

1.

Mr. President, Members of this Convention:-

In behalf of the Citizens of Perry, and Noble County, I extend to the members of this Convention a hearty welcome. Your credentials as delegates will be accepted by our Citizens as ample evidence of your good citizenship, your loyalty to the government, your devotion to the flag, and your fervent patriotism.

Notwithstanding all the bitter attacks which have been made upon the Republican party, there has not been a time in recent years, that this great political organization commanded greater respect than it does to-day, or when it was more welcome in every community.

The party which you represent entitles you to the confidence, esteem, and respect of the people. Individually and collectively the people of this county, extend to you a most sincere and cordial welcome. The Republicans of this county are especially pleased to have you in their midst. They deem it a high privilege, and a very great pleasure to entertain you.

You come from many different sections of this Territory. You represent the various professions and avocations of life. You differ in your ideas, opinions, purposes, hopes and aspirations, but with all this diversity and difference, you are a unit upon one proposition, viz: That the honor, credit, and prosperity of this country demands the continuation of the Republican party in power.

Republicans have differed upon who should be appointed to the various federal offices in the Territory. This was inevitable. Neither could we agree upon who should receive the places yet to be filled. But with perfect unanimity we all agree that as soon as a



Democrat's term of office expires, his place should be filled promptly by some worthy Republican and one who is a bona fide resident of Oklahoma.

The object of this meeting is not to nominate candidates; it is not to adopt a platform of party principles, or to determine party policies, or control party action. Primarily, we come together to elect delegates to the National Convention of the Republican League, and thus keep in touch with this great National organization that has been such a great factor in electing Republican candidates. But in view of the fact that we are about to enter upon an important political campaign, it is well that we should consult together, encourage each other, and give the campaign of 1898, that initial impetus that shall continue to grow in momentum, until the enemy shall be routed, and the Republican forces shall march triumphantly to victory.

If there ever was a time when Republicans should take courage and go ahead, it is now. All signs indicate that our party has again started upon a long career of activity, usefulness, and power. There has been a new birth. There is new life. And this great political organization that saved this Nation in war, that directed and guided it through such a marvelous achievement in peace -- is again at the helm, there to remain until the Spanish shall be driven from the Western Continent, and all the great questions now confronting this Nation shall be settled.

The fire of patriotism has been rekindled in the breast of every true American. We are engaged in a war with one of the decaying monarchies of Europe. Far out across the Pacific Ocean, American



Lawyers,

PERRY, OKLAHOMA.

3.

are on the way to reinforce them. The stars and stripes are floating in the breeze on the Southern coast of Cuba. History is being made with marvelous rapidity. Events of great National importance follow each other quickly. The future is veiled from our view. What complications may arise we know not, what dangers unforeseen are lurking in our pathway we can not tell, but under such conditions, the American people are satisfied that our Country is safe in the hands of a Republican administration.

I predict that in 1900 the Republican party will win a great national victory, and that early in 1901, Wm. Mc Kinley will be re-inaugurated President of the United States.

On the 4th day of March, 1861, thirty seven years ago the Republicans inaugurated their first President, the immortal Abraham Lincoln! Since that day, this Nation has made the most marvelous progress. The United States over which Lincoln presided as Chief Executive, with only 31 millions of people was a third class power, compared with the United States of to-day -- with its untold wealth, its boundless credit, its unlimited resources, with 75,000,000 inhabitants, every one of whom -- thanks to the deeds of the Republican party -- are free men and women.

The mighty progress which this Nation has made during the past 38 years, demonstrates the worth of Republican principles, the wisdom of Republican management, and the magic influence of a Republican administration.

Our people have planted civilization, throughout the great West, and erased from the map of the United States, the "Great American Desert." In brief we have conquered our country, and more speedily



Lawyers,

PERRY, OKLAHOMA.

4.

than we realize, we shall possess far away islands of the sea.

During the past thirty eight years the car of civilization and progress has mooved at a lightening speed. But twice has the engine been reversed and the wheels turned backward, and that was when a democratic engineer was taken on board.

One great characteristic of the Republican party has been its ability to give to every great public question a correct solution. It has never been wrong upon a single great question. This has not been by accident or chance. It has been the result of methods and principles and rules of action. The Republican party has always staked every thing upon the justice of its cause. Its first thought was to be right. Truth was the great weapon with which it expected to fight its battles. The Republican party has always stood by the government, whether it was attacked by open rebellion, by rioters, by anarchists, ar by a foreign foe. It has stood up for the honor and credit of the Nation. It has stood for human rights, human liberty and human freedom.

