



The Indianapolis Times

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BOYD GURLEY,
Editor.

ROY W. HOWARD,
President.

FRANC G. MORRISON,
Business Manager.

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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

Forgotten Planks?

Suggestions for the Houston convention from the Democratic platform of 1892:

"The tendency to centralize all power at the Federal capital has become a menace to the reserved rights of the States that strikes at the very roots of our Government under the Constitution."

"We denounce Republican protection as a fraud—a robbery of the great majority of the American people for the benefit of the few."

"We demand that rigid enforcement of laws made to prevent and control trusts and combinations, together with such further legislation in restraint of their abuses as experience may show to be necessary."

"We view with alarm the tendency to a policy of irritation and bluster liable at any time to confront us with the alternative of humiliation or war."

"We are opposed to all sumptuary laws as interference with the individual rights of the citizen."

Hay, Kellogg and China

China has asked Washington to recall the United States troops now stationed in that country.

Washington should grant the request. Not merely because China has made it, but because it obviously is the right thing to do.

In the first paragraph of the very first article of the nine-power treaty of 1922, signed at Washington along with China, Britain, Japan, France, Italy, Portugal, Belgium and Holland, we formally pledged ourselves "to respect the sovereignty, the independence and the territorial and administrative integrity of China," and we should honor our signature.

Keeping five or six thousand armed troops out there on a war footing, clearly violates that pledge.

True, China has been waging civil war. But the war was a result of our efforts to achieve national unity and genuine statehood and certainly we have no right to interfere.

China did not interfere with us, when we had our civil war, because some of her nationals owned laundries in Washington, Richmond and Atlanta.

Nor did we send troops to Belgium or France in 1914 when thousands of American lives and millions of dollars worth of American property were imperiled by the onrushing Germans. To the contrary, we warned our nationals to clear out.

"It's Europe's war," our State Department told them, "so get out of the way."

Now let's give China a chance.

For the third time in history relations have reached a turning point. The first was when the foreign powers were forcing territorial concessions from China at the point of a gun. We were offered our share of the spoils and we refused.

Again, in 1900, China was in danger of partition at the hands of the same old land-grabbers, and again the United States blocked the scheme. This was the second chance we had to go wrong, but went right.

Now comes the third time. Once more our future in the Far East is in the balance. Once more the chance is given us to side with China and justice or with the exploiting powers who still hope for her dismemberment.

Secretary of State John Hay wrote his name big in Oriental history by his decisions of thirty years ago. Secretary of State Kellogg can do the same thing now if he will.

First we should recall our troops. Then we should begin negotiations to restore to China that complete "sovereignty, independence, territorial and administrative integrity," which, by treaty, we have pledged our honor to respect but which, in reality, we and the other powers are violating.

As in the case of Japan, it likely will take years to bring about China's complete rehabilitation as mistress in her own house, but as much depends upon our attitude, we immediately should take the initiative with that in view. China's salvation now, as in the past, depends largely upon Uncle Sam.

Here is an opportunity such as few statesmen encounter in a lifetime. Secretary Kellogg has ample time before his retirement next March to reorientate our policy. To help put a nation of 400,000,000 grateful people on its feet is a historic privilege.

Incidentally the friendship of a fourth of the earth's total population eminently is worth keeping for a trade-seeking country like ours.

Why Is the Democratic Party

What does the Democratic party stand for? The country is waiting for the Houston convention to answer. By its platform the party will be known.

This convention has an opportunity to speak frankly and clearly.

Jefferson did not teeter astride a fence. Neither did Jackson. The platform of 1892 was definite. Democrats of old knew what they wanted.

Laterly the Democrats have gone in for compromise platforms. They have sought the respectability of equivocation and neutrality. They must have audacity.

Compromise is not their game. Republicans have mastered that. Houston may imitate the pussycat planks of Kansas City; but it can not compete. Imitations always are worse.

With an advantage of several million votes, the Republicans can—think they can—risk pledging one and nullifying that little by generalities. The Democrats can't.

A conviction is growing in this country that there is no real difference between the two major parties. Former issues are shifting. Republicans become champions of State rights. Democrats flirt with high, protective tariff.

No vital vote in Congress in a decade has divided on party lines. This is not a sign of less partisanship; the cross-party division is just as bitter. It is proof, rather, that legislation is left to the opinion of the delegated but uninstructed representatives; that citizens no longer get to vote on principles.

Such is not the traditional American two-party system. It is not representative government of any kind.

M.E. TRACY

SAYS:

"Prohibition Has Made Falsehood a Characteristic of Our National Life for the First Time in History."

HOUSTON, June 25.—Like a writer in one of the local papers, I fail to see why liquor should be an issue here, since there seems to be plenty of it.

From sources usually considered reliable, I am informed that the bootlegging fraternity is meeting the occasion with spirit, fairness and success.

In spite of the heat, to which a majority of visitors are unaccustomed, one hears little complaint of thirst, and in spite of the obvious opportunity, there has been little growling about the price.

According to a comprehensive report prepared by Dudley Davis for the Houston Press, champagne, which normally sells at \$80 a case, has only advanced to \$100, while Bacardi rum, various brands of whisky and apricot brandy have only risen from \$65 to \$75.

The same authority estimates that there are no less than 3,000 cases of imported liquor available, which should meet the needs of the expected 25,000 visitors nicely if the convention does not last too long.

Why endanger a strong candidate with a weak platform?

Nobile's Return

They've rescued General Nobile, Italy's famous polar explorer, from his exile on a floating island of ice in the Arctic ocean.

But ill luck seems to stalk his expedition for all that. Just before the Swedish plane swooped to rescue his party, one of the General's legs was broken, due to a moving jam of ice.

And while preparations continue for the rescue of the remaining members of the wrecked dirigible Italia's crew, the search for Roald Amundsen, world-renowned Norwegian explorer, goes on in vain.

It is true, perhaps, that liquor can be obtained easier in some places than in others, but by the testimony of an experienced multitude there are few places where it cannot be obtained. The prevailing opinion is that no one went dry against his will at Kansas City and that no one needs to be at Houston.

Instead of libeling either town, such a condition only proves that they are in line with the great American parade.

As the traveling public well knows, violation of the liquor law is one activity in which we have ceased to be local, provincial or sectional.

There may be a difference between North and South with regard to the Fifteenth Amendment, but there is no difference when it comes to the Eighteenth. The Eighteenth is touted and flouted with equal complaisance on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line.

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