

THE TICKET A WINNER.

Splendid Nominations Made by the Democratic State Convention.

FEATURES OF THE MEETING.

Four Thousand Democrats Make an Impending Array for a Party That Is Routed!—Governor Matthews' Speech Enthusiastically Applauded—Commendable Platform of Principles Indorsed In Every Particular by the Great Assemblage.

STATE TICKET.

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GOOD DAY FOR DEMOCRATS.

A Peep at the Great Convention and Its Work.

Wednesday, Aug. 15, was a good day for Democrats.

In fact, every day since congress took its positive step has been a Democratic day in Indiana.

The day was hot and oppressive, but no weather is so hot or so cold as to prevent the flame of Democracy from burning warmer than it can possibly become externally or to prevent it keeping the body of Democracy aglow through the coldest day. Every county and township in the state opened its gates and poured its hosts into the capital city in response to the call for the Democratic convention. Like the mighty hosts of Israel gathered at the commander's call to repel the invasion of an enemy or to attack the stronghold of the surrounding nations, they came armed for the fray, determined and strong.

Not only was Tomlinson hall filled with delegates and visitors who were fortunate enough to secure admission, but the streets of the city were crowded with thousands of people who were content to come and mingle with leading men of the state and spend a day discussing the questions over which the two great political parties will wage relentless war in Indiana. The "big day" of the state fair never was the cause of bringing more people to the city.

A look into the faces of the delegates could not fail to impress the most dubious with a belief that they were there for business, and that they were confident that the result of their day's labors would be indorsed by the people of the state at the election. They had success written upon their countenances and even the Republicans (and it was noticeable that a number of well known men of that party were occupying seats upon the stage and in the galleries) were forced to admit that there was no faking there. The enthusiasm manifested during the proceedings was but the natural expression of the general sentiment prevailing.

There was a marked contrast in the personnel of this convention as compared with the Republican state convention held in the same hall last spring. In that convention old men predominated, and in this way can the old foggy policy of the party be accounted for. The leaders of the party, if the delegates to the convention were such, seem to be men of ante-bellum ideas. They could not even at this day break away from the old and ultra-conservative views adhered to by their fathers. Quite different were the delegates to the Democratic convention. Young men made up the major part of the delegates and young spirits ruled. They were men of progressive ideas, and these they put into effect by the adoption of the platform presented by a committee composed of the most progressive and, at the same time, wisely conservative men in Indiana.

GOVERNOR MATTHEWS' SPEECH.

Democratic Merit Pointed Out and Republican Hypocrisy Exposed.

When the convention had been called to order and the routine completed, State Chairman Thomas Taggart called out Governor Matthews as the permanent chairman. He was greeted with a whirlwind of enthusiastic applause as he came to the front of the stage, and this continued several minutes before the governor could proceed with the following address:

Once again a great party assembles in convention to deliberate upon those questions that concern the welfare of a people, the good of government, and make appeal to the public for a renewal

of its support and confidence. It is gratifying to see so many gathered together from all the walks of life, and your enthusiasm gives hopeful sign of coming success. Surely the gloomy forebodings and presages of defeat heralded in the opposition papers has had but little effect. We are met under peculiar conditions, still fighting the battle of the people to relieve them from the burdens of tax and a system of taxation created one generation ago through the necessities of war—burdens then placed under the promise that so soon as peace was restored relief should be given. A party for over 80 years carrying on that policy which was enriching the few at the expense of the many—heaping up fabulous wealth in the hands of one class and sapping the strength and resources of all others to maintain it—begetting extravagances that invaded the administration of government until it was impoverishing the millions to pay tribute to the privileged few. The people at last revolted, and for the first time since 1857 placed all departments of the government in the hands of the Democratic party to free them from these evils and reform the injustice of the past. We came into possession of the government, but with a depleted and empty treasury, made so by the recklessness and profligacy of Republican administration. Not alone was this our inheritance, but crippled and embarrassed through the entanglement of extravagant appropriations, reaching beyond the close of Republican control of public affairs and forcing upon their successors the passage of deficiency bills and issuance of bonds to maintain the credit and the honor of the government. These strained and unnatural conditions, resulting from their ruinous policy, deceptive teachings and juggling with the financial and public debt statements of the country, introduced by Mr. Harrison's secretary of the treasury, could not but sooner or later seriously affect the prosperity of the people. Deceptive and corrupt policies and reckless extravagance in the administration of government through public officials seriously affect the morals and integrity of a people, and encourage like conditions in the management of private business affairs of the citizen.

