

18th - 28th Annual Kansas Day Meetings

Section 18, Pages 511 - 540

This series is part of a bigger collection from Gertrude Ackerman. These documents represent participant lists, speeches and addresses, and correspondence from the 18th to 28th annual Kansas Day meetings. These documents included annotations throughout.

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Kansas Day Banquet
Fred W. Parrott

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Fortunately for the Republicans, two men of unusual strength and sagacity were then members of the House. These were--George L. Douglas, speaker, and E. W. Hoch, afterwards governor, speaker pro-tem--men of the hour of whom it may truly be said that their courage never faltered and their faith never failed. To their honor be it said, that at this crucial time, the issue was kept clear--no paltry compromises were permitted--the right of the majority to rule, must be recognized. For four long, trying weeks, the wrangle was maintained, and then in an effort to secure adjudication by the courts, the clerk of the Populist House was arrested and a mob of Populists attacked the officer who had him in custody and secured his freedom. The situation grew more critical and armed men attempted to prevent the Republican members entering the House but armed with the famous sledge hammer, the door was battered in and as the triumphant Republican hosts swept in at the front, the discomfited mob of a panic-stricken minority incontinently fled out at the rear. Finally, a decision was handed down by the Supreme Court sustaining the position of the Republicans--and the fight was won. The Republican party had stood for a fundamental principle and had won a signal victory. The next great question confronting the Republican party was the maintenance of sound financial principles. Hoping to profit by the existence of a period of agricultural depression which had become actue in this state, a whirlwind campaign, advocating a debased financial standard, was launched and specious appeals were particularly directed to the debtor class. The heaven-born ratio of 16 to 1, was advanced as a panacea for all the ills of the body politic. In this crisis, few of the Republican leaders in this state had the courage to brave the storm, with the result that a delegation was sent to the National Convention at St. Louis, committed to the free silver fallacy. There, happily the true spirit of the Republican party asserted itself and a unequivocal declaration for a sound financial standard, was made upon which a triumphant and conclusive campaign was waged. Again, the Republican party had stood for a basic principle and had won a momentous victory.

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Kansas Day Banquet
Fred W. Parrott

In recent years, the Republican party has been subjected to a bitter and relentless attack upon one of its most important and cherished precepts--the principle of a genuine protective tariff--that great policy which in a few years has placed this country in the very forefront of all the great manufacturing nations of the world and which has provided the greatest market for profitably employed labor which the world has ever known. In this crisis, we have had to meet not only the unceasing assaults of the Democratic party, but have had to face defection and cold, calculating ambition in our own ranks. It profiteth not to discuss that phase of the issue now, but in passing we may hope that as that movement is now practically over, those returning will pledge anew, support of the time-tried doctrines of their fathers. The urgent need of the hour is that we place the banner of the Republican party in the hands of tried and trusted leaders and in 1916, wage a patriotic campaign for the great American principle of protection. With these two things assured, the Republican party will win the most surprising victory of its whole career and then, simultaneously, the sun of prosperity, obscured during the last two years, will once more shine over all this fair but afflicted land of ours.

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*Kansas Day Banquet - Fred W. Parrott, Clay Center
Jan 29 - 1905*

Ladies and gentlemen, members of the Kansas Day Club, it was ^{my} good fortune several years ago, by a happy chain of circumstances, to enter our House of Representatives, just as the speaker, rapping for order, rose and delivered this short but impressive address, "Gentlemen of the House, allow yourselves no uneasiness, the Almighty has wisely reserved the powers of creation unto Himself alone. All the powers on earth-governors and senators included-cannot make sixty three men out of fifty eight, and in every free, representative body in the world, the majority governs. The principle of self-government is on trial today in Kansas as it was once years ago. But it triumphed then and it will triumph now. The friends of the constitution and of the laws, will soon stand as one man in Kansas, regardless of party. The constitutional House of Representatives, with sixty seven, lawful members is here and is ready for business, and here it will remain, unterrified and unawed"

This speech, as many of you will remember, was delivered by speaker Douglas to the Republican members during the legislative war of 1893, and I refer to it here, solely for the purpose of calling your attention to the fact that in this state, in years gone by, the Republican party has been called upon to face vital issues and when it has had the courage to face those issues squarely and unequivocally, it has always been triumphantly victorious.

Permit a brief review of the conditions then prevailing. The situation was tense, a campaign of far more than ordinary intensity and bitterness had been waged, and populists, elated by the election of a governor, were chagrined to find that they had lost the legislature by a narrow ~~margin~~ ^{margin}. What they had failed to gain legally, they determined to take by unconstitutional and illegal methods, and plans were at once laid to institute groundless contests against several Republican members with the definite and announced intention of throwing a sufficient number out, to give them the control of the House. These violent and revolutionary plans, the Republican members resolutely and steadfastly opposed. Rival Houses were organized upon the floor, each under the leadership of its own speaker - and the battle was on.

