

DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.

Adopted at Baton Rouge on the 6th of August, 1878.

Your committee on platform and resolutions have carefully considered the matters which have come before us. There have been differences of opinion among us, but, in the interest of harmony, keeping in view the immense importance of unity in our party in the coming contests with the common enemy, we have united upon a series of resolutions, which we submit to this convention, as the best attainable settlement of the troublesome questions which have divided us.

1. That the Democratic-Conservative party of the State of Louisiana, in convention assembled, does hereby reiterate all the pledges contained in the party platform adopted in July, 1876, and particularly the following, viz:

We hereby pledge our party to the satisfaction of all the legal obligations issued by the State of Louisiana; to the most strenuous efforts in the direction of reform and an economical administration of the government, and especially the abolition of all unnecessary offices; to the reduction of the fees and salaries of office to the standard of a fair remuneration; and to the consequent reduction of taxation to the lowest possible limit commensurate with the necessary expenses of the government and the preservation of the public faith; and to the abolition of the dangerously large patronage of the Chief Executive of the State.

2. That the interest of the industrial wealth-producing classes is of paramount importance to the people of the United States; that those whose labor and enterprise produce wealth should be secure in its enjoyment. Our warmest sympathy is extended to the laboring classes who have been thrown out of employment by the ruinous financial policy of the Republican party, and we pledge the Democratic party to a reversal of this policy and to a restoration of all the rights they are entitled to, upon its ascendancy to national power.

3. That Francis T. Nicholls, by his prudent and statesmanlike management of the many delicate issues growing out of the success of our party in 1876, which resulted in the firm establishment of the people's government in Louisiana, deserves the gratitude of all Louisianians; that his wisdom, justice and moderation, in the administration of his high trust, are in strict accord with the principles announced by him in accepting the nomination for Governor, and have won for him the respect of all as the Governor of the whole people of Louisiana, and entitle him to the support of all who love good government.

4. That we remember with gratitude the heroic and patriotic efforts of Gen. Fred. N. Ogden, and the citizen soldiers of Louisiana under him, in the establishment and maintenance of the people's government in this State.

5. That the vote of Louisiana, at the election in the year 1876, was cast for Samuel J. Tilden for President, and for Thomas A. Hendricks for Vice President, by a majority of over eight thousand, but was fraudulently counted for Rutherford B. Hayes and William B. Wheeler, under the pretense that the result was accomplished by intimidation and wholesale murder; that the failure of the Republican party to produce witnesses to sustain these charges, when invited to do so by the Potter Committee, is a confession of their inability to maintain their allegations and of the falsity of the charges themselves; and that the result of the investigations of the said committee is affirmative proof that there was no foundation for the false and unjust charges and allegations.

6. That the recent admission of W. P. Kellogg, as a Senator from this State, was an abuse of partisan power, for a transient partisan end, and a breach of the Constitution, which assures to each State two Senators, to be chosen by the Legislature thereof; that, long before Kellogg's admission, it had been conclusively settled that the General Assembly, known as the Nicholls Assembly, was the true and sole Legislature of Louisiana; that, in the opinion of this convention, it was beyond the competence of the United States Senate, by a post mortem recognition, to galvanize into life and legislative power another assembly, of whose existence there was no token upon the statute books of the State, and which dissolved before gaining recognition anywhere; and that, in view of the unprecedented character of the case, a revision by the

Senate of its action on this subject is due to justice.

7. That we regard with serious dissatisfaction the indifference and opposition of the members of Congress to a system of internal improvement to develop the industries and restore the prosperity of the Southern and Southwestern States, and we urge our Senators and Representatives to use their utmost endeavor to secure such unity of action as will lead to the speedy completion, by the aid of the National Government, of the Texas and Pacific Railroad on or near the 32d parallel of latitude, and a system of levees to protect the alluvial lands of the Valley of the Mississippi from overflow, and of navigation adequate to the wants of commerce, which measures are national in character and beyond the control of the respective State governments.

8. That we cordially endorse the memorial of the Chamber of Commerce of New Orleans to Congress in behalf of the South American and Brazilian steamship line, calling upon our representatives in Congress to urge for said line the mail contract via New Orleans and a subsidy in such amount as has been called for to enable them to open this trade of such great and valuable importance to the West and South, making a new highway for the exit and sale of our surplus grain, flour and other products, and bringing in return the articles and products of South America, of which alone coffee is a trade of much interest to this State.

