarantee the enforcement of the laws rigidly and impartially, to the end that violence and crime shall be suppressed and promptly punished, and peace and order prevail, and that the humblest laborer upon the soil of Louisiana, throughout every parish in the State, of either color, shall receive full and equal protection of the law in person, property, political rights and privileges. The education of all classes of the people is provided for by the equal and uniform taxation upon property, as provided in the Constitution of the State, and which shall secure the education of the children of white and colored citizens with equal advantages. It moreover stipulated that the Nicholls government will discontinue any attempted persecution from any quarter of individuals for past political conduct.

While it is our duty in candor to say that the course of the State administration would indicate the sincerity and to a great extent, the success of this legislation, it is very well known that the doctrines and expressions contained in the resolutions are in direct contradiction of the unexecuted principles of a large portion of the party that had adopted them. It could not be well determined whether the Democratic element which but lately constituted the White League, has merely suspended its hostility to these doctrines during the distribution of the spoils, or has accepted in good faith the only terms on which these spoils were accessible. In this state of uncertainty the Republicans were started by an information filed at the official relation of the Attorney General, a member of "the Nicholls government," an indictment against the members of the late Returning Board for alleged malfeasance in the performance of duties cast upon them by law. This prosecution was regarded, and rightly by many citizens, as a violation of the general amnesty; and though this apprehension was somewhat relieved by a decision of the present administration, an appellate decision of the Supreme Court of the State, it could not escape the observa-

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14. The administration of Municipal Government of New Orleans and of several of the cities and towns throughout the State demonstrates that the system of government by administrators who are not held to account nor made responsible is defective and ruinous. We demand the repeal of the charters and the restoration of Councils of Aldermen to be elected by vote of the people.

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While it is our duty in candor to say that the course of the State administration would indicate the sincerity and to a great extent, the success of this legislation, it is very well known that the doctrines and expressions contained in the resolutions are in direct contradiction of the unexecuted principles of a large portion of the party that had adopted them. It could not be well determined whether the Democratic element which but lately constituted the White League, has merely suspended its hostility to these doctrines during the distribution of the spoils, or has accepted in good faith the only terms on which these spoils were accessible. In this state of uncertainty the Republicans were started by an information filed at the official relation of the Attorney General, a member of "the Nicholls government," an indictment against the members of the late Returning Board for alleged malfeasance in the performance of duties cast upon them by law. This prosecution was regarded, and rightly by many citizens, as a violation of the general amnesty; and though this apprehension was somewhat relieved by a decision of the present administration, an appellate decision of the Supreme Court of the State, it could not escape the observa-

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26. The administration of Municipal Government of New Orleans and of several of the cities and towns throughout the State demonstrates that the system of government by administrators who are not held to account nor made responsible is defective and ruinous. We demand the repeal of the charters and the restoration of Councils of Aldermen to be elected by vote of the people.

27. Having laid down this platform of principles we consider it proper to advert to a few other matters of general interest and concernment. Without the most remote allusion to the political policy of the past the Committee must refer to the joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of Louisiana on the nineteenth of April, 1877, and subsequently by the Governor of the State. In these resolutions it was understood that the State government pledged itself for the preservation of the public peace, and for equal justice to all citizens, without regard to color or other political condition. Upon a review of these resolutions they will be found to contain no allusion to engagements. They pledge the government of Louisiana to the support of good faith the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth amendments of the Constitution of the United States in letter and in spirit. They guarantee the enforcement of the laws rigidly and impartially, to the end that violence and crime shall be suppressed and promptly punished, and peace and order prevail, and that the humblest laborer upon the soil of Louisiana, throughout every parish in the State, of either color, shall receive full and equal protection of the law in person, property, political rights and privileges. The education of all classes of the people is provided for by the equal and uniform taxation upon property, as provided in the Constitution of the State, and which shall secure the education of the children of white and colored citizens with equal advantages. It moreover stipulated that the Nicholls government will discontinue any attempted persecution from any quarter of individuals for past political conduct.

While it is our duty in candor to say that the course of the State administration would indicate the sincerity and to a great extent, the success of this legislation, it is very well known that the doctrines and expressions contained in the resolutions are in direct contradiction of the unexecuted principles of a large portion of the party that had adopted them. It could not be well determined whether the Democratic element which but lately constituted the White League, has merely suspended its hostility to these doctrines during the distribution of the spoils, or has accepted in good faith the only terms on which these spoils were accessible. In this state of uncertainty the Republicans were started by an information filed at the official relation of the Attorney General, a member of "the Nicholls government," an indictment against the members of the late Returning Board for alleged malfeasance in the performance of duties cast upon them by law. This prosecution was regarded, and rightly by many citizens, as a violation of the general amnesty; and though this apprehension was somewhat relieved by a decision of the present administration, an appellate decision of the Supreme Court of the State, it could not escape the observa-

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