Fortunately for the Republicans, two men of unusual strength and sagacity were then members of the House. These were Gen. L. Douglas, speaker, and E. W. Hoch, afterwards governor, speaker pro-tem-men of the hour-of whom it may truly be said, that ~~at this anxious time~~, that their courage never faltered and their faith never failed. To their honor be it said, that at this crucial time, the issue was kept clear-no paltry compromises were permitted-the right of the majority to rule, must be recognized. For four long, trying weeks, the wrangle was maintained, and then in an effort to secure adjudication by the courts, the clerk of the Populist House, was arrested and a mob of Populists attacked the officer who had him in custody and secured his freedom. The situation grew more critical and armed men attempted to prevent the Republican members entering the House, but, armed with the famous sledge hammer, the door was battered in and as the triumphant Republican hosts swept in at the front, the discomfited mob of a panic-stricken minority, incontinently fled out at the rear.

Finally, a decision was handed down by the Supreme Court, sustaining the position of the Republicans-and the fight was won. The Republican party had stood for a fundamental principle and had won a signal victory.

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mitted to the free silver fallacy. There, happily, the true spirit of the Republican party asserted itself and an unequivocal declaration for a sound financial standard, was made, upon which, a triumphant and conclusive campaign was waged. Again, the Republican party had stood for a basic principle and had won a momentous victory.

In recent years, the Republican party has been subjected to a bitter and relentless attack upon one of its most important and cherished precepts—the principle of a genuine protective tariff—that great policy ~~xxx~~ which in a few years has placed this country in the very forefront of all the great manufacturing nations of the world and which has provided the greatest market for profitably employed labor which the world has ever known. In this crisis, we have had to meet, not only the unceasing assaults of the Democratic party, but have had to face defection and cold, calculating ambition in our own ranks. It profiteth not to discuss that phase of the issue now, but in passing we may hope that as that movement is now practically over, those returning will pledge anew, support of the time-tried doctrines of their fathers. The urgent need of the hour, is ~~xx~~ that we place the banner of the Republican party in the hands of tried and trusted leaders and in 1916, ~~xx~~ wage a patriotic campaign for the great American principle of protection. With these two things assured, the Republican party will win the most surprising victory of its whole career and then, simultaneously, the sun of prosperity, obscured during the ~~xx~~ last two years, will once more shine over all this fair but afflicted land of ours.

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Capital, January 30, 1915
Kansas Day Banquet Program

President Fred W. Parrott made the opening speech. He spoke briefly of the progress made under Republican government.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS, Fred W. Parrott, Clay Center (in part)

"Ladies and gentlemen, members of the Kansas Day Club: It was my good fortune several years ago, by a happy chain of circumstances, to enter the house of representatives just as the speaker, rapping for order, rose and delivered this short but impressive speech: "Gentlemen of the house, allow yourselves no uneasiness, the Almighty has wisely reserved the powers of earth; governors and senators included cannot make sixty-three men out of fifty-eight, and in every free representative body in the world the majority governs. The principle of free government is on trial in Kansas today as it was once years ago. But it triumphed then and it will triumph now. The friends of the constitution and of the law will soon stand as one man in Kansas, regardless of party. The constitutional house of representatives with sixty-seven lawful members is here and is ready for business, and here it will remain, unterrified and unawed."

"This speech as many of you will remember was delivered by Speaker Douglas to the Republican members during the legislative war of 1893, and I refer to it here solely for the purpose of calling your attention to the fact that in this state, in years gone by, the Republican party has been called upon to face grave and vital issues and when it has had the courage to face those issues squarely and unequivocally, it has always been triumphantly victorious."

"Permit a brief reference to the conditions then prevailing. The situation was tense, a campaign of far more than ordinary intensity and bitterness had been waged, and the Populist party, elated by the election of a governor, was chagrined to find that they had lost the legislature by a narrow margin. What they had failed to gain legally, they determined to take by unconstitutional and illegal methods, and plans were at once laid to institute groundless contests against several Republican members, with the definite and announced intention of throwing sufficient out to give them the control of the house. These violent and revolutionary plans the Republican members resolutely and steadfastly opposed. Rival houses were organized upon the floor, each under the leadership of its own speaker, and the battle was on."

"Fortunately for the Republicans, two men of unusual strength and sagacity were then members of the house. These were George L. Douglas, speaker, and E. W. Hoch, afterwards governor, speaker pro tem, men of whom it may truly be said that their courage never faltered and their faith never failed. To their honor be it said that at this crucial time the issue was kept clear, no paltry compromises were permitted, the right of the majority to rule must be recognized. For four, long, trying weeks the wrangle was maintained, and then in an effort to secure adjudication by the courts, the clerk of the Populist house was arrested but a mob of Populists attacked the officer who had him custody and secured his freedom. The situation grew more

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critical and armed men attempted to prevent Republican members entering the house, but bearing the famous sledge hammer, the door was battered in, and as the triumphant Republicans swept in at the front, the hosts of sin incontinently fled out at the rear. Finally a decision was handed down by the supreme court, sustaining the position of the Republicans and the fight was won. The Republican party had stood for a fundamental principle and had won a signal victory.

