

THE PLATFORM.

Formula of Republican Tenets of Faith.

FLAMBOYANT FLAPDOODLE.

The Only Substantial Plank in the Structure Spiked with Democratic Nails.

[Associated Press Dispatches to the HERALD.]

There was some gossip about the London dispatch in the Tribune this morning making an authorized statement from Blaine that he had absolutely written no letter to anyone, of a political character, except his Florence and Paris letters.

At 10:08 A. M. the Convention was called to order.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Thomas Greene, of Chicago, to almost empty seats.

The roll of States was called for the names of members of the National Committee, and at its conclusion Chairman McKinley presented the report of the Committee on Resolutions. The reading of the platform was received with frequent bursts of applause, especially the tariff plank, which created great enthusiasm.

The platform was unanimously adopted, and the Convention proceeded to call the roll for nominating speeches.

Following is the full text of the platform:

DEPARTED LEADERS.

The Republicans of the United States assembled, by their delegates, in National Convention, pause on the threshold of their proceedings to honor the memory of their first great leader, the immortal champion of liberty and the rights of the people, Abraham Lincoln, and to cover also with wreaths of imperishable remembrance and gratitude the heroic names of our later leaders, who have been more recently called away from our councils, Grant, Garfield, Arthur, Logan, Conkling. May their memories be faithfully cherished. We also recall with our greetings and with a prayer for his recovery, the name of one of our living heroes, whose memory will be treasured in the history both of the Republicans and of the Republic, the name of that noble soldier and favorite child of victory, Philip H. Sheridan.

IRAZUL AND IRELAND.

In the spirit of those great leaders and of our own devotion to human liberty, and with that hostility to all forms of despotism and oppression which is the fundamental idea of the Republican party, we send fraternal congratulations to our fellow Americans of Brazil, upon their great act of the abolition of slavery throughout the two American Continents.

We earnestly hope that we may soon congratulate our fellow citizens of Irish birth upon the peaceful recovery of Home Rule for Ireland.

THE BALLOT.

We reaffirm our unwavering devotion to the National Constitution and to the indissoluble Union of the States, and to the autonomy reserved to the States under the Constitution; to the personal rights and liberties of citizens in all the States and Territories of the Union, and especially to the supreme and sovereign right of every lawful citizen, rich or poor, native or foreign born, white or black, to cast one free ballot in public elections, and to have that ballot duly counted.

We hold the free and honest popular ballot, and the just and equal representation of all the people to be the foundation of Republican government, and demand effective legislation to secure the integrity and purity of elections which are the fountains of all public authority.

We charge that the present administration and the Democratic majority in Congress owe their existence to the suppression of ballots by a criminal nullification of the Constitution and laws of the United States.

PROTECTION.

We are uncompromisingly in favor of the American system of protection. We protest against its destruction as proposed by the President and his party. They serve the interests of Europe, we will support the interests of America. We accept the issue and confidently appeal to the people for their judgment. The protective system must be maintained, its abandonment has always been followed by general disaster to all interests except those of the usurper and the sheriff.

TARIFF REVISION.

We denounce the Mills bill as destructive to the general business, and the labor, and the farming interests of the country; and we heartily endorse the consistent and patriotic action of the Republican representatives in Congress in opposing its passage.

We condemn the proposition of the Democratic party to place wool in the free list, and we insist that the duties thereon shall be adjusted and maintained so as to furnish full and adequate protection to the wool industry.

The Republican party would effect all needed reduction of the National revenue by repealing the taxes upon tobacco, which are an annoyance and burden to agriculture, and the tax upon spirits used in the arts and for mercantile purposes, and by such revision of the tariff laws as will tend to check the imports of such articles as are produced by our people, the production of which gives employment to our labor, and release from import duties those articles of foreign production (except luxuries) the like of which cannot be produced at home. If there still remain a larger revenue than is requisite for the wants of the Government, we favor the entire repeal of internal taxes rather than the surrender of any part of our protective system at the joint behest of the whisky trusts and the agents of foreign manufacturers.

CHINESE AND JAPANESE LABOR AND TRUSTS. We declare our hostility to the introduction into this country of foreign contract labor and of Chinese labor, alien to our civilization and our Constitution; and we demand the rigid enforcement of the existing laws against it, and favor such immediate legislation as will exclude such labor from our shores.

We declare our opposition to all combinations of capital, organized into trusts or otherwise, to control arbitrarily the condition of trade among citizens, and we recommend to Congress and the State Legislatures, in their respective jurisdictions, such legislation as will prevent the execution of all schemes to oppress the people by undue charges on their supplies, or by unjust rates for the transportation of their products to market. We approve the legislation by Congress to prevent, alike, unjust burdens and unfair discriminations between the States.

PUBLIC DOMAIN.

We affirm the policy of appropriating

the public lands of the United States to be homesteads for American citizens and settlers, not aliens, which the Republican party established in 1852 against the persistent opposition of the Democrats in Congress, and which has brought our great Western domain into such magnificent development.

The restoration of unearned railroad land grants to the public domain for the use of actual settlers, which was begun under the administration of President Arthur, should be continued.

We deny that the Democratic party has ever restored one acre to the people, but declare that by the joint action of Republicans and Democrats about fifty million acres of unearned lands originally granted for the construction of railroads, have been restored to the public domain, in pursuance of the conditions inserted by the Republican party in the original grants.

We charge the Democratic administration with failure to execute the laws securing to settlers their titles to homesteads, and with using the appropriation made for that purpose to harass innocent settlers with spies and prosecutions under the false pretense of exposing frauds and vindicating the law.

