



OFFICE OF ▶

L. L. POLK,

President National Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union,

ATLANTIC BUILDING,

F STREET NORTHWEST,

Washington, D. C. May 11, 1899

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The article in the Progressive Farmer was written by Mr. Ramsey, the Associate Editor.

Hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience, I am, as ever, with high regard,

Yours fraternally,

L. L. Polk

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 tribes and kind organized industry, assembled in national congress, breaking upon its action the blessing and protection of Almighty God, puts forth to and for the people of the nation this declaration of union and independence. The conditions which surround us have justly 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 reaches even the offices 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 hostile standing army, now organized 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 fortresses, 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—poopers and millionaires. The national power to create money is appropriated to enrich bondholders, oil or, which has been accepted as coin since the dawn of history, has been devalued 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 withheld to fatten owners, bankrupt enterprise, and enslave industry. A vast conspiracy against mankind has been organized on two continents, and in taking possession of the world, it has met and overwhelmed all else it heretofore terrified social conditions, 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 despot 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 draw the energies of a plundered people with the spear of a sham battle over the tariff; so that corporations, national banks, rings, trusts, "watered stock," the demoralization of wives, and the oppression of workers, may all be lost sight of. They propose to soothe 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 and we ask all honest men to join with us 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.

CURRENCY.

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 real, equitable and efficient means of distribution direct to the people at a tax not to exceed a 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.

2. We demand free and unlimited coinage of silver.

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

4. We demand graduated income tax.

5. 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.

6. We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of the savings 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.

4. 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.



OFFICE OF

L. L. POLK,

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

Washington, D. C. Apr 27, 1899

Mr. Elias Carr,

Old Sparta, N.C.,

My Dear Brother:--

Replying to your favor of recent date, in which you intimate your purpose to publish a private letter (and, if I remember, a confidential letter) recently addressed to you, in justification of your present position, I beg to say, that I do not remember the phraseology of that letter, nor indeed do I remember anything about it except its general tenor. I know that the letter was prompted by the purest and friendliest motives, and while I have never entertained or expressed any opinion on public matters which I am afraid for the public to know, yet you will permit me to say, that such a proceeding would be so unusual, as you must admit, that before so doing, I am sure that you would feel that it would be fair and just to submit a copy of that letter to me for examination. Understand me. I do not ask this for the purpose of apologizing for any opinion on public matters therein expressed, or for eliminating any such opinion, but simply that I may see that in the freedom of perfect confidence and true friendship, I did not use such language as might be misinterpreted and misconstrued by my enemies and the enemies of our cause. Of course I kept no copy of the letter.

L. L. POLK, President
H. L. BROWN, Vice-President
J. H. TURNER, Secretary
J. F. WELLS, Treasurer
C. W. MAGLON, Corresponding Secretary
A. WARDHILL, Collector
J. F. TILMAN, Editor

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