"The next great question confronting the Republican party was the maintenance of a sound financial system. Hoping to profit by the existence of a period of agricultural depression which had become acute in this state, a whirlwind campaign, advocating a debased financial standard was launched. Specious appeals, particularly directed to the debtor class, were made and the Heaven-born ratio of 16 to 1 was advanced as a panacea for all the ills of the body politic. In this crisis few of the Republican leaders of this state either were prepared or had the courage to brave the storm, with the result that a delegation was sent to the national convention at St. Louis committed to the free silver fallacy. There, happily, the true spirit of the Republican party asserted itself and an unequivocal declaration for a correct financial standard was made, upon which a triumphant and conclusive campaign was waged. Again the Republican party had stood for a basic principle and had won a momentous victory.

"In recent years the Republican party has been subjected to a bitter and relentless attack upon one of its most important and cherished precepts--the principle of a genuine protective tariff--that great policy which a few years ago placed this country in the very forefront of all the great manufacturing nations of the world and which has provided the greatest market for labor the world has ever known. In this crisis, we have not only to meet the unceasing assaults of the Democratic party, but have had to face the defection and cold, calculating ambition within our own ranks. It profits nothing to discuss that phase of the issue now, but in passing, we may hope that as that movement is now practically over, those returning will pledge anew, support of the time-tried doctrine of their fathers. The urgent need of the hour is that we place the banner of the Republican party in the hands of tried and trusted leaders and in 1916 wage a campaign for the great American principle of protection.

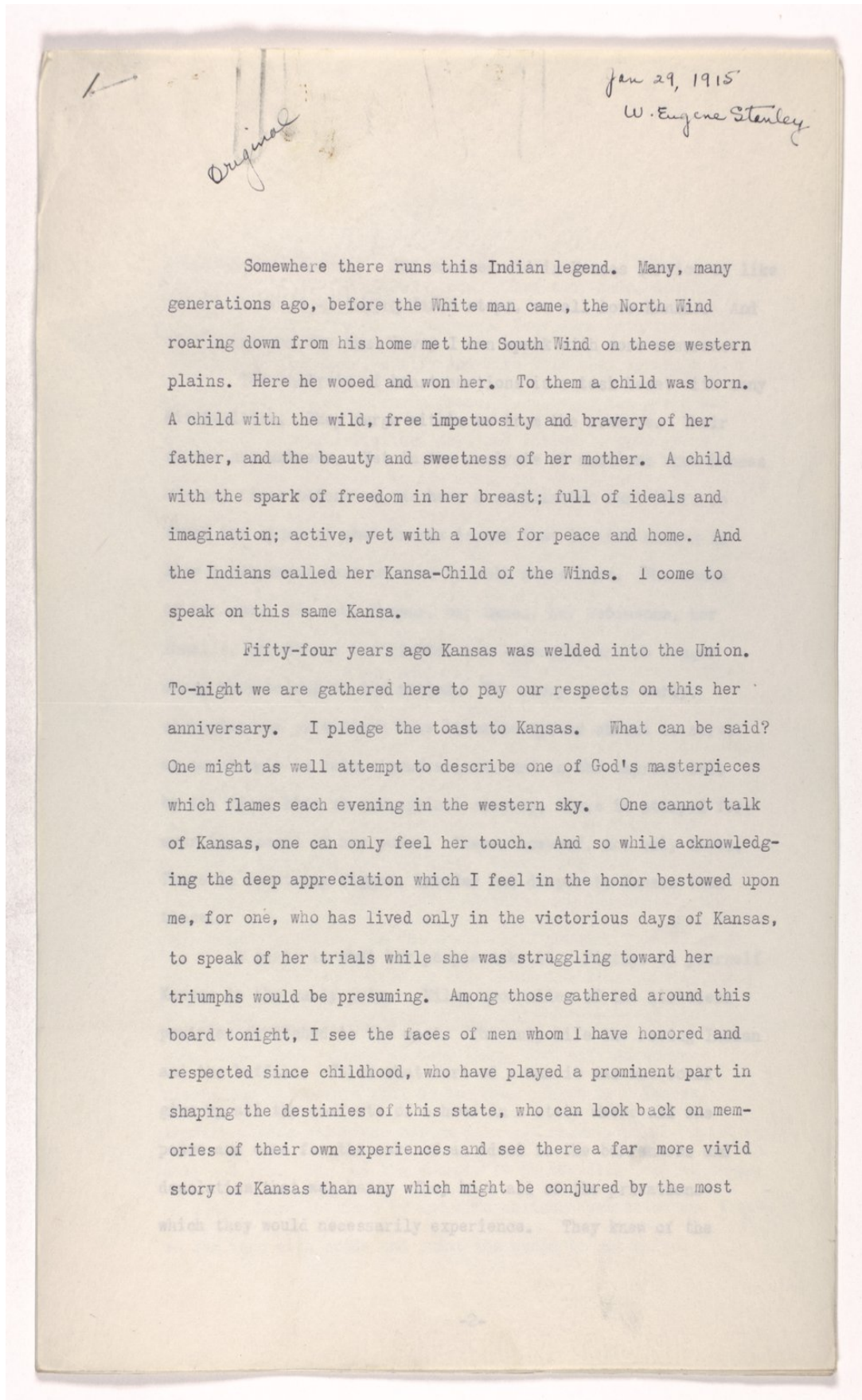
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"With thest two things assured, the Republican party will win the most sweeping victory of its whole career, and simultaneously, the sun of prosperity, obscured during the last two years will once more shine over this fair, but afflicted land of ours. 11