THE TERRITORIES.

The government of the Territories by Congress is based upon necessity only, to the end that they may become States in the Union; therefore, whenever the conditions of population, material resources, public intelligence and morality are such as to insure a stable local government therein, the people of such Territories should be permitted, as a right inherent in them, to form for themselves constitutions and State governments and be admitted into the Union. Pending their preparation for Statehood, all officers thereof should be selected from the bona fide residents and citizens of the Territory wherein they are to serve.

South Dakota should of right be immediately admitted as a State in the Union, under the constitution framed and adopted by her people, and we heartily endorse the action of the Republican Senate in twice passing bills for her admission. The refusal of the Democratic House of Representatives, for partisan purposes, to consider these bills is a willful violation of the sacred American principle of local self-government, and merits the condemnation of all just men.

The pending bills in the Senate for acts to enable the people of Washington, North Dakota, and Montana Territories to form constitutions and establish State governments, should be passed without unnecessary delay. The Republican party pledges itself to do all in its power to facilitate the admission of the Territories of New Mexico, Wyoming, Idaho and Arizona, to the enjoyment of self-government as States—such of them as are now qualified, as soon as possible, and the others as soon as they may become so.

MORMONS.

The political policy of the Mormon Church in the Territories, as exercised in the past, is a menace to the stability and dangers to be long suffered; therefore we pledge the Republican party to appropriate legislation, asserting the sovereignty of the Nation in all Territories where the same is questioned, and to furtherance of that end to place on the statute books legislation stringent enough to divorce the political from the ecclesiastical power, and thus stamp out the attendant wickedness of polygamy.

MONEY, POSTAGE AND EDUCATION.

The Republican party is in favor of the use of both gold and silver as money, and condemns the policy of the Democratic administration in its effort to demonetize silver.

WE DEMAND THE REDUCTION OF LETTER POSTAGE TO ONE CENT.

In a Republic like ours, where the citizen is the sovereign, and the official the servant, when no power is exercised except by the will of the people, it is important that the sovereign people should possess intelligence. The free school is a promoter of that intelligence which is to preserve us a free nation; therefore, State or National Government, or both combined, should support free institutions of learning, sufficient to afford to every child growing up in the land the opportunity of a good common-school education.

MERCHANT MARINE AND APPROPRIATIONS.

We earnestly recommend that prompt action be taken by Congress in the enactment of such legislation as will secure the rehabilitation of our American merchant marine; and we protest against the passage by Congress of the Free Ship bill, as calculated to work injustice to labor, by lessening the wages of those engaged in preparing materials and vessels directly employed in our shipyards.

We demand appropriations for the early rebuilding of our Navy; for the construction of coast fortifications and modern ordnance, and other improved means of defense, for the protection of our defenseless harbors and cities; for the payment of just pensions to our soldiers; for necessary work of National importance, and improvements of harbors and channels, and of internal, coastwise and foreign commerce; for the improvement of the shipping interests of the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific States, as well as for the payment of the public debt of maturity. This policy will give employment to our labor and activity to our own industries, increase the security of our country, promote trade, open new and direct markets for our produce and cheapen the cost of transportation. We affirm this to be far better for our country than the Democratic policy of loaning the Government's money without interest to the "pet banks."

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

The conduct of foreign affairs by the present administration has been thwarted by its inefficiency and cowardice, by having withdrawn from the Senate all pending treaties effected by the Republican Administration for the removal of foreign burdens and restrictions upon our commerce and for its extension into better markets. It has neither effected nor proposed others in their stead. Professing adherence to the Monroe doctrine, it has seen with idle complacency the extension of foreign influence in Central America and of foreign trade everywhere among our neighbors; it has refused to censure or encourage any American organization for the construction of the Nicaragua canal, a work of vital importance to the maintenance of the Monroe doctrine and of our national influence in Central and South America, and necessary to the development of trade with South America and with the islands and farther Coasts of the Pacific Ocean.

THE FISHERIES.

We arraign the present Democratic Administration for its weak and unpatriotic treatment of the fisheries question, and its pusillanimous surrender of the essential privileges to which our fishing vessels are entitled in Canadian ports under the treaty of 1818, the reciprocal maritime legislation of 1830 and the comity of nations, and which the Canadian fishing vessels receive in the ports of the United States.

WE CONDEMN THE POLICY OF THE PRESENT

Administration and the Democratic majority in Congress toward our fisheries as unfriendly and conspicuously un-American, as tending to destroy a national industry and indispensable resource against a foreign enemy.

The name of American applies alike to all citizens of the Republic and imposes on all alike the same obligation of obedience to its laws, at the same time that citizenship is and must be the panoply and safeguard of him who wears it, and protect him whether high or low, rich or poor, in all his civil rights. It should and must afford him protection at home and follow him and protect him abroad, in whatever land he may be, on a lawful errand.

MIGRANTS AND CIVIL SERVICE.

The men who abandoned the Republican party in 1854 and continue to adhere to the Democratic party, have deserted, not only the cause of honest government, but sound finance, of the freedom and purity of the ballot, but especially have deserted the cause of reform in civil service. We will not fail to keep our pledges because they have broken theirs, or because their candidate has broken his. We therefore repeat our declaration of 1854: "The reform of the civil service auspiciously begun under Republican administration, should be completed by the further extension of the reform system already established by law, to all merits of service of the ballot, but especially have deserted the cause of reform in civil service. We will not fail to keep our pledges because they have broken theirs, or because their candidate has broken his. 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