

Every State Is Represented Among Writers

Letters Arrive in Increasing Volume as Date for Closing Draws Near: Varied Topics Discussed

Page Fulfills Mission

Foreign Relations Leads Among Issues Urged for Republican Consideration

The Tribune's national Republican platform contest today enters on its last month.

Since January 26, when the contest started, 4,259 planks have been submitted for the model ten-plank platform which Tribune readers are building up as the expression of what they would lay before the leaders of the Republican party for guidance at the Chicago convention.

Public interest is crowding the brief life expectancy that remains for the contest. Letters arrive in daily increasing volume. Every state in the Union, the Territory of Alaska and the island dependencies are represented, some of them many times.

While the contest ends at midnight on April 30, it now has assurance of a lively future far beyond that date. Hundreds of writers say that if the contest does nothing else it will have performed a lasting public service in exciting Republicans to the duty of thinking and acting.

It is the general testimony that the Tribune's forum is proving of unusual value both to Republican party managers and to the people—to the former because they can thus scan the inclinations of the public mind and to the latter because it reveals a new method of obtaining a greater measure of democratic control of government, a method whereby the people can make known more directly their will regarding public acts.

From this point of view the Tribune's platform contest has served as a sort of platform primary. The platform recently adopted by the New York Republican Convention could be amended against the Tribune's survey article issue for issue. So, likewise, the personal expressions by some of the Presidential candidates outlining the sort of platform they would stand on and their associate planks among the material offered by readers of the Tribune.

One of the principal objects of the contest was to afford opportunity to the people to get their ideas personally before the political leaders. It is proper to say here that this objective has been attained. Campaign managers, alert to the significance of this forum of public opinion, have freely availed themselves of the figures compiled by the contest department.

By the conditions of the contest such planks submitted or letter discussing an issue is cast as a vote for that issue. The ten issues receiving the highest number of votes will determine the planks of the model platform. The planks which in the opinion of the judges best express these issues will receive the prizes and be incorporated in the platform.

The leading issues follow in the order of their standing, according to the vote cast up to today: Foreign Relations, Labor and Capital, Americanization, Army and Navy Programs, Constitutional Rights, Bolshevism, Cost of Living, Education, Social Legislation, Free Speech, Mexican Situation, Conservation of National Resources, The Woman Voter, Immigration, Taxation, Administration Reform, Patent Rights, Government Control of Industry, Aid for Soldiers, The Railroads, Budget, Merchant Marine, National Economy, National Finance, Agriculture and Island Possessions.

Of the 4,251 votes, 412 have been cast for Foreign Relations as the leading issue. The vote is classified as follows: For the league of nations, with reservations, 124; for friendly foreign relations generally, 95; against the league of nations, 83; for efficiency in foreign relations through reforms in diplomatic service, 32; for the league of nations as set forth in the treaty, 16; specifically for a school of diplomacy, 9; the Irish question, 2; the Japanese question, 2.

Labor and Capital, 300 votes, classified as follows: Partnership or adjustment, 104; government control,

To-Day's Prize Letter

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Now that the President and the Senate have been unable to reach an agreement upon the disposition of the treaty, it is time for us, as Americans and Republicans, to turn our attention to the future of relations between the United States and foreign powers.

Sooner or later the United States will enter some kind of a league to promote international peace, but, in the mean time, the fostering of friendly relations and cordial understanding between our country and others must rest with the diplomatic corps of the State Department.

Two reforms are necessary to make this corps more representative of America and more efficient in the discharge of its duties.

In the first place, ambassadors and ministers from our country to other nations should receive a salary high enough to enable them to represent this country in a worthy manner without being forced to take money from their own pockets to help meet expenses.

At present an ambassador to one of the European major powers must be master of a good-sized fortune if he desires to conduct American affairs in the way that we, as American

Conditions of the Platform Contest

The Tribune invites you to write planks for a Republican platform and to write letters about planks proposed by other readers through its columns.

For the best plank and letters The Tribune offers these prizes: For the best plank \$500.00 For the second best plank 250.00 For each of the eight next best planks 100.00 For the best letter a daily prize of 10.00 For the best letter in the whole competition 100.00

The Tribune will make up a platform of ten planks to be determined by your votes. The ten issues receiving the most votes will be the planks. The ten planks that best express the chosen issues will be selected for the prize awards.

Each plank is limited to 100 words. Of two planks or letters of equal merit the shorter will be chosen. Every plank and letter must bear the name and address of the sender, although a nom de plume will be published if the writer desires.

The contest will close at midnight, April 30, 1920. Manuscripts will not be returned.

The judges of the contest will be three of the Tribune's editors. They will base their decisions on sound thinking and brevity, clearness and strength of statement.

80; for a board of arbitration, 71; for an industrial court, 61; for the right to organize and bargain collectively, 41; for a standard wage scale, 19; for incorporation of unions, 9; for abolition of unionism, 7.

Americanization, 285 votes, as follows: For development of stronger Americanism, 251; specifically for training school for citizenship, 94.