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fanciful imagination. But whether old in Kansas service or like others of us here, taking first steps, we all love Kansas. And of the reasons for that love, I can speak with more assurance.

The analysis of heart emotions is a task beset with many difficulties. They surge within us from the nowhere. Their causes are unknown. Yet in the analysis of emotions when Kansas history rises before us, we have a realization that there is found the story of what Kansas is, and that in what Kansas is lies a component part of what we call state love. The names of her sons, her John Browns, her Lanes, her Robinsons, her Ingalls, her Wares, her Plumbs, her Anthony's, are no longer ours, they belong to the nation. The story of her early struggles and privations have likewise spread abroad to serve as an example to future generations, and in the impress left by the first blow struck against slavery, there is stamped forever the record of her power. These, however, are only facts. There is something bigger, broader and deeper to Kansas than these.

A state is what her people make it. Picture to yourself Kansas in the early 50's. Miles upon miles of the limitless prairies stretched to the west. The only life the roving Indian and the buffalo. Think what sort of a man it was who could give up all the comforts of a home in a state where all was peace and come for the sake of an ideal to the barrenness and desolation that was here. They knew all of the privations which they would necessarily experience. They knew of the

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But dreams and imagination have done more. Kansas, the bloodshed that would baptize them. Yet they came, keeping always in mind a steadfast purpose. They came with the magic ideas from north and south and east and west, has taken or talisman of love and industry and with this they opened a door created every man known to man, no matter how wisely, and long barred, a door which Coronado, because of the greed and worthless, and has transuted them into pure gold and given avarice of his undisciplined day, had failed to open years before. They disclosed to the world the New Quivera, the cities of old, with the warp plucked from this field of thought, and the wool plucked from that, have through their steady efforts woven

Here was courage. Here was industry. But there was more, there was imagination. Was there here anything to awaken hope for the future? To the man of dreams, yes, and these were men of vision. They dreamed of a new state where men should stand equal. Where there should be freedom--freedom of body, freedom of thought, freedom of action. And they have written the record of those dreams into the life of Kansas. If it is given a state to have character, then these same dreams have shaped and moulded a character that we love. Kansas has lost none of her individuality. In years past, ridiculed and laughed at, she has stood steadfast. In the past, and I presume it will be in the future, the reputation of this state has been bandied about by all who enjoyed gossiping of the things they could not understand more than seeking to know them. But her character has always been a trellis upon which the state might climb to her highest development. We must therefore take care for the future. We cannot remain idle and adore does not vex. She has the courage to be herself. And we to-day no longer have to stand by and with anxious eyes watch the test--reaching the top and stretching out her tendrils that she might we can turn with pride and point the world to victories. climb further, be broken in the wind, or else lay hold of some other trellis on which to climb. We must continue to build;

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not star But dreams and imagination have done more. Kansas, the alchemist of intellectual and political thought, has taken ideas from north and south and east and west, has taken or created every ism known to man, no matter how homely, and worthless, and has transmuted them into pure gold and given to the world something of value. Her sons, like the spinners of old, with the warp plucked from this field of thought, and the woof plucked from that, have through their steady efforts woven them into a garment which the state may wear with dignity. Years have passed. Slowly developing, Kansas has at last reached maturity in the sisterhood of states. She no longer asks instruction. She stands ready to give. I feel that Judge Brewer must have had a true vision into the future when he said "From this state shall henceforth flow the ideas to rule the continent". How may ideas rule the continent but through the political thought of a people? How may political thought spring from a state unless as the result of the parties to which she clings? If we are proud of the record of Kansas, we can likewise be proud of the party that has played by long odds the largest part in her political progress. The reason for this has been that the principles of the Republican party have always been a trellis upon which the state might climb to her highest development. We must therefore take care for the future. We cannot remain idle and admire the structure that has been reared in the past else the vine, reaching the top and stretching out her tendrils that she might climb further, be broken in the wind, or else lay hold of some other trellis on which to climb. We must continue to build;

