

OUR COUNTRY - WHAT MADE IT GREAT.

Speech by Hon. Dick T. Morgan, Congressman from Oklahoma.

---

In his immortal Gettysburg speech Abraham Lincoln expressed the hope that

"This Nation, under God, shall have a new birth of Freedom."

That prayer was answered. War ceased. Sectional strife ended. Peace came. Our country was re-united. We became one people - one in thought - one in purpose - one in aspirations - one in destiny, and one in devotion to the flag. Our country had a new birth of freedom. It entered upon a new lease of life and power and greatness. As years went by we rose to first place among the nations of the earth. We became a great world-power. To-day in agriculture, in mining, in manufacturing, in internal commerce, in means of transportation and communication, in wealth and in resources, we lead all other nations. We excel in education, in invention, and in intellectual achievements. We have attained eminence in art, science, and literature. The flag floats over distant island of the sea, and the nation which Lincoln preserved is the greatest political power for good in the world.

NOT A GREAT NATION IN 1860.

We were not a great nation at the time Lincoln was first inaugurated President. We had but thirty-one millions of people. We possessed but \$16,000,000,000 in wealth. Up to that

time we had constructed but 30,000 miles of railways. The annual products of our farms, our factories and our manufacturing establishments were insignificant compared with their value at this time. Our farms were producing less than two billions of wealth annually and the total value of our annual manufactured products was also less than two ~~in~~ billions of dollars. Our imports were valued at \$350,000,000 and our exports were but \$316,000,000. In population, in wealth, in domestic and foreign commerce, in the productive power of our industries and in many other elements of material strength we were not, at that time, a great nation as that term is understood to-day.

Behold! A mighty change has been wrought. To-day we are a great nation. We have 100,000,000 of people. We have \$187,000,000,000 in wealth. We have 250,000 miles of steam railways. In round numbers, the annual products of our farms are worth \$10,000,000,000. Our manufacturing establishments annually are ~~now~~ producing products worth \$21,000,000,000. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1914, before the European War began, our exports were valued at \$2,364,000,000, our imports were worth \$1,893,000,000 and our total foreign trade amounted to \$4,258,000,000.

#### COMPARED WITH OTHER NATIONS.

Our superiority in material strength over the other leading nations of the world is most remarkable. Our population is greater than the combined population of both England and France. Our population is only slightly less than the combined population of both Germany and France. Our wealth is greater

than the combined wealth of both England and France and greater even than the combined wealth of both England and Germany. The annual savings of the people of the United States are almost incredible. An English authority estimates that the annual savings of the people of the four ~~leading~~ leading nations of the world are as follows: France \$1,000,000,000, Germany ~~\$1,500,000,000~~ \$1,500,000,000, England \$2,000,000,000, United States \$4,000,000,000.

What a high compliment to the productive power of the people of the United States. Here is a high English authority asserting that the annual savings of the people of the United States are, in round numbers, practically equal to the combined annual savings of the people of three of the foremost nations of the world.

#### WHAT HAS MADE OUR COUNTRY GREAT?

What has made our country ~~so~~ great? Has it been a matter of chance or accident? Has it come through good luck? Has it been the result of natural causes? Have the ~~punkitx~~ policies of other nations made the United States a great country? Has greatness been forced upon us? Certainly not.

Has our greatness been due to climatic conditions, to the fertility of our soil, to the wealth of our mineral deposits, to the vastness of our forests, to the gold and silver hidden in the mountains of the West, to our great lakes, to our mighty rivers or to our numerous splendid harbors. Most assuredly not. All these things were here, throughout the centuries

of the past, when this continent was inhabited only by uncivilized races. All these things were here, during the two hundred and fifty years which intervened, from the first permanent English settlement in this country, down to 1861, when the Republican party came into power. Yet, we were not a great nation. Again I ask, what made our ~~nation~~ nation great? The answer is this: Republican principles, Republican policies, Republican legislation and Republican ~~man~~ management have made this country great - great in its population, great in its wealth, great in its industries, great in its trade and commerce, great in its transportation and communication facilities and great in its prestige and power and influence throughout the world.

