WILLIAM J. BRYAN'S LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE

Gentlemen:—In accepting the nomination tendered by you on behalf of the Democratic party, I beg to assure you of my appreciation of the great honor conferred upon me by the delegates in convention assembled, and by the voters who gave instruction to the delegates.

I am sensible of the responsibilities which rest upon the chief magistrate of so great a nation, and realize the far-reaching effect of the questions involved in the present contest.

In my letter of acceptance of 1896, I made the following pledge:

"So deeply am I impressed with the magnitude of the power vested by the Constitution in the chief executive of the nation and with the enormous influence which he can yield for the benefit or injury of the people, that I wish to enter the office, if elected, free from any personal desire, except the desire to prove worthy of the confidence of my countrymen. Human judgment is fallible enough when unbiased by selfish considerations, and, in order that I may not be tempted to use the patronage of the office to advance any personal ambition, I hereby announce, with all the emphasis which words can express, my fixed determination not, under any circumstances, to be a candidate for re-election, in case this campaign results in my election."

Further reflection and observation constrain me to renew this pledge.

The platform adopted at Kansas City commands my cordial and unqualified approval. It courageously meets the issues now before the country, and states clearly and without ambiguity the party's position on every question considered. Adopted by a convention which assembled on the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, it breathes the spirit of candor, independence and patriotism which characterizes those who, at Philadelphia in 1776, promulgated the creed of the Republic.

Having in my notification speech, discussed somewhat at length the paramount issue, imperialism, and added some observations on militarism and the Boer war, it is sufficient at this time to review the remaining planks of the platform.

Trusts

The platform very properly gives ...

... does it seek to embarrass corporations engaged in legitimate business, but it does protect against corporations entering politics, and attempting to assume control of the instrumentalities of government. A corporation is not organized for political purposes, and should be compelled to confine itself to the business described in its charter. Honest corporations, engaged in an honest business, will find it to their advantage to aid in the enactment of such legislation as will protect them from the undeserved odium which will be brought upon them by those corporations which enter the political arena.

Interstate Commerce.

The Republican party has persistently refused to comply with the urgent request of the Interstate Commerce commission, for such an enlargement of the scope of the interstate commerce law as will enable the commission to realize the hopes aroused by its creation. The Democratic party is pledged to legislation which will empower the commission to protect individuals and communities from discrimination, and the public at large from unjust and unfair transportation rates.

The Financial Plank.

The platform reiterates the demand contained in the Chicago platform for an American financial system made by the American people for themselves. The purpose of such a system is to restore and maintain a bimetallic level of prices, and in order that there may be no uncertainty as to the method of restoring bimetallism, the specific declaration in favor of free and unlimited coinage at the existing ratio of 16 to 1, independent of the action of other nations, is repeated. In 1896 the Republican party recognized the necessity for bimetallism by pledging the party to an earnest effort to secure an international agreement for the free coinage of silver, and the president, immediately after his inauguration, by authority of congress, appointed a commission composed of distinguished citizens to visit Europe and solicit foreign aid. Secretary Hay in a letter written to Lord Aldenham in November, 1898, and afterwards published in England, declared that at ...

... House of Representatives, and ... too, practically without opposition. Whatever may have been the reason which secured the adoption of the present plan, a century ago, new conditions have made it imperative that the people be permitted to speak directly in the selection of their representatives in the Senate. A Senator is no longer the representative of the State because he receives his commission from the people themselves, rather than from members of the State legislature. ... a voter is competent to vote for a member of Congress, for State officers ... for President, he is competent ... choose his representative in the Senate. A system which makes the Senator responsible for his election to the people, as a whole, and amenable to them if he misrepresents them, ... commend itself to those who have confidence in the intelligence, and patriotism of the masses.

Direct Legislation.

The platform indorses the principle of direct legislation. ...

Labor Question.

Several planks of the labor platform are devoted to questions in which the laboring classes have an immediate interest, but which more remotely affect our entire population. ...

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PROFESSIONAL.

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