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not start some new structure. We must add to the old. We must push forward with one that has stood the test. Why should we seek to turn Kansas from that trellis to which she has clung so long? Is it because we would push aside the structure around which her very roots are twined? Do we fear to mould the future like her past? No, we will not change. We will build and the Republican party that has written the story of the past with so much luster will likewise write the story of the future.

We admire steadfastness, but we likewise admire action. We admire a Paul, who, when he had solved his own moral problem, though he might then have stopped, took his stand before the world and went out to teach it the lesson of Christianity. We admire a Cromwell, who, when his own mind rejected the principle of the Divine Right of Kings, went out to win for England her constitutional independence. And so we admire Kansas who, when after a bloody struggle in which she took her stand on the side of individual liberty and solved the question for herself, did not stop with herself alone, but threw the spark, which falling on the vast rubbish heap which years of frivolous debate had allowed to accumulate, caused a conflagration which consumed in its sweep the last vestige of human slavery. We admire Columbus, who in the face of contempt could maintain that the world was round and force the world to admit him right. And we love Kansas, who in the face of ridicule could stand for prohibition and remain fast to that principle until the nation had caught the spirit and turned to Kansas for leadership.

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"To him who in the love of nature holds
So we, her sons, who here today look back upon a record where,
in every crisis, this state has proved her worth, must realize
that the story of the future is unwritten and that our hands
hold the pen.

But Kansas has another side which strikes most deeply
a chord of our emotions. When the call came from a stricken
country, a country with a different language, a country with a
different people, that men were starving, that her people were
dying for the want of the grain which has carpeted our fields
like cloth of gold, she did not hesitate, and as if best able to
sympathize because of those battle scars now long since healed,
she stretched forth the hand of comfort and with Christmas of con-
ships with her gold argosy is offering the support to a broken
and helpless Belgium that will teach the world that great of my
principle which was a very part of her conception--The age of
brotherhood of man and the lesson of peace. Best friend, I have

But though we admire and respect our state for all the
qualities which we have spoken, still there is something more.
There is a something which arouses my love at least that words
cannot define. Again and again I have tried to analyze it, but
always it escapes me. It is not the feeling that Kansas is ours,
it is not the feeling of possession, it is an indefinable touch.
Bryant has perhaps expressed it most aptly if we apply the first
few lines of his immortal Thanatopsis: have drifted along listening
to the lazy drone of the locusts and the slap slap of idle waves,
she spoke a language of sympathy.

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"To him who in the love of nature holds
Communion with her visible forms, she speaks
A various language. For his gayer hours
She has a voice of gladness and a smile
And eloquence of beauty, and she glides
Into his darker musings with a mild
And healing sympathy that steals away
Their sharpness ere he is aware".

Many times when as a boy, barefooted and sunburned, I
have strolled along the bank of some shady stream, listening
to the bullfrogs and the birds, and wondering in what shallows
the pearl clams hid themselves, Kansas spoke a language of con-
tentment. When escaping from arduous tasks in a garden patch
I have sought a respite among the white flashing bodies of my
companions at the old swimming hole, she spoke a language of
joy. When on a summer afternoon, with my best friend, I have
stretched out on the grass, my head pillowed on my arms gazing
up at the white clouds drifting by in the blue sky overhead and
builded on those fleecy foundations my castles and saw there
raised my every ambition, she spoke a language of hope. And
when trouble resting heavy upon me, I have taken my canoe,
that friend of one whose home is near a river, and underneath
a moon that smoothed out all sharp corners and covered each tree
and bush with a garment of light, I have drifted along listening
to the lazy drone of the locusts and the slap slap of idle waves,
she spoke a language of sympathy.

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When on a spring day with the air damp with warm rains you have gazed out on a green carpet of growing wheat, and seen the budding trees and the tiny sprouts just creeping through the sod and you knew that this was a good place in which to live, you, too, have felt the touch of Kansas. When on a summer evening with the south wind whispering a message of comfort you have sat alone with your thoughts and the only sounds were the chirp of the cricket and rustle of the cottonwood shaking her shiny leaves, you too have felt the touch of Kansas. When at the close of an autumn day with the faint odor of burning leaves filling the air and a blue haze curtaining the distance you have gazed out past shocks of corn and stubble, past granaries full to bursting, into the glory and flashing splendor of a Kansas sunset-- have you not felt the touch of Kansas. As we gaze off into the future, we see that other peoples and other states have like ourselves felt the touch of Kansas. Her idealism and her imagination have been grasped by others as the north wind and the south wind carry from us the secrets of our success. Others turn to Kansas as a pattern, and see there a new state which is the consummation of the principles of the old. Her prisons are empty; her poorhouses gone. Strife is silent, and each man lives at peace. All about they see a contented people whose ambition is their state. They see a government effective, efficient, systematic, the realization of the dreams of the workers of to-day, and the world turns to Kansas as the nestling place of political thought, and they realize that the word

