

SALEN'S SPEECH AT THE OHIO CONVENTION.

The speech of Charles P. Salen, temporary and permanent chairman of the Ohio state convention at Columbus, delivered at the opening of the convention, July 10, as reported in the Cleveland Plaindealer of July 11.

You are gathering in state convention, not alone to nominate a ticket which shall command the respect of the voters of the state, but also to define your attitude upon questions which to them are of the most vital concern. It is for you to decide whether this gathering shall be the commonplace kind which nominates a ticket, indulges in platitudes and adjourns; or whether it shall take action so forceful and so productive of results as to entitle it to a page in history.

In this election our first concern is with state affairs, and the democratic principle which settles national questions right can do so with local ones as well. But, while holding that national issues should not control this campaign, yet as one of the great representative bodies of the American democracy we are deeply concerned in those which now are uppermost and which relate to domineering trusts at home and to subject colonies abroad.

The party in power fosters mammoth monopolies as its domestic policy, and in its foreign policy it imitates the crown colony system of Great Britain. Against both policies the democratic party must be unwavering in its hostility. When our party ceases to oppose these policies it ceases to be democratic. And let no one protest that this opposition is negative and reactionary. In fact, it is affirmative and progressive.

By opposing trusts we promote liberty. In fighting against them we fight for the just rights of property, for an equitable distribution of wealth, for industrial peace, for social order, for individual and national advancement. The trust stands like a dragon in the path of American progress. It must be destroyed or our country cannot go forward. Though some classes flourish where trusts are fostered, the great masses, the country as a whole, must soon realize the words of Goldsmith when he describes the conditions where "wealth accumulates and men decay." The republican policy of feeding and fostering the trusts is a policy of negation and reaction. The democratic policy of destroying

trusts is the true policy of progress.

What the trust question is to our domestic policy such is imperialism to our foreign policy. To make new feeding ground for trusts, crown colonies are established under the American flag. Our country once boasted the Monroe doctrine, which guaranteed the independence of all American republics. But that beneficent doctrine has been bartered away for ignoble ambitions to be a grim world power. From being the great protector of American republics we have become a confederate of the war lords of Europe. Once the world's exemplar of the Jeffersonian doctrine of self-government our beloved republic is now embarked upon a shameless career of conquest. It has abjured the fundamental principles of the grand old declaration of independence and set up the British system of crown colonies and of making obedient subjects of unwilling people. This is not progress, whether British Tories do it in South Africa or American republicans do it in the Philippines. This imperial foreign policy must be reversed. A democratic foreign policy must be substituted for it.

Am I told that the democrats have no foreign policy? Whether they have or not depends upon what is meant. It is true that they have no dishonorable policy of conquest. It is true that they have no autocratic policy for governing subjects by military power. But it is not true that they have no foreign policy. They have inherited one from Washington and Jefferson which is as far in advance of world power policies as the twentieth century is in advance of the middle ages. The foreign policy of the democrats of this country is to make our republic the model of political and commercial progress. They would again have the American flag upon every sea; not by subsidies wrung from the labor of the people, but through commercial freedom. They would inspire all mankind with confidence in the fidelity of the nation to its pledges—not its money pledges alone, but also its pledges to abstain from conquest; not only its promises to European bondholders, but also its promises to Cuban patriots. The democratic party would have this nation give to the world an example of self-government, of equality of all men under the law, of equal opportunity for all men in the race of life, of orderly freedom—such an example of democracy as

would make the American nation a world power of transcendent influence. No nation should dare or even wish to attack it. All nations should seek its trade. Its word to the humblest should be as good as its bond to the greatest. Under every government upon the globe the democratic masses should watch our glorious example, should study our inspired history, should consider our unsullied reputation as a great and faithful democratic republic. Our splendid realities should be their noble ideals. And, pointing to our flag as the beautiful symbol of it all, they should exclaim—as at times in the past liberty loving men of other lands have exclaimed: "By this sign we conquer."

With such a foreign policy, this foreign policy of the democracy, the United States would grow in true republican strength and true democratic equality. And as it grew, it would make that conquest with which no grasping territory can compare, that conquest which military conquerors have never known and sanguinary swords can never achieve—the conquest of the confidence and affection of the masses of mankind.