The results have been witnessed in the widespread financial and commercial depression that swept over our country. Great national banks have toppled and fallen, burying too often in disgrace officials of those institutions in the ruins. Forced and unnatural prosperity of commercial and manufacturing enterprises could not meet the day of reckoning. And now we see a once great party seeking to escape public condemnation for their mischievous policy, and still deceive a long suffering people, by charging these results to the accession to power of the Democratic party. How, in the seeming satisfaction with which the Republican press recorded one commercial disaster after another, did history seem to repeat itself when we read that Nero fiddled while Rome was burning. In assuming control of the government no party ever encountered such stupendous difficulties as met the Democratic party, and no greater struggle to fulfill the promises and redeem the pledges it had made in its declaration of principles of 1892.

Pledges Being Redeemed.

One by one these pledges are being redeemed through the heroic efforts of our representatives in congress. The iniquitous and unjust federal election law has fallen beneath our sturdy blows, the promise to repeal the silver purchasing clause of the Sherman act has been fulfilled and the belief enacted into law that no special or privileged class of property shall escape its just share of the burden of tax, even though that be the hitherto hoarded and sacred greenback or national currency. The struggle must be brave and earnest, for the fiercest opposition is to be encountered all along the line. Siege has been laid to the stronghold of Republicanism—its protective tariff—and the day of a broad commercial freedom is surely dawning upon us. Step by step we fight our way, camping on every vantage ground, until we shall stand amid the purpling lights of victory won and success achieved. We will not be content to rest upon the mountain and look into the promised land, but will enter in to take full possession and leave it a blessed heritage to our children and they who may come after them. Every point gained is an advance not alone for today, but for the future of the country. There must be no backward step. The cry is "Forward!" We may not in the present measure and through the present congress secure all that may be desired, but it is just as sure as night shall follow day, all legislation that may give relief in the direction of true tariff reform is to remain upon the statutes, fixed and secure. It may be added to and advanced, but it will never more be taken from or moved backward, it marks not whether the Republican or the Democratic party may be in the ascendancy. True tariff reform, a broad commercial freedom, a revenue taxation based upon economic expenditure, has come to set its seal upon all future legislation of the government.

No grander opportunity was ever presented to a political party than that placed within the reach of the Democratic party. We shall earnestly oppose and bravely meet an open, honest foe, who by inheritance and teachings may never have been with, or for us. But those who, marching under the banners of Democracy, abandoning Democratic principles and forgetting the sacred cause of the people, would place obstacles in the way by localizing great national truths of government, let them beware the indignation of an aroused and outraged party. Where President Cleveland, a trusted leader, will be true to lead, we shall be brave enough to follow. The Democratic party has at times suffered defeat in the past, and may meet temporary defeats in the future, but it never surrenders. Surrender will only come when the cause of the people, to which it has ever been true; when representative government, which it has faithfully defended, and the great principles it has advocated shall have been eternally lost. The line marked out by President Cleveland in his message of 1897, his recent letter to Congressman Wilson, the platform in 1892, will be strictly adhered to

and followed until a complete revision and reform in national taxation is attained. The masses of the Democratic party are honest and demand that their leaders shall be honest and faithful to the principles upon which they believe that party platforms and declarations of principles when in convention assembled are made with honest purpose and demand that public promises must be faithfully observed as individual obligations.

Through storm and through sunshine the Democratic party has been the persistent friend, able advocate and brave defender of silver. I do not believe the day has come when we propose or can afford, in the interests of the people, to turn our backs upon this metal. It is an important product of the country, and from the days of our father down through all the wondrous and amazing growth of our country we have found it a useful, safe, valuable medium of circulation. It was a part of our money through the grandest periods of our prosperity, and its value unquestioned to 1873. In fulfillment of a promise made we repealed the purchasing clause of the Sherman act, hoping for a relief through this, which was not, I regret to say, realized. Unimpaired and embarrassed as we were by Republican mismanagement, I believed then and believe now that in the repeal of this clause there should have been some measure adopted that would have relieved the doubt and the anxiety of the people as to the future standing of silver as a medium of value and exchange. There is reason to believe that a positive position taken by our government as to the coinage of silver, and a firm declaration that it shall continue to be the money of our people upon an equal footing with gold or other money, would go far to establish its circulation throughout the commercial world. I have not that faith in international congresses or agreements that would cause me to patiently await such movements. They are too far in the future, and too doubtful of coming. I believe the government of the United States, with its 70,000,000 of people, with its commercial enterprise and wonderful resources, is great enough and strong enough to take the lead and map out a way for the world to follow. At least, in the interest of the debtor classes of this country, constituting by far the larger part of our citizens, whose interests should surely be dearer to us than all the world besides, without further delay we should declare our faith in silver, restoring it to its old position prior to its cunning and outrageous dethronement by the Republican party in 1873, and proceed to the coinage of both gold and silver without discriminating against either, adjusted by such safeguards of legislation as will insure the parity of the two metals.