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'Kansas' no longer only describes a state, but that it represents a principle. We look further and can see a nation free; we can see a nation whose liquor traffic is dead. We can see a nation where misery and want have vanished. We can see a nation that has felt the touch of Kansas.

It was my father, who, too, loved Kansas, who placed in my boy's heart the seed from which has sprung these thoughts, and to me now Kansas, responding to my every mood, stands as an ideal, I might say, my star. No matter what difficulties may confront us, no matter what problems arise, we can turn to our state for encouragement as we have turned for sympathy, and in her life see a steadfastness of purpose, a determination that drives us on, to write like those who have gone before us something of our dreams in the history of this state. We can look back on the past and realize that truly Kansas has, through difficulties, won her place as a star in the constellation of the Union. We can resolve that her motto shall not only stand as a record of past achievement, but likewise a slogan for the future. We know that Kansas, though she now be one star among many, is nevertheless our star, the star we love, and we can say with Browning,

"All that I know
of a certain star
Is that it can throw
Like the angled spar
Now a dart of red
Now a dart of blue,
Till my friends have said
They would fain see to my star
that dartles the red and the blue.
Then it hangs like a bird, like a
flower hangs furred,

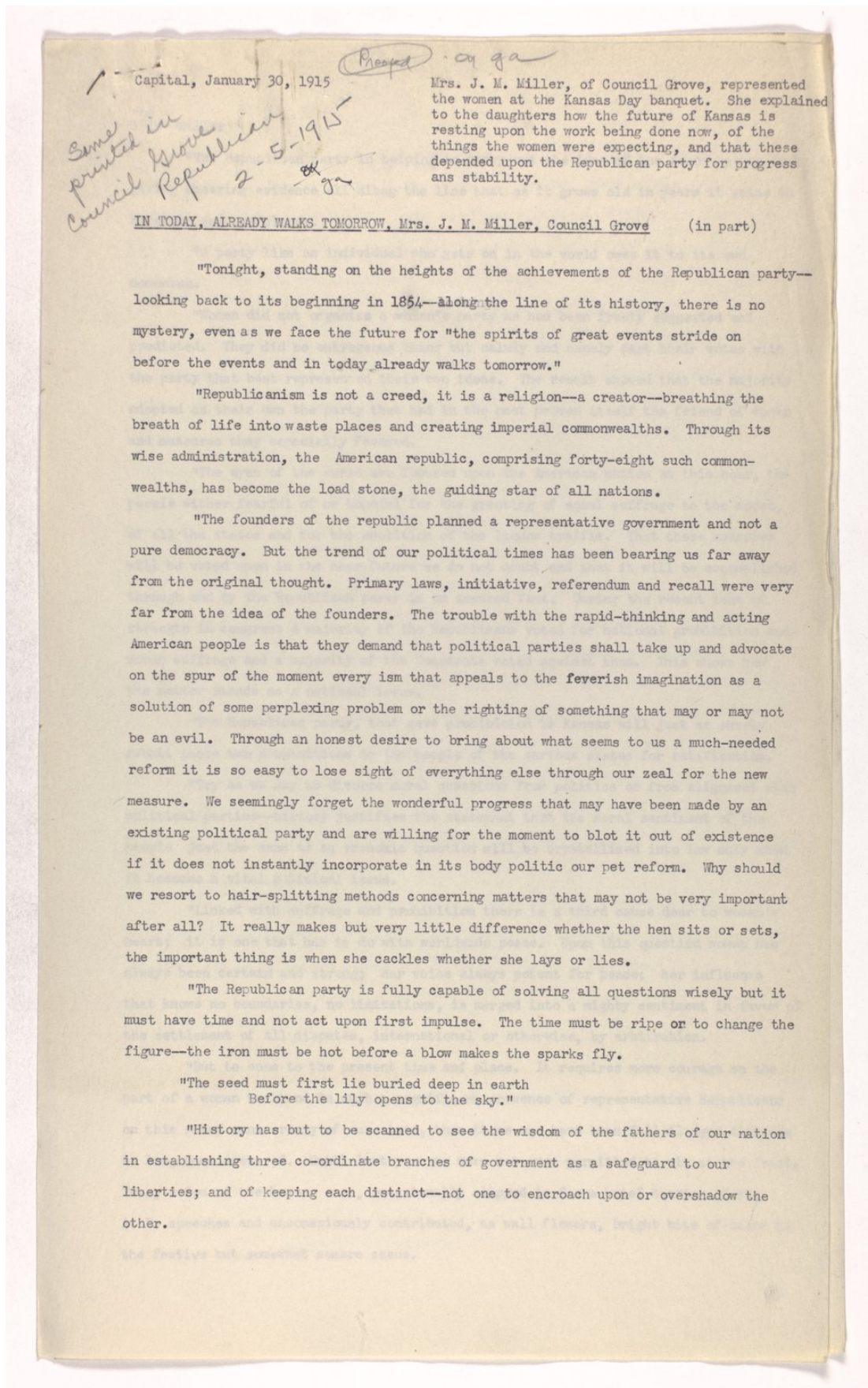
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"They must solace themselves with the
Saturn above it,
What matter to me if their star
is a world?
Mine has opened its soul to me,
therefore I love it."

