

Donaldsonville Chief.

AN ADDRESS

United States Centennial Commission.

To the People of the United States:

The Congress of the United States has enacted that the completion of the One Hundredth Year of American Independence shall be celebrated by an International Exhibition of the Arts, Manufactures, and Products of the Soil and Mine, to be held at Philadelphia, in 1876, and has appointed a Commission, consisting of representatives from each State and Territory, to conduct the celebration.

Originated under the auspices of the National Legislature, controlled by some imposing demonstration, it is to commemorate the first Century of our existence, by an Exhibition of the Natural Resources of the Country and their development, and of our progress in those Arts which benefit mankind, in comparison with those of older Nations. It is to the people at large that the Commission look for the aid which is necessary to make the Centennial Celebration the grandest anniversary the world has ever seen.

That the completion of the first century of our independence, to be marked by some imposing demonstration, is, we believe, the patriotic wish of the people of the whole country. The Congress of the United States has wisely decided that the Birth-day of the Great Republic can be most fittingly celebrated by the universal collection and display of all the trophies of its progress. It is designed to bring together, within a building covering fifty acres, not only the varied productions of our mines and of the soil, but types of all the intellectual triumphs of our citizens, specimens of every thing that America can furnish, whether from the brain or the hands of her children, and thus make evident to the world the advancement of which a self-governed people is capable.

In this "Celebration" all nations will be invited to participate; its character being International. Europe will display her arts and manufactures, India her curious fabrics, while newly opened China and Japan, will lay bare the treasures which for centuries their ingenious people have been perfecting. Each land will compete in generous rivalry for the honor of superior excellence.

To this grand gathering every one will contribute its fruits and cereals. No mineral shall be wanting; for what the East lacks the West will supply. Under one roof will the South display in rich luxuriance her growing cotton, and the North in miniature, the ceaseless hum of her mills converting the cotton into cloth. Each section of the globe will send its best offerings to this exhibition, and each State of the Union, as a member of our united body politic, will show to her sister States and to the world, how much she can add to the greatness of the nation of which she is a harmonious part.

To make the Centennial Celebration such a success as the patriotism and the pride of every American demands will require the co-operation of the people of the whole country.

The United States Centennial Commission receives its aid, such as England extended to her World's Fair, and France to her Universal Exposition, yet the labor and responsibility imposed upon the Commission is as great as in either of those undertakings. It is estimated that ten millions of dollars will be required, and this sum Congress has provided shall be raised by stock subscription, and the people shall have the opportunity of subscribing in proportion to the population of their respective States and Territories.

The Commission looks to the unflinching patriotism of the people of every section, to see that each contributes its share to the expense, and receives its share of the benefits of an enterprise in which all are so deeply interested. It would further earnestly urge the formation in each State and Territory of a Centennial Association, which shall in time see that country associations are formed, so that when the nations are gathered together in 1876 each Commonwealth can view with pride the contributions she has made to the national glory.

Confidently relying on the zeal and patriotism ever displayed by our people in every national undertaking, we pledge and propose, that the Centennial Celebration will worthily show how greatness, wealth and intelligence, can be fostered by such institutions as those which have for one hundred years blessed the people of the United States.

JOSEPH R. HAWLEY, President.

LEWIS WALK SMITH, Temporary Secretary.

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Liberal Republican Platform.

Address and Declaration of Principles Adopted by the Convention of Liberal Republicans in Cincinnati, May 3rd, 1872.

THE ADDRESS. The administration now in power has rendered itself guilty of a flagrant disregard of the laws of the land, and has usurped powers not granted by the Constitution. It has acted as if the laws had binding force only for those who are governed, and not for those who govern. It has thus struck a blow at the fundamental principles of constitutional government, and the liberties of the citizens.

The President of the United States has openly used the powers and opportunities of his high office for the promotion of personal ends. He has kept notoriously corrupt and unworthy men in places of power and responsibility, to the detriment of the public interest. He has used the public service of the Government as a machinery of partisan and personal influence, and interfered with tyrannical arrogance in the political affairs of States and municipalities. He has rewarded with influential and lucrative offices men who had acquired his favor by valuable presents, thus stimulating demoralization of our political life by his conspicuous example.