Army and Navy Programs, 283 votes: For universal military training, 119; for a big army and navy, 91; against universal military training, 19; for a better aviation department, 16; army and navy men for posts of secretaries of War and of Navy, 13; against a big army and navy, 5.

Constitutional Rights, 262: For declaration of the sufficiency of the present Constitution, 130; for a referendum on all amendments, 35; for enforcement of Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments, 21; for amendment abolishing Electoral College, 24; for amendment reforming Electoral College, 14; for compulsory voting, 9; for six-year term for President, 8; for retention of citizenship by women marrying aliens, 4.

Cost of Living, Education, Social Legislation, Free Speech, Mexican Situation, Conservation of National Resources, The Woman Voter, Immigration, Taxation, Administration Reform, Patent Rights, Government Control of Industry, Aid for Soldiers, The Railroads, Budget, Merchant Marine, National Economy, National Finance, Agriculture and Island Possessions.

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Evil in World Is Attributed To Selfishness

citizens, want him to conduct them. One well-paid ambassador, receiving \$25,000 or \$30,000 a year, may be able to prevent a war which would cost billions of dollars and millions of lives.

In the second place, ambassadors and ministers should be promoted from the lower offices of the State Department as a recognition of merit, instead of being chosen for political services or possibilities, as at present.

Salaries all through the diplomatic service should be high enough and promotion for meritorious service should be sure enough to attract bright young college graduates to enter the diplomatic corps and give their lives to that service.

This is the system in force in England and is the chief reason for the notable efficiency of the British diplomatic corps.

These two means, then, a raise in the level of salaries and the adoption of a system of meritorious promotion, the American diplomatic corps may be made more worthy to represent the United States in foreign nations.

Pacifism Doesn't Imply Cowardice

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I regret very much to see in your column of planks a most violent denunciation of pacifism, demanding that the Republican party "crush this un-American principle" and "exterminate it, whatever its form."

Most people entertain the notion that all pacifists are cowards. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is the easiest thing in the world to join the crowd in the hue and cry for war and to loudly proclaim that we must "strike up for our rights" or that we can "kick anybody on earth." But it requires no mean degree of moral courage to differ from the multitude. The forerunners of every great movement of civilization—Columbus, Galileo, Fulton, Garrison and scores of others—have been subjected to much humiliation, but time has vindicated and made heroes of them all.

How can we expect to make any progress in the direction of the universal peace which must be the home of every friend of mankind? It is our purpose to extirpate "narrow pacifism." To be devoted to the cause of peace does not imply any antagonism to preparedness or to a dignified insistence upon protection for our citizens. It does mean a stern opposition to rampant nationalism, to swashbuckling imperial expansion, to chauvinistic aggression and to cumulative rivalry or armaments.

The Republican party will not mean a stern opposition to rampant nationalism, to swashbuckling imperial expansion, to chauvinistic aggression and to cumulative rivalry or armaments.

Let us all scrutinize every candidate for office down to the ground. The seed of good government is sown at the nominating caucus or convention. Therefore let us look to the seed if we expect the tree to bear good fruit.

If politics our best ideal of life will be obtained when selfishness is eliminated from the individual. The world is all right.

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Improvement in Political Institutions Held One Thing Needed to Make It Fit Place to Live In

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The thousand and one ideas suggested by your readers for the improvement of our political institutions, if carried out, would require the services of half our population as of-ficers.

I am informed that there are more than fifteen thousand patents for improvements on the common bicycle. Most of them were devised in good faith, but if all were applied the bicycle would weigh a ton and be useless. The ordinary bicycle has hardly one patented "improvement" on it, and therefore is popular.

In trying to do a great many things at once, we are not falling into the same error as the Socialists.

The Socialist has a beautiful dream of making the world a better place to live in by adding to or changing everything but the one and only thing that could possibly make his dream some true.

Instead of trying to make the world a fit place to live in, we should try to make people better fit to live in the world.

The world is all right. If men and women were more like Abraham Lincoln and Frances Willard and less like Judas Iscariot and Lucretia Borgia, selfishness (the real root of all evil) would be unknown, and society would be perfect all.

But since there are selfish men, it is our duty always to keep as many of them out of public office as possible. Eternal vigilance in this respect is our only safety.

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Some Suggested Planks

Among the mass of suggestions for planks in the Republican platform are the following:

\$10 a Month Bonus Plan
Give to every man and woman wounded in the recent war a Federal Bonus of \$10 for every month he was in service, provided each received an honorable discharge.—William J. Walker, 92 Willett Street, Albany, N. Y.

Civil Service Pensions
An equitable retirement plan is needed for the disabled and superannuated Federal civil service employee over sixty-five years of age and who has been in the service twenty years or more in order that the higher state of efficiency may be maintained and justice rendered.—Edward John Cook, 32 Pine Street, Brooklyn.

Honest Citizens Welcome
The Republican party welcomes to its ranks all forward looking citizens of optimistic vision who see in the United States the greatest field for individual initiative that the world has ever known; who appreciate the fact that brains, ability and energy run higher than wealth and social position, and who realize that the humblest citizen with clean hands, lofty ideals and unswerving integrity may rightly and hopefully aspire to the highest positions in political, industrial, financial and social life.—C. A. Lemmers, Budget and Efficiency Commissioner, Deagler Co.