And in this love it seems that I hear again the
whispering of the north wind and the south wind; that I see
a child with the spark of freedom in her breast, full of ideals
and imagination, active yet with a love for peace and home,
and I see a nation that has felt the touch of this child of
the Indian Legend.



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1915--Miller

"The Republican party in helping to carry out the idea of the founders has been giving cheering evidence all along the line that as it grows old in years it gains in strength and usefulness.

"A party like an individual who gets on in the world owes it to its own momentum.

"Women did not organize a woman's party as had been freely suggested and predicted. They did no outrageous thing but calmly and sanely cast their votes with the party that best represented their own ideas. The result showed that the majority adopted as their own the party that had in the past proven itself the friend of women and measures they especially favored.

"The eyes of the world are focused upon the American nation at this hour, the people either fearful of or hopeful for the granting of equal suffrage to the women, of all the states and for the abolition of the liquor traffic. That these measures will be voted upon in the near future we do not doubt and that it will be accomplished through and by the Republican party is an assured fact. During the recent test of strength in congress a majority of the Republicans voted for national prohibition and woman suffrage and a majority of the Democrats voted against them. This shows how the matter stands as a national issue.

"The Republican party, that gave prohibition to Kansas will just as surely submit these two propositions to the people of the various states for ratification.

"Try as we may to divorce moral questions from politics or from alignment with political parties--history justifies the statement that the moral sentiment of the people just the same as an economic question will be crystallized into law only when it becomes a vital political issue.

"Linked with suffrage and prohibition there is a third cause dear to woman's heart; it is one that has to do with worldwide peace. Upon this question woman has always been certain and strong; her voice always potent for peace; her influence that knows no boundaries, no limitations, is merged into a mighty sentiment in favor of the settlement of all disputes, international or otherwise, by arbitration.

"But to come to the present time and place. It requires more courage on the part of a woman to stand in such a magnificent presence of representative Republicans on this noted anniversary of our state, than those who have been full fledged citizens so long dare dream of. Until last year we were not even permitted to sit at the feast. True, a few of the braver ones, occasionally slipped in for a brief hearing of the A. D. speeches and unconsciously contributed, as wall flowers, bright bits of color to the festive but somewhat sombre scene.

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1915--Miller

"Last year was the first time women came in as guests or full fledged members, and had the honor conferred upon us by having our own Mrs. Scott appear upon your program as one of the speakers. But it is all so recent that the newness has not quite worn away. We have not become accustomed to the full glare of the lights. But we have always been with you in spirit if not in a material sense, because this is a day dear to all Kansas and a night dear especially to Kansas Republicans.

"With prophetic vision I see before me tonight on the upstretching auroras already appearing at the rim of the sky, a united party with patriotism its controlling policy. The temperance cause merged from a prohibition sentiment into a prohibition principle. Enforced for the betterment of all the people embodying the true humanitarian spirit. I behold, "The golden sea of woman's full liberty, and American diplomacy felt in the entire diplomatic world. International peace procured by American interposition just as American diplomacy back of President Roosevelt, ended the Russo-Japanese war.

"There is yet a nearer vision. My eyes seem focused upon the geographical center of the United States. I see a great commonwealth, spreading over 81,000 square miles of the most fertile land ever kissed by the sun's rays or moistened by the dew from heaven. The affairs of this commonwealth so wisely administered by one of her truest and most worthy sons that his dream of "efficiency in high places"--of 'loftier ideals'--for a wider and deeper justice--"a quickened sense of public honor and public duty"--is become a reality. And I behold Kansas, "beloved mother," whose name is graven hard and deep on the core of every loyal heart" the favored state of the Union--occupied by a contented and prosperous people and the mecca for homeseekers from all lands.

"The prophetic vision simply reveals the inevitable, for, "As the sun ere it is risen sometimes paints its image in the atmosphere, so often do the spirit of great events stride on before the events and in today already is tomorrow."

