

Government Roads.

Austria owns and operates nearly 2,000 miles of railway.
 Baden owns 859 miles of railway.
 Bavaria has 2,896 miles of railway owned by the government.
 Belgium owns about 2,000 miles of railway.
 Some 181 miles of railway is owned by Ceylon.
 Chili owns 676 miles of railway.
 China owns and operates all her railways.
 The United States of Columbia owned 218 miles of railway in 1890.
 Denmark has about 1,000 miles of railroad owned by the government.
 France owns about 2,000 miles of railway, but most or quite all is leased to companies.
 The German Empire owns about 21,840 miles of railway.
 England and Wales own 14,930 miles.
 Scotland has 3,118 miles belonging to the state.
 Ireland owns 2,791 miles of railroad.
 Hesse owns 226 miles of her railway system.
 A large per cent of the railways of Italy belong to the government, but are leased to companies.
 Japan owns 603 miles of railway.
 The colony of Natal owns 305 miles of railway.
 The Netherlands has nearly 1,000 miles owned by the government.
 New South Wales owns 2,182 miles of railway.
 New Zealand in 1890 owned 672 miles of railway.
 Norway has 920 miles of railway—all her own.
 Portugal owns about one-half of the railways in that country.
 Oldenburg owns 222 miles of her railroads.
 Peru has 1,625 miles of railroads owned by the state.
 Roumania in 1889 owned 1,590 miles of railway.
 Poland and Caucasia own 5,065 miles of railway.
 Sweden owns 1,645 miles of railroads.
 Victoria owns all her railroads—2,341 miles.
 Some 1,137 miles of railway belongs to Russia. About one-tenth of the roads in that empire belong to the government.
 Servia also has a few lines of railway owned by the state.
 Brazil owns and operates 2,091 miles of railway.
 South Australia owns her railway system.—Coming Nation.

Men talk about shooting down men by the drove in time of peace, and if any one objects to such procedure they will brand the objector as an anarchist.—Paola Times.

STRIKE at the ballot-box.

THE PEOPLE'S PLATFORM.

Adopted in National Convention at Omaha, July 4, 1892.

Assembled upon the 16th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the People's party of America in their first national convention, invoking upon their action the blessing of Almighty God, puts forth in the name and on behalf of the people of this country the following preamble and declaration of principles:

The conditions which surround us justify our action; we meet in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, political and material ruin. Corruption dominates the ballot box, the legislature, the congress, and touches even the ermine of the bench. The people are demoralized; most of the states have been compelled to isolate the voters at the polling places in order to prevent universal intimidation or bribery. The newspapers are largely subsidized or muzzled, public opinion silenced, business prostrated, our homes covered with mortgages, labor impoverished and the land concentrating in the hands of the capitalists. The urban workmen are denied the right of organization for self protection; imported pauperized labor beats down their wages; a hireling standing army, unrecognized by our laws, is established to shoot them down, and they are rapidly degenerating into European conditions. The fruits of the toil of millions are boldly stolen to build up colossal fortunes for a few, unprecedented in the history of mankind, and the possessors of these, in turn, despise the republic and endanger liberty. From the same prolific womb of governmental injustice we breed the two great classes—tramps and millionaires.

The national power to create money is appropriated to enrich bondholders; a vast public debt, payable in legal tender currency, has been funded into gold bearing bonds, thereby adding millions to the burdens of the people.

Silver, which has been accepted as coin since the dawn of history, has been demonetized to add to the purchasing power of gold by decreasing the price of all forms of property as well as human labor. The supply of currency is purposely abridged to fatten usurers, bankrupt enterprise and enslave industry.

A vast conspiracy against mankind has been organized on two continents, and it is rapidly taking possession of the world. If not met and overthrown at once it forebodes terrible social convulsions, the destruction of civilization or the establishment of an absolute despotism.

We have witnessed for more than a quarter of a century the struggles of two great political parties for power and plunder, while grievous wrongs have been inflicted upon a suffering people. We charge that the controlling influences dominating both these parties have permitted the existing dreadful conditions to develop without serious efforts to prevent or

EDITOR SUNFLOWER: Ever since the bill passed our legislature which will allow every voter in Kansas to vote for or against the enfranchisement of Kansas women next November, a few of us have wished that the way might be opened for us to have a hand in this great movement. We had not found the courage in ourselves to take hold, but finally our state campaign committee offered to send us one of the state organizers, and Mrs. Belle Jones, one of our most courageous, true-hearted women, took charge of the meeting. Mrs. Luella R. Kraybill, of Winfield, our organizer, made a very logical and wholly unanswerable argument in favor of our measure. She is one of the most effective speakers we have heard. She has a marvelous voice and delivery, which are hardly excelled by even those of Mrs. Mary E. Lease.