#### IMMIGRATION.

We boast that we have one hundred millions of people. Without the inflow from other countries, our population today would scarcely exceed fifty millions. During the fifty years immediately preceding the inauguration of Lincoln, only about five millions of immigrants came to the United States. During the fifty years immediately succeeding the ascendency of the Republican party to power, 27,000,000 immigrants from other nations came to the United States. Our free institutions were indeed attractive to the inhabitants of other countries. Yet, these people would not have come to our shores had they not been made welcome and had they not found here something ~~to do~~ to do. The Republican platform of 1860 contained a plank designed to encourage foreign immigration. The platform of

1864 declared that this nation was "the asylum of the oppressed of all nations" and that foreign immigration "should be fostered and encouraged by a liberal and just policy." Through its attitude upon the question of foreign immigration, through its championship of the rights of naturalized citizens, and through its economic policies which opened up opportunities for employment, for business and for the achievement of success in every line of human endeavor - the Republican party promoted that growth in our population which was essential to the development of our resources, to the expansion of our industries, to the extension of our trade and commerce, and to the attainment of the high pinnacle of greatness upon which our nation now stands.

THE FREE HOMESTEAD LAW.

When the Republican party came into power the Federal government possessed a vast public domain. The country west of the Mississippi River was largely uninhabited, unoccupied, uncultivated, and unproductive. Hitherto, it had been the policy of the National government to use the public domain as a source of revenue. The founders of the Republican party recognized that there was a higher and better purpose to which the public domain should be devoted. Consequently, in its platform of 1860, the party ~~had~~ declared for a free homestead law, and asserted that our public lands should ~~not~~ be dedicated to the one great purpose of providing homes for the homeless. In 1862 a Republican Congress passed the free homestead act. Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation which made millions ~~of slaves~~ free men. He signed the free homestead act and

gave to millions of men free homes. The free homestead act conceived by Republican leaders, enacted into law by a Republican Congress, and approved by a Republican President, was a mighty factor in giving the great West population, industries, wealth, schools, churches, and other institutions which abound in the great, progressive, rich and prosperous states, west of the Mississippi River.

#### THE PACIFIC RAILWAY.

The founders of the Republican party saw that the building of a railroad to the Pacific Ocean was essential to the growth of the country. The Republican ~~platform~~ platform of 1860, declared that the Federal government, should render financial assistance toward its construction. A Republican Congress granted the necessary aid, and in 1869, the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans were connected by a railroad. Without the aid rendered by the national government, the construction of this and other lines of railways to the Pacific coast unquestionably would have been delayed for many years.

By ~~x~~ the enactment of the ~~xx~~ free homestead law, and by the Federal aid rendered in the construction of trans-continental railways, the Republican party put this nation forward in its growth and ~~x~~ development, at least a third of a century.

#### NATIONAL CREDIT AND SOUND CURRENCY.

We never could have become a great country without

national credit and a sound currency. The Civil War left the Republic in debt \$3,000,000,000. To save the Union vast quantities of paper currency were issued. This currency depreciated in value until in gold it was worth only thirty-eight cents on the dollar. A great problem in national finance confronted the leaders of the Republican party. In this crisis they did not falter - they did not fail. They resisted every attempt at repudiation. They opposed every movement to debase the currency, injure the credit or stain the honor of the Republic. By so doing, they made it possible that we to-day excel all other nations in the extent of our business, commercial and financial transactions.

#### PROTECTION.

I return to the Republican platform of 1860. It contained one plank, which ever-shadows all others therein, in its effect upon the material development of our nation. The tariff plank in the ~~platform~~ platform on which Lincoln was elected to the Presidency was as follows:

"That, while providing revenue for the support of the general government by duties upon imports, sound policy requires such an adjustment of these imports as to encourage the development of the industrial interests of the whole country; and we commend that policy of national ~~and~~ exchanges which secures to the workingmen liberal wages, to agriculture remunerative prices, to mechanics and manufacturers an adequate reward for their skill, labor and enterprise, and to the nation commercial prosperity and independence."

Charles Evans Hughes stands where Lincoln stood in 1860 for the adjustment of tariff duties so "as to encourage the development of the industrial interests of the whole country. He stands for a "policy of national ~~xxx~~ exchanges which secures to workingmen liberal wages, to agriculture re-numerative prices, to mechanics and manufacturers adequate reward for their skill, labor and enterprise, and to the nation commercial prosperity and independence."