He has shown himself decisively unequal to the tasks imposed upon him by the necessities of the country, and culpably careless of the responsibility of his high office. The partisans of the administration, assuming to be the Republican party and controlling its organization, have attempted to justify such wrongs and palliate such abuses, to the end of maintaining party ascendancy. They have stood in the way of necessary investigations and indispensable reforms, pretending that no serious fault could be found with the present administration of public affairs, thus seeking to blind the eyes of the people. They have kept alive the passions of the resentments of the late civil war, and have resorted to arbitrary measures, in direct conflict with the organic law. Instead of appealing to the better instincts and latent patriotism of the Southern people by restoring to them those rights the enjoyment of which is indispensable for a successful administration of their local affairs, and would tend to move a patriotic and hopeful national feeling, they have degraded themselves and the name of their party, once justly entitled to the confidence of the nation, by a base acquiescence to the display of executive power and patronage unworthy of Republican freedom. They sought to stifle the voice of just criticism, to stifle the moral sense of the people, and to subjugate public opinion by tyrannical party discipline. They are striving to maintain themselves in authority for selfish ends by an unscrupulous use of the power which rightfully belongs to the people, and should be employed only in the service of the country.

Believing that an organization thus led and controlled can no longer be of service to the best interests of the republic, we have resolved to make an independent appeal to the sober judgment, conscience, and patriotism of the American people.

THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

Therefore, we, the Liberal Republicans of the United States, in National Convention assembled at Cincinnati, proclaim the following principles as essential to just Government:

1. We recognize the equality of all men before the law, and hold that it is the duty of Government in its dealings with the people, to mete out equal and exact justice to all, of whatever nativity, race, color, or persuasion, religious or political.

2. We pledge ourselves to maintain the Union of these States, emancipation, and enfranchisement, and to oppose any reopening of the questions settled by the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth amendments to the Constitution.

3. We demand the immediate and absolute removal of all disabilities imposed on account of the rebellion which was finally subdued seven years ago, believing that universal amnesty will result in complete pacification in all sections of the country.

4. Local self-government, with impartial suffrage, will guard the rights of all citizens more securely than any centralized power. The public welfare requires the supremacy of the civil over the military authority, and freedom of person under the protection of the habeas corpus. We demand for the individual the largest liberty consistent with public order for the State, and for the nation a return to the methods of peace and the constitutional limitations of power.

5. The civil service of the Government has become a mere instrument of partisan tyranny and personal ambition, and an object of selfish greed. It is a scandal and reproach upon free institutions, and breeds a demoralization dangerous to the perpetuity of republican government. We therefore regard such thorough reforms of civil service as are of most pressing necessities of the hour; that honesty, capacity, and fidelity constitute the only valid claims to public employment; that the officers of the Government cease to be a matter of arbitrary favoritism and patronage, and that public station become again a post of honor. To this end it is imperatively required that no President shall be a candidate for re-election.

6. We demand a system of Federal taxation which shall not unnecessarily interfere with the industry of the people, and which shall provide the means necessary to pay the expenses of the Government, economically administered; the pension to the interest on the public debt, and a moderate fund annually of the principal thereof; and recognizing that there are in our midst honest but irreconcilable differences of opinion with regard to the respective systems of protection and free trade, we remit the discussion of the subject to the people, in their Congressional districts, and to the decision of Congress thereon, wholly free of Executive interference or dictation.

7. The public credit must be sacredly maintained, and we denounce repudiation in every form and guise.

8. A steady return to specie payment in demanded alike by the highest considerations of commercial morality and honest government.

9. We remember with gratitude the heroism and sacrifices of the soldiers and sailors of the republic, and no act of ours shall ever detract from their justly-earned fame, or the full reward of their patriotism.

10. We are opposed to all further grants of lands to railroads or other corporations, the public domain should be held sacred to actual settlers.

11. We hold that it is the duty of the Government, in its intercourse with foreign nations, to cultivate the friendship of peace, by treating with all on fair and equal terms, regarding it alike dishonorable to demand what is not right, or to submit to what is wrong.

12. For the promotion and success of these vital principles and the support of the candidates nominated by this Convention, we invite and cordially welcome the co-operation of all patriotic citizens, without regard to previous affiliations.

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