Officers of campaign club: President, Rev. McKinnery; vice-president, Miss Hattie Chapman; secretary, Miss Nellie Crawford; treasurer, Miss Lizzie Brooks.

Success to our movement and all the noble women who are making such efforts in its behalf.

"Truth crushed to earth will rise again," and so will the principles of our measure, until they are recognized over all the world.

Burden, Kas. SECRETARY.

resist them. Neither do they now promise us any substantial relief. They have agreed together to ignore in the coming campaign every issue but one. They propose to crown the outcries of a pliant people with the approval of a sham battle over the tariff, so that capitalists, corporations, national banks, rings, trusts, watered stock, the demonization of silver and the oppression of the usurers may all be lost sight of. They propose to sacrifice our homes, lives and children on the altar of Mammon; to destroy the multitude in order to secure corruption funds from the millionaire.

Assembled on the anniversary of the birthday of the nation, and filled with the spirit of the grand generation who established our independence, we seek to restore the government of the republic to the hands of "the plain people," with which class it originated.

We assert our purposes to be identical with the purposes of the national constitution—to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity.

We declare that this republic can only endure as a free government while built upon the love of the whole people for each other and for the nation; that it cannot be plucked together by bayonets, that the civil war is over, and that every passion and resentment which grew out of it must die with it, and that we must be in fact, as we are in name, a united brotherhood of free men.

Our country finds itself confronted by conditions for which there is no precedent in the history of the world. Our annual agricultural productions amount to billions of dollars in value, which must within a few weeks or months be exchanged for billions of dollars of commodities consumed in their production. The existing currency supply is wholly inadequate to make this exchange. The results are falling prices, the formation of combines and rings and the impoverishment of the producing classes. We pledge ourselves that if given power we will labor to correct these evils by wise and reasonable legislation, in accordance with the terms of our platform.

We believe that the powers of government—in other words, of the people—should be expanded (as in the case of the postal service) as rapidly and as far as the good sense of an intelligent people and the teachings of experience shall justify, to the end that oppression, injustice and poverty shall eventually cease in the land.

While our sympathies as a party of reform are naturally upon the side of every proposition which will tend to make men intelligent, virtuous and temperate, we nevertheless regard these questions—important as they are—as secondary to the great issues now pressing for solution, and upon which not only our individual prosperity, but the very existence of free institutions depends, and we pledge ourselves

to help us to determine whether we are to have a republic to administer before we differ as to the conditions upon which it is to be administered, believing that the forces of reform, thus organized, will never cease to move forward until every wrong is remedied and equal rights and equal privileges securely established for all the men and women of this country.

We declare, therefore—
 That the misdeeds of the labor forces of the United States this day consummated shall be permanent and perpetual—may its spirit enter into all hearts for the salvation of the republic and the uplifting of mankind.

Wealth belongs to him who creates it, and every dollar taken from industry without an equivalent is robbery. "If any will not work, neither shall he eat." The interests of rural and civic labor are the same; their enemies are identical.

We believe that the time has come when the railroad corporations must either own the people or the people must own the railroads, and should the government enter upon the work of owning and managing any or all railroads we should favor an amendment to the constitution by which all persons engaged in the governmental service shall be placed under a civil service regulation of the most rigid character, so as to prevent the increase of the power of the national administration by the use of such additional government employes.

We demand a national currency, safe, sound and flexible, issued by the general government only; a full legal tender for all debts, public and private, and that without the use of banking corporations; a just, equitable and efficient means of distribution, direct to the people, at a tax not to exceed 2 per cent, per annum, to be provided as set forth in the treasury plan of the Farmers' Alliance, or some better system, to be by payments in discharge of its obligations for public improvements.

We demand the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1.

We demand that the amount of the circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than fifty dollars per capita.

We demand a graduated income tax.
 We believe that the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and hence we demand that all national and state revenues shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government economically and honestly administered.

We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people and to facilitate exchanges.

Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity, the government should own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people.

The telegraph and telephone, like the post-office system, being a necessity for the transmission of news, should be owned and operated by the government in the interest of the people.

The land, including all the natural sources of wealth, is the heritage of all the people, and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes, and an alien ownership of land should be prohibited. All lands now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs, and all lands now owned by them should be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only.

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