9. The Democratic party of Louisiana demand that the national banking system be abolished and national bank notes retired, in lieu thereof the Government of the United States shall issue an equal amount of treasury notes, commonly known as greenbacks, and we also demand the unconditional and immediate repeal of the resumption act, and are unalterably opposed to the ruinous policy pursued by the Republican party, whereby the volume of the currency has been contracted far below the business requirements of the country, and failures, depression of business and pauper wages have been entailed. We demand the repeal of all laws imposing a tax upon the circulation of State banks, and that United States treasury notes shall be made receivable for all dues, public and private, including custom duties; that it is the sense of this convention that all bonds and obligations of the national government should be paid in the legal tender greenback notes of the United States, except where it is otherwise provided in the original law under which they were issued. We further demand the repeal of all laws passed subsequent to the original law creating the public debt by which the obligations of the contract have been made more onerous.

10. That it is the sense and judgment of this convention that the Legislature of this State, at its next session, should provide for the calling and assembling of a convention, at the earliest practicable time thereafter, to frame and establish a new Constitution of the State of Louisiana.

11. That while favoring a call for a constitutional convention, it is not purposed to displace or interfere with the incumbent officials of the State government.

Badly Banged.

Every day I meet in the streets young ladies, who would otherwise look intelligent, reduced to the appearance of idiocy by a peculiar method of combing the hair down over the forehead. This hideous deformity is evidently copied from the patients of lunatic asylums and schools for the feeble minded. The effect is shocking. Although not fastidious, I shrink from these ladies as children shrink from a hideous mask. Is it a protest against being considered strong-minded that the young women thus assume the garb of idiocy? I am told that a lady thus degraded is said to have her hair "banged," but it seems to me that her sanity must be badly banged to thus deform herself.—Woman's Journal.

A bachelor dropped in one evening to see a married friend whose wife was absent from home on a visit. He found him smoking desperately at a cigar nearly a foot long. "Why," asked he, breathlessly, "where on earth did you get such a preposterous cigar as that, Charley?" "Had it built by contract," was the response. "You see," continued the smoker, explanatorily, "I promised my wife before she went away, bless her, that I wouldn't smoke more than six cigars a day. Promises to a wife are sacred, you know, and I mean to keep mine if I have to get cigars ten feet long."



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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS. OFFICIAL.

To the Qualified Electors of the State of Louisiana.

OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, New Orleans, July 17, 1878.

In pursuance of article 147 of the constitution of this State, publication is hereby given to the voters of this State of the proposed amendments to the constitution of this State, agreed to by two-thirds of the members elected to each house of the General Assembly, at its session of 1878, and which are required to be published, three months before the next general election for Representatives to the General Assembly, in at least one newspaper in every parish of this State, in which a newspaper shall be published. Said amendments appear more fully in acts Nos. 73 and 74 of the regular session of the General Assembly of 1878, and in act No. 12 of the extra session of the General Assembly of 1878, which are officially published for the information of the voters, and which will be submitted to the people at the next general election, to be held on the fifth day of November (next) 1878, in such manner and form that the people may vote for or against each amendment separately, and if a majority of the votes at said election shall approve and ratify all or either of said amendments, the same shall become a part of the constitution.

WILL A. STRONG, Secretary of State.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

ACT NO. 73, R. S. OF 1878. Number One.

That the seat of government shall be established at the city of Baton Rouge or at the city of New Orleans, as the majority of the voters of the State may determine at the next ensuing election; those voting to locate the State capital at Baton Rouge shall indicate on their tickets, "For State Capital, Baton Rouge;" those voting to locate the capital at New Orleans shall indicate on their tickets, "For State Capital, New Orleans."

(Strike out article one hundred and thirty-one.)

ACT NO. 74, R. S. OF 1878. Number Two.

Representatives shall be chosen on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, every two years, and the election shall be completed in one day. The general assembly shall meet on the first Monday in January, 1879, and biennially thereafter, on the first Monday in January, unless a different day be appointed by law, and their sessions shall be held at the seat of government.

(Strike out article seventeen.)

Number Three.