During all ~~thirty~~ these years of Republican supremacy the Democratic party of the nation has continuously and persistently opposed the policy of protection. I can not on this occasion enter into a lengthy discussion of the tariff. I desire however to call attention to what actually occurred in this nation under the existing tariff law enacted by a Democratic Congress and approved by a Democratic President. A Democratic ~~gangster~~ President was inaugurated on the 4th of March, 1913. A Democratic Congress ~~xxx~~ convened in special session April 7, 1913. The Democratic tariff act was approved on the 4th day of October 1913. What occurred ~~g~~ from March 4, 1913, to the outbreak of the European War tells the true effect of Democratic economic policies and Democratic management of the financial affairs of the national government. Here is what took place:

First, there was an increase in our imports.

Second, there was a decrease in our exports.

Third, there was a loss in the balance of trade in our favor.

Fourth, there was an increase in our exports of gold.

Fifth, there was an increase in national expenditures and appropriations.

Sixth, there was a loss in national revenues.

Seventh, there was a decrease in the amount of cash in the general fund of the Treasury.

Eighth, an emergency revenue law was enacted levying \$100,000,000 additional direct taxes upon the people.

Ninth, a new revenue bill has passed the House of Representatives and will soon be passed by the Senate and approved by the President, imposing upon the people annually \$200,000,000 additional direct taxes for the support of the Federal government.

Here are a few self evident propositions:

We grow rich not by what we buy abroad but by what we sell abroad.

To make foreign trade profitable, we must sell abroad more than we buy abroad.

We do business with foreign nations at a loss when our imports exceed our exports.

Loss in the balance of trade in our favor, and an increase in the exports of gold are danger signals warning us that there is something wrong in our economic policies.

We can not long maintain our national supremacy, or our industrial and commercial prosperity and independence, with a party in power whose economic policies and whose manage-

IMMIGRATION.

We boast that we have one hundred millions of people. Without the inflow from other countries, our population to-day would scarcely exceed fifty millions. During the fifty years immediately preceding the inauguration of Lincoln, only about five millions of immigrants came to the United States. During the fifty years immediately succeeding the ascendancy of the Republican party to power, 27,000,000 immigrants from other nations came to the United States. Our free institutions were indeed attractive to the inhabitants of other countries. Yet, these people would not have come to our shores had they not been made welcome and had they not found here something to do. The Republican platform of 1860 contained a plank designed to encourage foreign immigration. The platform of 1864 declared that this nation was "the asylum of the oppressed of all nations" and that foreign immigration "should be fostered and encouraged by a liberal and just policy." Through its attitude upon the question of foreign immigration, through its championship of the rights of naturalized citizens, and through the economic policies which opened up opportunities for employment, for business and for the achievement of success in every line of human endeavor - the Republican party promoted that growth in our population which was essential to the development of our resources, to the expansion of our industries, to the extension of our trade and commerce, and to the attainment of the high pinnacle of greatness upon which our nation now stands.

ment of national affairs constantly reduce the revenues of our Federal government, contract the amount of cash in the national treasury, enlarge our expenditures and appropriations, multiply the direct taxes upon the people and yet, with it all, create an every-increasing deficit in our national finances necessitating year after year additional vexatious and burdensome taxation.

SIXTEEN YEARS OF REPUBLICAN RULE.

What a striking contrast there is between what occurred under Democratic economic policies and Democratic management of ~~our~~ national affairs compared with that which occurred from March 4, 1897 to March 4, 1913, the last sixteen years of Republican rule. Official statistics of our government, covering those sixteen years, are indisputable evidence that Republican economic policies and Republican management of national affairs are favorable to the growth and development of our country, beneficial and helpful to every interest and industry and promote the welfare, the well-being and happiness of our people engaged in all kinds of employment. Here is what occurred in those sixteen years:

1. There was a large increase in both our exports and imports.

2. There was an increase in the balance of trade in our favor.

3. There was large increase in the value of the annual products of our industries.

4. There was a large increase in the number of persons employed in gainful occupations, in the amount of wages paid to employees, and in the average daily wage paid to wage-earners in all lines of industry.