Attitude Toward Labor.

There is another subject that demands the thoughtful consideration of the public at this time. The Democratic party is today, as it has ever been, the true and tried friend of American labor. Particularly a party of and for the people, it has been quick to respond in sympathy with the distress of labor from cruel and unjust imposition. It would shield it from the oppression of unjust laws; protect it from the selfish greed of wealth and exacting corporate powers; guard its good name from the ill-considered acts and lawless violence of false or so-called friends, and secure for it those measures that shall best meet worthy needs and honest demands.

Indiana's position is one of pride upon this question, for there is not a law upon our statutes, that has been of real practical benefit and relief to labor, but has been placed there by Democratic hands—protecting the miner, the mechanic, employees of railways, and all labor in their just right and privileges. We recognize that while no class of citizens require fuller protection under the law, there are none who are more directly interested in its enforcement and execution. We have watched with satisfaction the good results accomplished in labor organized, when its best, purest purposes are to be served, and its highest aims will be perfected when it shall realize that peaceful measures under the law must remedy wrongs rather than those of force, when peaceful intervention shall settle differences where resort to extreme methods invite, in the name of labor, a lawless element to commit acts of violence.

The recent disturbance through which we have passed, with its scenes of violence, destruction and bloodshed—conditions which if allowed to continue would have passed into rampant anarchy and ruin, destructive of all government and society, as organized for public good, in the sacred cause of labor more than any other demanded immediate suppression. However earnest and sincere the effort to redress grievances, and however just the cause of honest labor, just so soon as other means, beyond those provided by law, are resorted to, does a vicious element seize upon it to give vent to their lawless passions and place honest workingmen, through their acts, in the attitude of lawbreakers. In the name of labor, it is not time to stop and ask ourselves the question, if we have not thrown our doors too wide open, received too indiscriminately the unworthy immigrants, and too hastily clothed them with the rights and privileges of citizenship. By far too many have been received of the pauper, criminal and anarchistic class, respecting neither the laws of God nor man; who remain ignorant of our language, laws and institutions; whose only idea of liberty is lawlessness and license, and, hostile to all government, recognizing none save that of force; who can never become assimilated or Americanized, and in their utter disregard of law and civilizing influences degrade the honest labor of the land. I believe the best interests of labor alone demand that this class of immigrants be excluded from our shores, and he who attempts to bring them into competition with the American workmen here should be held guilty of a high criminal offense.

It was decreed by God and designed by our fathers that America should be the home of civil and religious liberty. This is the great underlying principle in the liberties of a people and of free representative government. It has been not the least of the missions of the Democratic party to zealously guard this sacred privilege in the past, and it shall continue in the future to raise its voice against the unholy and un-American prejudice that would stir up a feeling of hatred, bitterness and animosity toward one religious sect—a feeling that is wholly at war with fraternal charity, Christian sentiment and highest civilization. Such a sentiment

can never find a resting place in the bosom of Democracy nor in the hearts of true American citizens. Before this can be, we first must blot out from the pages of our history the glories reflected upon our country by many of its Catholic citizens in the founding of the government, in peace, in legislation and on the fields of battle. We will have to forget that in Catholic Maryland religious tolerance was first proclaimed on the shores of the western continent; strike the name of Catholics from the list of signers to the Declaration of Independence and lose to memory the deeds of Lafayette, Steuben, DeKalb and others; we will have to obliterate from pages of history and song the matchless march of Sherman to the sea and the glory of Sheridan's ride; pass into oblivion the Hero of Gettysburg, forget the last command of the dying Mulligan, falling at the head of his Catholic brigade, "Lay me down and save the flag;" level the graves of the thousands of Catholic patriots who fought so well in defense of the honor of their country and the glory of its flag. No, no, we cannot spare these names and these memories, and the Democratic party shall continue to be the sanctuary where brotherly charity shall continue to dwell—with no restrictions as to religious belief and no standard save that of good citizenship and love of country. The Democratic party was the uncompromising foe of know-nothingism, and it shall breathe its vengeance on all similar organizations.

The State Questions.

