



L. L. POLK,

President National Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union,
ATLANTIC BUILDING,
F STREET NORTHWEST,

Washington, D. C., _____, 1892.

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after the expiration of his term. This would meet the reasonable objection that these great agencies could be used by the president to perpetuate himself in office.

Your candidacy for the office of State Treasurer shall have my unqualified and hearty support, but in view of the great popularity and strength of the present incumbent, which will render him very formidable in any convention, I had thought that perhaps it would be best, under certain conditions to give him our endorsement, and retain him. The conditions referred to, were that if the office of Secretary of State would be acceptable to you, and the salary would be satisfactory (which, I believe, is larger than that of Treasurer) that we would select you for that place. I do not believe that its present incumbent is at all satisfactory to our people. But to be frank with you, I think the present outlook is, to put you at the head of the ticket, and if it should take this turn, let me beg you not to decline it. I know of no man whom I would rather see at present than yourself. There are many vitally important points which I would like to discuss with you fully and freely, but which cannot be done in an ordinary letter. In my judgment, the Alliance in the South is in such position, that by united action, it could give to this movement such an impetus as to secure the election of our national ticket.

I am indeed very glad to learn of your improved health. Could you risk a flying trip to Washington? I want a long private interview with you.

I hope by our united efforts that Mr. Denmark and I will be able to meet your note, but our National Treasury is away behind with my salary and has no money with which to pay it. Could I collect this, I would be all right. I have told Mr. Denmark that your note must be met, and I trust we will be able to do it.

Write me a long letter and give me your views as to the situation. I think with proper care you could make a visit to Washington with safety.

Hastily & frat. yours,

L. L. Polk

Pres't. N.F.A. & I.U.

Dictated.

SECOND DECLARATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

Platform adopted by the Confederated Industrial Organizations at St. Louis, Mo., February 22-24, 1892.

PREAMBLE.

This, the first great labor conference of the United States and of the world, representing all divisions of urban and rural organized industry, assembled in national congress, invoking upon its act the blessing and protection of Almighty God, puts forth to and for the producers of the nation this declaration of union and independence. The conditions which surround us best justify our co-operation. We meet in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, political, and material ruin. Corruption dominates the ballot-box, the legislatures, the Congress, and touches even the ermine of the bench. The people are demoralized. Many of the States have been compelled to isolate the voters at the polling places in order to prevent universal intimidation or bribery. The newspapers are subsidized or muzzled, public opinion silenced, business prostrated, our homes covered with mortgages, labor impoverished, and the land concentrating in the hands of capitalists. The urban workmen are denied the right of organization for self-protection; imported pauperized labor beats down their wages; a hiring standing army, unrecognized by our laws, is established to shoot them down; and they are rapidly degenerating to European conditions.

The fruits of the toil of millions are boldly stolen to build up colossal fortunes, unprecedented in the history of the world, while their possessors despise the republic and endanger liberty. From the same prolific womb of governmental injustice breed the two great classes—paupers and millionaires. The national power to create money is appropriated to enrich bondholders; silver, which has been accepted as coin since the dawn of history, has been demonetized to add to the purchasing power of gold by decreasing the value of all forms of property, as well as human labor, and the supply of currency is purposely abridged to fatten usurers, bankrupt enterprise, and enslave industry. A vast conspiracy against mankind has been organized on two continents, and is taking possession of the world. If not met and overthrown at once it forbodes terrible social convulsions, the destruction of civilization, or the establishment of an absolute despotism.

In this crisis of human affairs the intelligent working people and producers

of the United States have come together in the name of peace, order, and society to defend liberty, prosperity and justice.

We declare our union and independence. We assert our purpose to support the political organization which represents our principles.

We charge that the controlling influence dominating the old political parties have allowed the existing dreadful conditions to develop without serious effort to restrain or prevent them. They have agreed together to ignore, in the coming campaign, every issue but one. They propose to drown the outcries of a plundered people with the uproar of a sham battle over the tariff; so that corporations, national banks, rings, trusts, "watered stock," the demonetization of silver, and the oppression of usurers, may all be lost sight of. They propose to sacrifice our homes and children upon the altar of mammon; to destroy the hopes of the multitude in order to secure corruption funds from the great lords of plunder.

We assert that a political organization, representing the political principles herein stated, is necessary to redress the grievances of which we complain.

Assembled on the anniversary of the birth of the illustrious man who led the first great revolution on this continent against oppression, filled with the sentiments which actuated that grand generation, we seek to restore the government of the republic to the hands of the "plain people," with whom it originated. Our doors are open to all points of the compass. We ask all honest-men to join with and help us.

In order to restrain the extortions of aggregate capital, to drive the money-changers out of the temple, to form a perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity we do ordain and establish the following platform of principles:

First—We declare the union of the labor forces of the United States this day accomplished permanent and perpetual. May its spirit enter into all hearts for the salvation of the republic and the uplifting of mankind.

Second—Wealth belongs to him who created it. Every dollar taken from industry without an equivalent is robbery. If any one will not work, neither shall he

eat. The interests of rural and urban labor are the same, their enemies are identical.

PLATFORM.

FINANCE.

First—We demand a national currency safe, sound, and flexible, issued by the general government only, a full legal tender for all debts, public and private; and that without the use of banking corporations—a just, equitable and efficient means of distribution direct to the people at a tax not to exceed 2 per cent be provided, as set forth in the sub-treasury plan of the Farmers Alliance, or some better system; also, by payments in discharge of its obligations for public improvements.

a. We demand free and unlimited coinage of silver.

b. We demand that the amount of circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than 250 per cent.

c. We demand a graduated income tax.

d. We believe that the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and hence we demand all national and State revenue shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government economically and honestly administered.

e. We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people and to facilitate exchange.

LAND.

Second—The land, including all the natural resources of wealth, is the heritage of all the people and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes, and alien ownership of land should be prohibited. All land now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs, and all lands now owned by aliens, should be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only.

TRANSPORTATION.

Third—Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity, the government should own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people.

a. The telegraph and telephone, like the post-office system, being a necessity for transmission of news, should be owned and operated by the government in the interest of the people.

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b. We demand that the amount of circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than \$50 per capita.

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