

## WILLIS DISCUSSES VITAL PROBLEMS FACING OHIO

### Republican Party Recognizes Needs of Laboring Men.

### Courageously Faces the Grave Problems Connected With the Schools and Municipalities. Birth of a Nation an Insult to Colored Citizens—Governor Cox Attempts to Ignore All These Questions.

Columbus, O.—(Special).—Special attention to state problems was given by Hon Frank B. Willis in opening the campaign. Among other questions discussed were those of labor, schools, municipalities and the "Birth of a Nation." On these topics Mr. Willis said:

Republicans of Ohio are courageously meeting the problems of war and are preparing to aid in the solution of the intricate questions that must come after the war. The Republican party came into being at a time when great problems were to be solved, it lived and served the country, first because it believed in certain definite principles and second because it had the courage to espouse and defend those principles. Through its legislation it has met the grave situations that have arisen in our nation's history from the Civil War down until the time it went out of power. It never won by evasion and it never lost through courage. Its policies have been such as to afford the largest opportunity to labor, and this year it speaks out in favor of the propositions that concern working men even more strongly than ever.

#### Pledge to Labor.

Here is its pledge to labor "We recognize that the labor of our country is one of its greatest assets, and that we must have proper laws to conserve and protect this important part of our citizenship.

"We stand for the elimination of unnecessary perils of life and limb in industry and elsewhere; for an eight hour work law; for industrial safeguards that will protect the health and strength of women and children; for such protection to those engaged in industry who are enfeebled by age as will maintain them in such comforts of life as their former relation to the industry will justify.

"We re-affirm our former declaration for the maximum allowance to beneficiaries under the workmen's compensation law, and propose an amendment thereof compelling employers subject to the provisions of this law to comply with said law either by paying a premium into the state insurance fund or securing the right to pay compensation direct. We favor representation of labor interests upon all boards having to do with the enforcement of laws enacted in behalf of labor. And we recommend that either the federal or state compulsory compensation laws be so extended as to bring within their provisions the protection of employees of corporations of other states whose business in part is transacted in this state while their employees are working for such corporations."

In state and nation through Republican legislation and Republican administration, the condition of labor has continually advanced. The Republican party has always been the friend of the man who toils and is now, it speaks out unequivocally in favor of legislation which will be of lasting benefit to working men and their families. As the Republican party stood by the ex-soldiers of the Civil War and the Spanish American War, so it will stand by our splendid men who are battling in war torn Europe and are adding new laurels to the history of American valor. The Republican party never failed in gratitude to the defenders of the country and it never will, and it deplors the fact that adequate provision has not been made in the laws of the state to enable our soldiers now engaged in foreign service to exercise their right of suffrage.

The Republican party courageously faces the situation confronting the municipalities of the state. The cost of operating city government has steadily increased and revenues have not increased proportionately. The Republican platform of 1916 said:

"The Republican party is unalterably opposed to impairing the protection afforded to the people by the one per cent tax limitation law. However, recognizing the pressing financial needs of municipalities, we favor authorizing the electors of each municipality to decide for themselves whether they will assume a greater rate of taxation for the purpose of caring for the interest

and sinking fund charges for existing municipal indebtedness, such authority being in keeping with the party's position as to local Home Rule."

In a message to the General Assembly I said:

"I recommend that the protection afforded the taxpayers of the state by the one per cent tax limitation law be retained. While there has been much agitation in favor of breaking down this limitation altogether, in my judgment a repeal of this law would be inimical to the best interests of the people of the state, and in the long run, would be detrimental to the very municipalities which feel that their progress would be enhanced through the repeal of the law. However, some method must be provided whereby interest and sinking fund charges for existing municipal indebtedness can be cared for."

Mr. Willis called attention to his messages to the legislature, reciting the conditions in many Ohio cities, and to the reports of State Auditor Donahay on this question. Then he said:

The Democratic state administration has studiously ignored the situation above set forth, and by hiding its head in the sand has sought to make the people believe that there is no difficulty in municipal finance. The Republicans of Ohio affirm their conviction that the beneficent results of the Smith One Per Cent Law shall in no way be diminished by legislative action, yet they recognize the existence of the situation which demands relief and it therefore courageously faces this question, which the present state administration has evaded and failed to solve.

#### Schools Face Disaster

The schools of the state are face to face with financial disaster. This condition has been brought to the attention of the present state administration repeatedly, yet no effort has been made to solve the problem, other than by unsought advice to the school people that they should sit still and not "rock the boat." That is the trouble with the educational principles of the present Democratic state administration. It wants the schools to sit still and they have been sitting so still that many of them are perishing for lack of support. Many schools are now without teachers and consequently a large number of Ohio pupils will not be able to obtain the benefit of the common schools. The Republican party in its platform pledges such legislation as will furnish sufficient funds to maintain the schools of the state and to afford relief to the schools that are now in financial distress.