I beg your attention for a few moments to purely state questions. In no state of the Union has Democracy so proud a record as that in Indiana. I make the bold and broad assertion that all the great reform measures that have kept pace with the progress of an enlightened people, every law to relieve the condition of labor and to protect the workingman in his life, his wages and his rights, every means to equally distribute the burdens of taxation upon all the property of the state, to dignify the citizen and guard the purity of the ballot, have been the work of Democratic legislatures. Our party can with pardonable yet enthusiastic pride point to the splendid history of its legislation. By the faithful fulfillment of promises made in party platforms, the Indiana Democrat has been taught to have unswerving faith and confidence in its party declarations and to believe that promises so made were honest and sincere, for all pledges have been redeemed. There is no just reason why the citizen of this state should doubt the sincerity of Democracy in its platforms adopted and if he approve the principles advocated, why he should not sustain the party with his vote. In the interest of workingmen it came to our people the mechanics' lien law, and a lien for wages on all property constructed by his labor; the law to protect employees in their labor organizations; to provide for the safety of the miner in his dangerous work and compel the ventilation of mines. It gave the 8-hour labor law; prohibited the blacklisting of employees; the "pluck me store"; the employment of Pinkerton detectives, and importation into the state of alien or foreign contract labor. At all times it has manifested its sympathy and friendliness to labor, and what more could it hope to accomplish through any other instrumentality?

It was a Democratic legislature that first grappled with and won the first great victory for the people over trusts and combinations in the school book law, and thus saving enormous expense to the parents and the children of the state. It was the Democratic party, appreciating the highest responsibility of citizenship, the sacred privilege of suffrage, that guarded the purity of the ballot in its great election law, whereby the humblest citizen may exercise this divine privilege without fear of intimidation or interference.

Through the new tax law the Democratic party remedied a grievous wrong by making it possible to have corporate wealth bear its just proportion of taxation, which had heretofore been escaping. By and through this law you have placed upon the tax duplicates \$150,000,000 of property that had not heretofore been properly assessed. This law, like all the great measures adopted by our party, was bitterly opposed by the Republican party, both before and after its adoption. It has stood the test of opposition, been indorsed by the people and sustained by the courts, and is there to stay so long as the Democracy may control the legislation of the state.

At no period in the history of our state have its great institutions been so amply provided for, so efficiently managed and so economically administered. And all this with a lower levy for state purposes and a general reduction throughout the state for all purposes. There is and has been no excuse for an increase of tax anywhere throughout the state except for extraordinary reasons. Our state debt, the largest part of which was incurred by Republican administrations, and difficult to account for, and that part that may be justly attributed to our party going into the construction of necessary state buildings and improvements, and for every dollar of which we can show full value received is now being diminished. During the but little over 18 months of my administration there has been paid \$710,000 of this debt, and I trust before the fiscal year may have closed we may make it an even million. This, too, with the fact that we have lowered the rate of tax, including a levy for a sinking fund to provide for the gradual extinguishment of the state debt. Is it not a magnificent showing, a glorious history of legislation? But, gentlemen of the convention, you have met to perform a responsible and important duty. I trust you may perform your work here today with satisfaction to yourselves and the people whom you represent, and that your proceedings may be marked with wisdom and harmony. May you also return to your homes inspired with the enthusiasm begotten by the high and honorable motives that fill your hearts.

There is nothing to discourage the Democracy of Indiana. Many of you have seen the clouds hang lower than they do today, and yet with the earnest work of a united party, fortified with the consciousness of a righteous cause, these clouds were swept away and the sunshine rested upon your banners, clothed with victory. I have that confidence in the intelligence and justice of our people, that they will again confide the destiny of their state into the hands of a party that has been the party of progress and reform in Indiana and that has proven it can be trusted.

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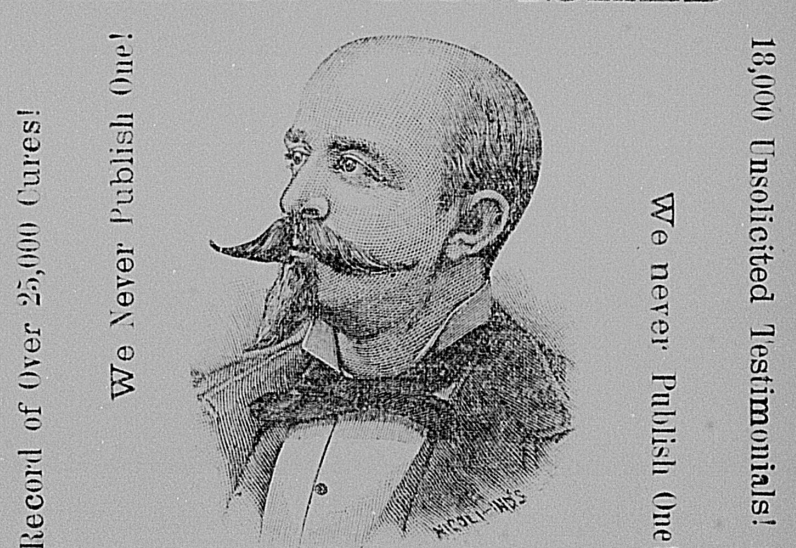
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