Experts to Adjust Taxes
We affirm that taxation must fall mainly upon those who are best able to bear its weight. The aggressive taxation that has prevailed during the last two years must be seriously modified. Governmental economies must be introduced to relieve the taxpayer's burden. Taxing of industry must be upon a basis that does not crush or handicap industry into non-productiveness and disaster. The chief question of taxation should be referred to a commission of experts and not to politicians whose chief aim is to produce an annual revenue.—Roger Taylor, 101 North Perry Street, Schenectady, N. Y.

Workless Saturday Urged
Add half an hour working time to the five week days and have all Saturday free. This would appeal especially to women workers, as it would give them time to attend to their household affairs and for recreation. The latter part of Saturday is consumed in going to and from work.—Edmund Frank, 24 West 14th Street.

Call for Equal Suffrage
It is held that, as we are Americans believing in the high destiny that our nation has fostered for us, particularly in our liberal form of government and free institutions, so are we in duty bound to enact those laws which amend our Federal Constitution whenever such amendment shall be for the benefit of the people, and that, as woman suffrage is clearly a demand in the interests of the people, the Republican party pledges its full support of all measures intended to secure equal suffrage as a law.—C. E. G.

Reform in Patent Rights
The Republican party recognizes the need of immediate reformation in the dilatory, wasteful and extravagant processes of administration at Washington.

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Foreign Influences Set Traps to Entangle U. S.

Republicans Warned Against Interference From Abroad That Menaces Civil Life

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The party the people should endorse in this present day is the one that believes in and lives up to the Constitution of the United States, the institutions of our grand country, and our free public schools. And I think the Republican party fills the bill more so than the Democratic party. We want to keep out all foreign influence in our civil affairs, no matter from what source this influence comes.

Our country is in great danger from this foreign entanglements, so awake to the danger of the day, and knock at the door of your country knocking to be admitted. But for God's sake, and your sake, and for the sake of your children, do not open the door, for there is great danger in doing so.

Election of Cabinet Members Demanded to Insure Liberty
To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Let there be direct election of the Cabinet members by the people, and let them not until then, will the immortal words of Lincoln be sacredly: "A government of the people, by the people, for the people." No longer.

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Victory Conceded, Then to the Task Of Holding People

New Relationship in Internationalism Is Held One Main Problem Facing Republicans for Solution

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Republican success in the next election is such a certain thing that it is a waste of words to write about it. The conduct of the present Administration has made it a kind of given away game.

The winning party must adopt a live up to a platform based on social and economic justice so firmly backed up by laws that will be enforced that there can be no "little wrongs that do no harm" nor big ones that drag out the very heart's blood of the common people.

A new relationship with the other countries has been literally thrust upon us, and were Washington alive to-day he would modify that immortal address seeing that we can no longer live unto ourselves alone. We have many such national fetters that our people must be educated away from before we can adopt the larger internationalism.

The new administration will have to deal with a wide-awake suffrage in a sense not previously found in the United States. Men and women are thinking, doing things. Male and female suffragists are going to be alert as to what that government does them.

Pledge for Universal School System Urged
To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: That the Republican party shall pledge itself to the cause of Americanism and continuance of American ideals among the rising generation, by:

Constructing a universal school system having a Secretary of Public Instruction, with headquarters at Washington, D. C.

Eliminating or bringing under public control all grammar schools not now under direct control of our public school system.

Teaching of American ideals, and universal military training in all schools, certain days shall be devoted to patriotism.

While moral teaching shall not be omitted, nothing shall be allowed sectarian doctrines or principles.

THE REV. EDMUND DREW, Cedar Springs, Mich.

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The quality of W. L. Douglas product is guaranteed by more than 40 years experience in making fine shoes. The smart styles are the leaders in the fashion centers of America. They are made in a well-equipped factory at Brockton, Mass., by the highest paid, skilled shoemakers, under the direction and supervision of experienced men, all working with an honest determination to make the best shoes for the price that money can buy. The retail prices are the same everywhere. They cost no more in San Francisco than they do in New York.

W. L. Douglas shoes are for sale by over 9000 shoe dealers besides our own stores. If your local dealer cannot supply you, take no other make. Order direct from the factory. Send for booklet telling how to order shoes by mail, postage free.

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- 1495 Broadway (Times Sq.)
- 984 Third Avenue.
- 1452 Third Avenue.
- 2302 Third Ave., cor. 120th St.
- 2779 Third Ave., cor. 146th/147th St.
- 347 Eighth Avenue.
- 250 West 125th Street.
- BROOKLYN.
- 706 Broadway, near Thornton St.
- 1367 Broadway, cor. Gates Avenue.
- 478 Fifth Avenue, cor. 11th Street.
- 859 Manhattan Avenue.
- 440 Fulton Street.
- JERSEY CITY—18 Newark Avenue.
- HOBOKEN—120 Washington Street.
- UNION HILL—276 Bergenline Ave.
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