5. There was an increase in the total amount of money in circulation and in the per capita circulation for each individual.

6. Our bank deposits grew with amazing rapidity, and the average amount to the credit of each depositor was greatly enlarged.

7. The deposits in our savings banks, representing the surplus earnings of our wage-earners and persons of small means, largely increased during this period.

8. There was great growth in the mileage of our railroads, in the volume of their business and there was improvement in their equipment and in the character of the services which they rendered.

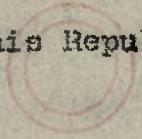
9. There was an increase in the revenue of the government amply sufficient to meet the increase of expenditures made ~~most~~ necessary by reason of the growth of our country and the enlargement of the activities of the Federal government.

10. The amount of cash in the general fund of the Treasury was constantly adequate in amount to meet the obligations and requirements of the Federal government, and to ~~mix~~ maintain a credit superior to that of any other nation in the world.

11. The credit power of our financial institutions grew from year to year sufficient to supply the needs and wants

of the business interests of the country and of our ever expanding trade and commerce.

12. During all of these sixteen years the growth in the purchasing power of the American people kept pace with the increased production of the country, in the homes of the people there was an ever-increasing supply of the necessities of life and a corresponding increase in the amount of luxuries within the reach of the average family, there was an increase in our educational facilities, in the number of our schools and our churches, in the opportunities for self-improvement, culture and recreation and as an ~~result~~ <sup>inevitable</sup> consequence, during all these sixteen years, there was a constant growth in the power, the influence, the prestige, the greatness and in the glory of this Republic.



THE FIRST STEP IN PREPAREDNESS.

For many months the one great question that has been agitating the public mind has been that of national preparedness. The subject has been discussed in the public press, from the rostrum, in the ~~the~~ pulpit and in the homes of our people throughout the length and breadth of this land. Great effort has been made to influence the National Congress to enact such legislation as will give this nation an army and navy that will enable us to defend ourselves against attack from other nations. Congress may or may not do its part well. But the voters of this country have a part to perform in the program for adequate National preparedness. For after all the most important step in preparing this country to meet with safety the events of the future is to elect as our next President Charles Evans Hughes. ~~and~~ Hardly less important than the election of a Republican President is another duty incumbent upon the voters of the country the election of a Republican Congress. When these two ~~things~~ steps have been taken, when we have inaugurated a Republican ~~President~~ President and organized a Republican Congress, the third step towards adequate, permanent national preparedness will be the repeal of the existing tariff and revenue laws and the enactment a new tariff law based upon the policy of adequate protection to American industries and American labor. Having ~~thus insured this country~~ insured our industries and labor against an industrial and commercial invasion, through the importation of products

FATAL DEFECT IN DEMOCRACY.

Whatever may be the virtue of the Democratic Party of this country, it has one fatal defect. Its economic policies are fundamentally wrong. In governmental affairs there is no substitute for sound economic policies. A nation may enact many wise laws, it may multiply its governmental functions, it may create an indefinite number of administrative boards and commissions, but the people of no nation can grow rich and great and prosperous and powerful unless its economic policies are wise, safe and sound. Our national laws, and our national policies, our administration of national affairs have much to do with the commercial, ~~and~~ industrial and business interests of the country. Through our national policies and our national legislation we have to do with the wealth our people in the following particulars: First, in its taxation; Second, ~~monopoly~~ in its regulation; third, in its distribution; and fourth, in its creation. The creation of wealth is the base of the pyramid. The destiny of this nation depends, in a large degree, upon whether our national policies are favorable or unfavorable to the production of wealth. Fundamentally the highest achievement of statesmanship is to adopt and pursue policies which are favorable to the production of wealth. Wealth must be produced before it can be distributed. Wealth must be created before it needs to be controlled. Wealth ~~it~~ must exist before it can be taxed.

The Republican party believes in the proper taxation

16

of wealth; it believes in the regulation and control of wealth; it believes in the equitable distribution of wealth; and it has demonstrated, in a record of over fifty years in the management of national affairs, that its policies are favorable to the production of wealth.