After the year 1878 the general assembly shall not have power to levy in any one year for all State purposes more than one per centum taxation, nor shall any collection of more than one per centum taxation be made in any one year, on the actual cash value of all real and personal property liable to taxation except in case of a foreign invasion or a domestic insurrection, and in that event any additional taxation shall only be for the immediate purpose of repelling invasion or suppressing insurrection. The city of New Orleans shall not levy or collect in any one year more than one and one-half per centum taxation on the actual cash value of all the real and personal property liable to taxation within its limits. No parish or municipal corporation, except the city of New Orleans shall levy or collect in any one year more than one per centum taxation upon the actual cash value of all the real and personal property liable to taxation within its limits. The general assembly shall not have power to issue any bond or pledge the faith of the State for any purpose, nor shall it authorize any parish or municipal corporation to issue any bond or create any debt; provided, that this shall not prohibit the issue of new bonds in exchange for old bonds, where the debt or rate of interest is not increased.

Number Four.

The members of the general assembly shall be paid a salary of five hundred dollars (\$500) per session, and actual traveling expenses by the nearest practicable route, not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50) for any one member; provided, that if two sessions are held in the same year they receive for the second session in that year a salary of only two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) and actual traveling expenses by the nearest practicable route, not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50) for any one member. The regular biennial session shall not exceed ninety days in duration, unless by vote of two-thirds of the members elected to each house of the general assembly.

Number Five.

The general assembly shall not pass any local or special law changing the venue in criminal cases, changing the manner of persons legitimating children, vacating roads, streets, or alleys, remitting fines, penalties, and forfeitures, or refunding moneys legally paid into the treasury; affecting the estates of minors; or persons under disability, exempting property from taxation, creating any monopoly, legalizing the authorized or invalid acts of any officer or agent of the State, or of any parish or municipality; granting any compensation to any public officer, agent, or contractor, after the service has been rendered or contracted for; changing any parish seat, or creating new parishes, except by the assent of the majority of the qualified electors of the parish, or parishes, to be affected; in all other cases, where a general law can be made applicable, no local or special law shall be passed.

Number Six.

The governor shall receive a salary of seven thousand dollars per annum, payable quarterly, on his own warrant.

(Strike out article fifty-six.)

Number Seven.

The Lieutenant Governor shall receive a salary which shall be double that of a member of the general assembly.

(Strike out article fifty-seven.)

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

Number Eight.

Every bill which shall have passed both houses shall be presented to the Governor; if he approve it, he shall sign it; if he does not, he shall return it, with his objections, to the house in which it originated, which shall enter the objections at large upon its journal, and proceed to reconsider it. After such reconsideration, two-thirds of all the members present in that house shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent, with the objections, to the other house, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two-thirds of the members present in that house, it shall be a law. But in such cases the vote of both houses shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of members voting for or against the bill shall be entered upon the journal of each house respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the Governor within five days after it shall have been presented to him, it shall be a law, in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the general assembly, by adjournment, prevent its return, in which case, within thirty days, the Governor shall file the same, with his objections thereto, in the office of the Secretary of State, and give public notice thereof; otherwise it shall become a law, as if he had signed it. The Secretary of State shall communicate said objections and bill so deposited to the house in which it originated on the first day of the meeting of the next general assembly, who shall act upon the same as above provided. The Governor shall have power to veto one or more items in any bill appropriating moneys, embracing distinct items, while approving other portions of the bill, and the part or parts of the bill approved shall become law, and the item or items of appropriations disapproved shall be void, unless re-passed according to the rules and limitations prescribed for the passage of other bills over the Governor's veto.

(Strike out article sixty-six.)

Number Nine.

No officer, whose salary is fixed by the constitution, shall be allowed any fee or perquisites of office.

Number Ten.

The judicial power shall be vested in a supreme court, district courts, and in justices of the peace. The district courts shall have original jurisdiction in all civil cases where the amount in dispute exceeds one hundred dollars, exclusive of interest. In criminal cases, and in all probate matters, their jurisdiction shall be unlimited. They shall have appellate jurisdiction in civil suits from justices of the peace, when the amount in dispute exceeds ten dollars, exclusive of interest. The justices of the peace shall be elected by the electors of each parish in the manner and with the qualifications to be determined by the general assembly. They shall hold office for the term of two years, and their compensation shall be fixed by law. Their jurisdiction in civil cases shall not exceed one hundred dollars, exclusive of interest, subject to an appeal to the district court in all cases when the amount in dispute shall exceed ten dollars, exclusive of interest. They shall have such criminal jurisdiction as shall be conferred by law. The general assembly shall have power to vest in the clerks of the district courts the right to grant such orders and do such acts as may be deemed necessary for the furtherance of the administration of justice. In all cases this power this granted shall be specified and determined.