#### Ohio Proud of Colored Citizens

Ohio Republicans are proud of the record by our colored citizens both in peace and in war. Colored soldiers are now fighting the battle of liberty on European soil. It is a strange and yet fitting coincidence that this race emancipated and brought into its own under the leadership of Abraham Lincoln, and the Republican party should now be the one called upon to play a prominent part in the battle for freedom not only for colored men but for white men the world over. A race that is great enough to contribute so much to history in time of peace and to shed its blood for the nation's honor in time of war is too great a race to be insulted and belittled in such a profiteering motion picture as the "Birth of a Nation." This un-historical and malignant film was excluded from Ohio during Republican administration but was immediately admitted as soon as Democrats came into power. This objectionable insulting film having been barred from the state during the whole time of the last Republican state administration, has been shown generally over Ohio throughout the present Democratic state administration to the humiliation of our colored citizens but now another election is approaching and accordingly it is announced in the daily press that this film is withdrawn and that the "Birth of a Nation" is not to be shown in Ohio during the war. It is further stated in the press that "this action was taken at the request of Governor Cox as a means of preventing race antagonism between white and colored people at a time when united efforts of both are needed to win the war." If this film promotes race antagonism between the white and colored people in time of war, it certainly would have the same effect in time of peace. The reason now assigned for barring the film from the state has been in existence all the time. The only reason why action is now had by the present Democratic state administration is because it hopes thereby to secure a portion of the vote of colored citizens, but colored citizens will not be fooled by any such death bed conversion to principles of fairness and justice.

Recognizing the contribution that our colored citizens have made to American history, the Republicans of Ohio say in their platform:

"The Republican party re-declares its purpose to secure the equal right of the colored voters of the South to cast their ballots at the elections, and also to enjoy the fullest rights of American citizenship commensurate with their valor and assistance in the winning of the war for American liberty.

"We deplore all lynchings and race discriminations of every character as uncivilized and un-American."



An appeal to give to Our Soldier Boys, by the Seven Organizations working directly with the United States Army under direction of the Government

# Your Soldier Boy is Calling YOU!

These are the Very Words He is sending back home to You about the Work of these Great Organizations Read each word carefully

"To the folks back home; from the camp, cantonment and from the battle-scarred fields of France, we want to tell you of the magnificent work of the United Organizations. We know that there isn't father, mother, sister, sweetheart or friend in America that wouldn't like, each day, to stand beside their soldier boy, take his hand in theirs and tell him of their interest, pride and love for him for the part he plays in the battle that is to bring safety, security and happiness, to the home you love so well. It would be wonderful for you to do this."

"But these great organizations are taking your place. The thousand things you send, they give; always with us everywhere, they provide and cheer. They seem to think of everything—we could not get along without them. Give all you can, help all you can. Magazines, papers, books, music, movie shows, entertainments and talks, athletic goods, smokes, canned fruits, chocolate bars, Testaments—and what is not least, a smile and a word of cheer. It helps and helps a lot—it will quicken the day that victory will be ours—it helps to tell us how much you care, and that is everything."

#### THE SEVEN ORGANIZATIONS MAKING THIS APPEAL

- Y. M. C. A.
- Y. W. C. A.
- Knights of Columbus
- American Camp Community Service
- American Library Association
- Jewish Welfare Association
- Salvation Army

## The United War Work Campaign November 11 to 18

This year to keep up the big work already started we will need \$70,500,000. Ohio needs Ten Million Six Hundred and Fifty Thousand. This means that every man, woman and child must put their shoulder to the wheel and give their very best in time and money in order that our Boys at home and abroad are remembered as they should be.

# THE CITIZENS BANKING COMPANY

A Texan advertised: "I will sell you two good mules for the price of two good mules." The Memphis Commercial Appeal thinks he was silly, but he wasn't. He was offering a square deal. How many people get more than one dozen eggs for the price of two dozen eggs?

The alleged head of a family can make himself a rather satisfactory father if he will always give his children their own way. Fathers are sure to have trouble when they undertake to reprove their snippy little darlings who have contracted a case of teen wisdom.

Mother thinks she is making a good point when she asks if you think it would hurt you to stay at home one afternoon. Of course it wouldn't hurt you, but what is the use wasting all that time?

It is evident that the mountain and lake resorts in the interior of the country are likely to enjoy the patronage this year of many who usually go to the seashore.

FIFTH ANNUAL NATIONAL FIFTH ANNUAL  
**FARMERS EXPOSITION**  
 AND STATE OF OHIO **APPLE SHOW**  
 TERMINAL AUDITORIUM

**Toledo, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> incl**

HELD IN HONOR OF THE AMERICAN FARMER  
 "THE BACKBONE OF THE WORLD"