Republicans have solved great problems, much like the scientist, analyzes a specimen of mineral. The scientist goes to his labratory and there with hammer, blow-pipe, chemicals, his magnifying glass and scales, he soon resolves the rock into its component parts. Likewise the Republican party solves the great problems of free government. Every problem is first weighed on the scales of justice; the great chemical search light of public conscience is brought to bear upon it; it is examined through the great magnifying glass of the public eye; it is pounded to pieces by great sledge-hammer blows of logic and



Lawyers,

PERRY. OKLAHOMA.

5.

Other political parties have acted differently. Their orators and leaders have mounted the stump and said to the people: "This is a diamond -- see how it glitters; this is gold -- see how beautiful and yellow; this is a gem -- see how it sparkles." But alas, they exhibited to the people, nothing but worthless paste, common sand, and miserable dirt and clay.

In this Territory the outlook is most flattering. Numerically our strength is nearly double the strength of any other political organization. The vote of 1896, shows that our strength was only a fraction less than the combined opposition. Fifty three thousand Seven hundred and fifty two votes were cast and 26,267 were cast for the Republican candidate. This was forty-eight and eight-tenths per cent of the entire vote. A gain of one and three-tenths per cent would give us a majority over all. As sure as the polls are opened next November, the action of 1896 will be reversed, and the Republican candidate will receive a clear majority over the entire opposition.

The Territory of Oklahoma is a great missionary field for Republicans. We have a great plea, a worthy cause, a grand message. The people are waiting to hear it. Why should this great army of 26, 000 Republicans hesitate. The time is at hand for aggressive action, and the Republican party has never won a great victory except by an aggressive fight. One of the rules of that illustrious soldier Ulysses S. Grant, was that: "When in doubt. Go to the front." Let every Republican put on his political armor and go forth, proclaiming the glad news of Republicanism, and the Campaign of 1898 will close with the Republican banner waving victorious.



Lawyers,

PERRY, OKLAHOMA.

6.

The people of Oklahoma are intelligent and educated; they are reasonable and will listen to legitimate argument. They are patriotic and love the flag, and will stand by the government in this hour of trial and danger. More than this, there has been a great change in the business interests of this Country. Two years ago the American people were wandering in the wilderness. The people united their voices in the song of hard times. But to-day we are out of the wilderness; Egyptian bondage is behind us. The people are rejoicing, they are singing a "New song", the song of Prosperity, the words and music of which were furnished by a Republican administration.

One of the most important matters to Oklahoma is free homes for the people. Under no circumstances should this matter be abandoned. It is a just cause; it is right -- and the Republican party will yet redeem its pledge and give our people free homes. In every possible honorable way this fight must go on. The last two years have demonstrated that there is no hope for success except through a Republican delegate to Congress. In this hour of dispare and defeat, the people look to the Republicans for help. And the people will not be disappointed.

The time has come when the people of this Territory must prepare to assume the responsibilities of State hood. Oklahoma has the population, the wealth, the intelligence, which entitles her to State hood. The disadvantages of Territorial government are many. In many ways our progress is retarded. The people are entitled to elect their own State officers and judges. More than this, free homes may come only when we have one or more representatives in the lower house



Lawyers,

PERRY, OKLAHOMA.

7.

hope for State hood within any reasonable time, unless the people of Oklahoma, will place the Territory in line and in harmony with the administration in power.

Suppose our Democratic and Populist friends "fuse". So much the better for the Republicans. Every time they make a <sup>Territorial</sup> fight on the fusion line they grow weaker. When they combine they cease to promulgate their distinctive principles and views. It means no more democratic speeches, no more populist speeches. No more propogation of the ideas distinctive to their respective parties. The people in 1898 will repudiate "fusion", and the politicians who are advocating it, because it is an abandonment of principle.

Again let me repeat the words of welcome. The people of our City desire that you shall have a royal good time while here, a safe journey home, and you are cordially invited to visit our City frequently.

In closing let it be said, that <sup>as</sup> we welcome you to our City, so the Republicans of Oklahoma will welcome back to their ranks all those who once affilliated with the party, but who, for reasons of their own, have been carrying other banners.

And as our brave and patriotic citizens are enlisting in our army and navy, so every voter is invited to enlist in this great political organization, and to all will be given a hearty, sincere, and cordial welcome.