(Strike out articles seventy-three, eighty-five, eighty-six, eighty-seven, eighty-eight, eighty-nine, ninety-one and one hundred and thirty-three.)

Number Eleven.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall receive a salary of seven thousand dollars per annum, and the Associate Justice of the Supreme Court shall each receive a salary of six thousand five hundred dollars per annum, payable quarterly on their own warrant.

Number Twelve.

The general assembly shall divide the State into judicial districts, which shall remain unchanged for four years, and for each district one judge, learned in law, shall be elected, by a plurality of qualified electors thereof. For each district there shall be one district court, except in the parish of Orleans, in which the general assembly may establish as many district courts as the public interest may require, not to exceed the number now authorized by existing laws, except by a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to both branches of the general assembly. Until otherwise provided by law, the district courts now existing in the parish of Orleans shall have the jurisdiction at present conferred by law; no restricting or change shall be made so as to take effect during the incumbency of any judge. The number of districts in the State shall not be less than thirty nor more than forty-five. The general assembly shall provide by law for at least four terms annually of the district court in every parish. The general assembly shall have power to create circuit courts, to be constituted by grouping the district judges into circuits, and composing the circuit courts of the judges of the district courts within such circuits. To direct the place or places of meeting of said circuit courts so constituted, and to vest said circuit courts with appellate jurisdiction from the district courts within the circuit where the amount involved exceeds one hundred dollars (\$100) exclusive of interest, and does not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) exclusive of interest. The general assembly shall have power, by a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to both houses, to restrict the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court to causes where the amount involved exceeds one thousand dollars (\$1000) exclusive of interest; and in case of such restriction, the circuit courts so to be created shall have appellate jurisdiction of the class of cases thus excluded from the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. The clerks of the district courts shall be elected by the qualified voters of their respective parishes, and shall hold their office for four years.

(Strike out article eighty-three.)

Number Thirteen.

Each of the district judges shall receive a salary, to be fixed by law, which shall not be less than two thousand dollars per annum, payable quarterly, on their own warrant.

(Strike out article eighty-four.)

Number Fourteen.

In every case where the judge is interested in the matter in controversy, he shall recuse himself. In cases where the judge is interested in the matter in controversy, he shall recuse himself. In cases where the judge is interested in the matter in controversy, he shall recuse himself.

(Strike out article eighty-five.)

Number Fifteen.

No license tax shall be imposed on State, or any parish, or municipal authority, on any mechanical trade, manufactory or factory, except where such require police regulations, in town or cities.

Number Sixteen.

The Legislature is authorized to exempt from State, municipal, or parish taxation household goods, such as trunks, wearing apparel, books, and professional and family portraits, exceeding in aggregate value five hundred dollars.

ACT NO. 12, EXTRA SESSION OF 1878. Number Seventeen.

Strike out the first part of article 147 of the constitution of 1868, which reads: "A university shall be established in the city of New Orleans. It shall be composed of a law department and a collegiate department, and shall have the same powers and appropriate facilities. The general assembly shall provide for the organization and maintenance thereof. It shall be supported by a medical and an agricultural department, and such other departments as may be established by law, and shall continue in the city of New Orleans, and the same shall be paid as above provided." (Strike out article eighty-four.)

Number Eighteen.

In lieu of the office of district attorney established by article ninety-two of the constitution of 1868, there shall be elected, by the qualified voters of each parish, a State's attorney, who shall be a citizen of the United States, and who shall have been a resident of the State, and practicing as a licensed attorney at law, for not less than two years. He shall receive a salary from the State of not more than seven hundred dollars per annum, to be provided by law, on the basis of representation in the House of Representatives, and a salary of not less than seven hundred dollars per annum, to be provided by law, for the parochial authorities, as may be provided by law. He shall also receive seven hundred dollars per annum, as may be allowed by law. In the parish of New Orleans the State's attorney shall receive such compensation as provided, as may be established by law. He shall be elected at the same time with the judges of the district courts, and shall hold his office for the term of four years.

Number Nineteen.