Without detracting from those great questions, there are in this campaign in Ohio questions of such transcendent importance to the people of the state that they overwhelm all other issues, and foremost of all is the adoption of an equitable system of assessing and collecting tax burdens. If we can win for the people of Ohio at this election relief from the inequality of steam railroad taxation alone, it will be a lasting blessing. The steam railroads are paying less than one-fifth of their just share of taxation by comparison with the owners of farms and other small properties. Every county in the state loses greatly by this scheme of injustice, and through it every citizen in every county in Ohio is paying more than his just share of taxes.

Much of the inequality could be corrected by the fidelity of the county auditors. It has developed largely from the favors distributed by railroads to state and county officials. Not only this convention but every county in the state should rise in arms against this inequity and install as auditors men who will respect their oath of office and stand for truth and justice in the assessing of railroad property.

The whole taxation scheme is foul with inequalities. It vitiates public trusts and completely defeats the ends of justice. Can we do the people of Ohio any greater service than to correct these inequalities? Can we do

more for our party than to earn the gratitude of the people for destroying such abuses?

Five million dollars of steam railroad property in Ohio to-day escapes taxation. It is not on the duplicate. The home, the farm, the little industry hopelessly struggling against the privileged trust, are there, listed frequently above their salable value. You who own them have no favors to offer. You have not learned the art of bribery. Your protest is unheeded. You must pay the tribute to injustice or lose your home. You must endure.

The republican convention, while trying to conduct this campaign on national issues and avoid all state questions, still was forced to make a vague reference to this issue. If the republicans are successful the people may expect legislation as vague and unsatisfactory as their platform. Let our declaration be so clear that the people may realize its meaning.

Let us not, as many democratic conventions have done, merely meet and parcel among individuals a few nominations. Let us by decisive action start the movement that will ultimately lift the worst burdens from the poor, that will establish a reign of justice in our civilization, that will among the masses substitute contentment for despair and love for hatred.

A SONG OF FREEDOM.

For The Public.

The flag which symbol'd equal rights
And peace to all mankind,
Which shone on freedom's flashing heights,
To strike the despot blind,
Hath been degraded from its place,
Its starry pride brought low,
To triumph o'er a conquered race:
I'll not believe it—

—No!

The country, whose undying pride
Was still to shelter all,
Which flung its eastern portals wide
To patriot and to thrall,
And raised a calm and mighty hand
To stay the tyrant's blow,
In bloody conquest draws the brand:
I'll not believe it—

—No!

The fire upon the sacred place,
The emblem of the day,
The star which turned each noble face
To where the dawning lay,
Tossed liberty's great harbor light
Is burning red and low;
Its reeking embers cloud the night:
I'll not believe it—

—No!

Ah, no! This land shall wake once more
From conquest's bloody dream;
The starry banner, on its shore,
To freedom's winds shall stream;
The fire of freedom, through the night,
Shall flash against the sky,
And all the world shall see the light:
I WILL believe it—

—Ay!

BERTRAND SHADWELL.

A BIT OF BOOK-KEEPING.

To one archipelago.	\$20,000,000	By two years' exports to Philippines say \$3,200,000 profit on which at 12 per cent. is	\$384,000
To benevolently assimilating the same, 730 days, at \$750,000 a day....	547,000,000		
To expenses able negotiators Paris Treaty	222,000		
To two islands which able negotiators thought they had bought.	100,000		
	\$667,322,000		
	384,000		
Profit and loss....	\$666,938,000		

—N. Y. Evening Post.

Van Bibber—When Kruger comes to this country and goes to see McKinley, do you think the old man will have a pleasant call?

Van Kuber—He will if he doesn't know what jollyng is.

G. T. E.

"I see they've discovered oil in Texas."

"What! Did the Standard Oil company give its consent?"—Puck.

Thornburn—Aguinaldo is becoming more like Funston every day.

Bradley—How is that?

Thornburn—We are getting to hear so little of him.

G. T. E.

Sometimes a public office is a public trust administered in the interest of a private trust.—Puck.

The Visitor in the Midway—Your "What-is-it" looks like an ordinary human being.

The Freak Manager—He's a Portorican.

G. T. E.

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