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The Democratic Sentinel.

A FIRM ADHERENCE TO OUR ECT PRINCIPLES.

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Number 42

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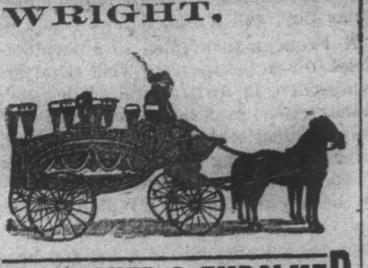
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It is to be remembered, because it

is true, that the Democratic party was the real war party of the nation. It was in favor of the war with Spain for humanitarian considerations. It believed that Spain's rule in Cuba was brutal, savage, horrible, and it believed that the Cubans ought to enjoy liberty and independence. So persistent were Democrats in demanding a declaration of war against Spain that the remark was often made: "This is a Democratic war."

It is a matter of record that when it

became apparent that war with Spain was inevitable and the administration wanted the means for war purposes,

Democrats in congress vied with Republi-

cans in their desire to make the war as

expensive as possible.

It is to be observed that Mr. Hern-

ley, speaking for his party, declared in

favor of making the war a campaign

issue, besides, it will be observed that

Mr. Hernley declared that the Republi-

cans were to make the war a question

of expense even though they were not

inclined to do so.

If Democrats doubted the policy of

issuing interest bearing bonds to sup-

port war revenue, it was not because of

any hostility to the war or to the pur-

pose of making the war a question of

expense, but rather because they believed the time had not arrived making it

necessary to burden the people with an

additional bonded debt and taxation.

They believed that the war would be of

short duration, that the reserves of the

treasury were ample to carry on the war,

even if it should continue to Decem-

ber, when, if bonds were required, the

facts would be before the country, and

a bond loan could speedily be made

to meet all emergencies. In a word,

the Democrats, in and out of congress,

with patriotic unanimity have sought

in every possible way to uphold the

hands of the administration in conduct-

ing the war.

If there were criticisms of Mr. Mc-

Kinley's diplomacy and of his lack of

vigor in dealing with Spain, it should

be stated that Republicans were even

more pronounced in their complaints

than were Democrats. And it will be

remembered that they required heroic

efforts on the part of Republicans to

resist Republican members' con-

cern from breaking through all re-

straints and openly condemning Mr.

McKinley's diplomatic policy.

The Democratic party sturdily de-

clined to drag the war into politics. It

was not, in its origin, a party war. If

Mr. McKinley was obnoxious to criti-

cism, it was because he "detested" war,

and exhibited the greatest reluctance in

beginning hostilities. In his own lan-

guage he desired to be satisfied that a

war with Spain would be a "righteous

war," and even the sinking of the bat-

tle-ship Maine did not arouse him from

his lethargy. And the facts show that

Republicans were more censorious than

Democrats over such exhibitions of

supineness.

And in this connection it is worthy of

mention that the Democracy of Indiana,

in state convention assembled, in put-

ting forth its platform, ignored the war

as a political issue. There was not

one word in the platform arraignment

Mr. McKinley's administration for any-

thing done or omitted in conducting the

war. On the contrary, the platform gave

only expression of patriotic sentiments.

The war plank of the platform was in

the highest degree eloquent of the

war, army and navy. Indeed, in

such regards its development of the

war was even more pronounced than the

declaration of the Republicans.

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