In every case where the judge is interested in the matter in controversy, he shall recuse himself. In cases where the judge is interested in the matter in controversy, he shall recuse himself. In cases where the judge is interested in the matter in controversy, he shall recuse himself.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

not be less than two thousand dollars per annum, payable quarterly on their own warrant, and which shall be increased or diminished during the term of office. He must be a citizen of the United States, over the age of thirty-five, and have resided in the State and practiced law therein for not less than two years next preceding his election. The judges of the district courts shall hold their office for the term of four years. In the parish of Orleans the annual salary of the district judge shall not exceed five thousand dollars, to be paid as above provided. (Strike out article eighty-four.)

Number Fourteen.

In lieu of the office of district attorney established by article ninety-two of the constitution of 1868, there shall be elected, by the qualified voters of each parish, a State's attorney, who shall be a citizen of the United States, and who shall have been a resident of the State, and practicing as a licensed attorney at law, for not less than two years. He shall receive a salary from the State of not more than seven hundred dollars per annum, to be provided by law, on the basis of representation in the House of Representatives, and a salary of not less than seven hundred dollars per annum, to be provided by law, for the parochial authorities, as may be provided by law. He shall also receive seven hundred dollars per annum, as may be allowed by law. In the parish of New Orleans the State's attorney shall receive such compensation as provided, as may be established by law. He shall be elected at the same time with the judges of the district courts, and shall hold his office for the term of four years.

Number Fifteen.

In every case where the judge is interested in the matter in controversy, he shall recuse himself. In cases where the judge is interested in the matter in controversy, he shall recuse himself. In cases where the judge is interested in the matter in controversy, he shall recuse himself.

(Strike out article eighty-five.)

Number Sixteen.

In order to provide for the improvement of the judicial system and to prevent the evils of an interregnum, it is ordained by the people of Louisiana: First—That the general assembly, which meets the first Monday in January, 1879, shall, in accordance with the provisions of the constitution, immediately organize the State, and provide for the election of clerks, and the vesting of criminal jurisdiction in justices of the peace.

Second—That as soon as the legislature shall have acted as directed, the Governor shall by proclamation call for the election for justices of the peace in each parish, except the parish of Orleans, and for district judges in each parish, or more parishes, as may be provided by law, taken from the existing judges and clerks of the State, or from the State, which day shall not be later than sixty days after the date of the passage of said act, and the terms of the officers elected shall expire at a general election, to be held on the first Monday in January, 1880, and the limitation on the terms of the officers elected shall be effect before the general election of 1880.

Third—That the judges who shall remain in office until the expiration of the third year after said act, excluding from the computation of the term of office, shall hold their offices until the expiration of the term of office of the officers elected in 1880.

Fourth—The adoption of these articles shall not vacate the offices of present clerks of courts in each parish.

Number Seventeen.

Article one hundred and thirty-three of the constitution of 1868 shall be rogated.

Number Eighteen.

The Superintendent of Public Education shall receive a salary of five hundred dollars, payable quarterly on his own warrant.

Number Nineteen.

No license tax shall be imposed on State, or any parish, or municipal authority, on any mechanical trade, manufactory or factory, except where such require police regulations, in town or cities.

Number Twenty.

The Legislature is authorized to exempt from State, municipal, or parish taxation household goods, such as trunks, wearing apparel, books, and professional and family portraits, exceeding in aggregate value five hundred dollars.

ACT NO. 12, EXTRA SESSION OF 1878. Number Twenty-One.

Strike out the first part of article 147 of the constitution of 1868, which reads: "A university shall be established in the city of New Orleans. It shall be composed of a law department and a collegiate department, and shall have the same powers and appropriate facilities. The general assembly shall provide for the organization and maintenance thereof. It shall be supported by a medical and an agricultural department, and such other departments as may be established by law, and shall continue in the city of New Orleans, and the same shall be paid as above provided." (Strike out article eighty-four.)

Number Twenty-Two.

In every case where the judge is interested in the matter in controversy, he shall recuse himself. In cases where the judge is interested in the matter in controversy, he shall recuse himself. In cases where the judge is interested in the matter in controversy, he shall recuse himself.

(Strike out article eighty-five.)

Number Twenty-Three.

Each of the district judges shall receive a salary, to be fixed by law, which shall not be less than two thousand dollars per annum, payable quarterly, on their own warrant.

(Strike out article eighty-six.)

Number Twenty-Four.

In every case where the judge is interested in the matter in controversy, he shall recuse himself. In cases where the judge is interested in the matter in controversy, he shall recuse himself. In cases where the judge is interested in the matter in controversy, he shall recuse himself.