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Journal, January 30, 1915
Kansas Day Banquet Program

Mrs. J. M. Miller, in her address, struck a note most pleasing to the Kansas Day banqueters. She said that the time at hand for Republicans to get together, recounted what Republicanism had already accomplished and pictured what achievements might be expected in the future.

IN TODAY ALREADY WALKS TOMORROW, Mrs. J. M. Miller, (in part) There were other men

"Republicanism is not a creed, it is a religion--a creator--creating the breath of life into waste places and creating imperial commonwealths. Through its wise administration, the American republic, comprising forty-eight such commonwealths, has become the load stone, the guiding star of all nations.

"The Republican party was called into existence to abolish human slavery and establish peace; and it has never had a chance to go out of business, for it has been breaking shackles of slavery and establishing peace ever since.

"It is a gardener; it has reclaimed a desert waste, planted, pruned and nurtured until a magnificent garden is the result. But it may not cease its vigilance, for the more highly cultivated the soil the ranker are the weeds that spring up.

The mission of the Republican party is not ended even as the mission of the church is not ended, because the Christ religion has been carried to all peoples.

"It has never been lacking in an acute sense. It has been actuated by a never failing optimism and an enthusiasm that knew no defeat--instilling faith in to the doubting, imparting hope to the desponding, giving courage to the wavering and converting indifference into zeal.

"The founders of the Republic planned a representative government and not a pure democracy. But the trend of our political times has been bearing us far away from the original thought. Primary law, initiative, referendum and recall were very far from the idea of the founders. The trouble with the rapid thinking and acting American people is that they demand that political parties shall take up and advocate on the spur of the moment every ism that appeals to the feverish imagination as a solution of some perplexing problem of the righting of something that may or may not be an evil. Through an honest desire to bring about what seems to us a much needed reform it is so easy to lose sight of everything else through our zeal for the new measure. We seemingly forget the wonderful progress that may have been made by an existing political party and are willing for the moment to blot it out of existence if it does not instantly incorporate in its body politic our pet reform. Why should we resort to hair splitting methods concerning matters that may not be so very important after all? It really makes but very little difference whether the hen sits or sets; the important thing is when she cackles whether she lays or lies.

"One year ago an air of uncertainty pervaded the political atmosphere of this gathering. The women had been granted the privileges and responsibilities of full citizenship in our commonwealth and they would cast their first votes at the August primaries. Would the rank and file of women vote and how, was a burning and insistent

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question. Some men asserted they would vote as did their husbands or other masculine members of their families, and thus simply double the vote. But there were other men who thought they understood better the perversity of women's nature, and declared there was no use to speculate as to what they would or would not do, for the only thing at all certain was they would vote contrary to all expectations. and without any great noise or display "Well, it is a matter of history and how does it read. From one of the many state newspapers that come to our home, I clipped the following: "No charge of fraud has been raised by anybody against the election last Tuesday. In fact it is conceded by all that it was the cleanest election Kansas ever held. This is due to the fact that the women voted for the first time. The presence of women on the election boards and in the voting booths had a tendency to uplift the general tone of the election.

"Women did not organize a woman's party as had been freely suggested and predicted. They did no outrageous thing, but calmly and sanely cast their votes with the party that had in the past proven itself the friend of women and measures they especially favored. be the millennium but it is a long stretch toward it. The future is so brilliant that the

"The eyes of the world are focussed upon the American nation at this hour, the people either fearful of or hopeful for the granting of equal suffrage to the women of all the states and for the abolition of the liquor traffic. That these measures will be voted upon in the near future we do not doubt and that it will be accomplished through and by the Republican party is an assured fact. During the recent test of strength in congress a majority of the Republicans voted for national prohibition and woman u suffrage and a majority of the Democrats against them. This shows how the matter stands as a national issue. ality. And I behold Kansas, "beloved mother," whose name is given hard and The Republican party, that gave prohibition to Kansas will just as surely submit these two propositions to the people of the various states for ratification. and.

"Try as we may to divorce moral questions from politics or from alignment it is with political parties--history justifies the statement that the moral sentiment of the people just the same as an economic question will be crystallized into law only when it becomes a vital political issue.

"Linked with suffrage and prohibition there is a third cause dear to woman's heart; it is on that has to do with world-wide peace. Upon this question woman has always been certain and strong; her voice always potent for peace; her influence that knows no boundaries, no limitations, is merged into a mighty sentiment in favor of the settlement of all disputes, international or otherwise, by arbitration.

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"It is a time to come together--to recount old memories--to live over the past--to clasp hands in the present and look to the future with renewed faith and hope.

"We are here to renew party allegiance, settle difference in the family in the true orthodox family fashion--give a little, take a little and without any great noise or display of pyrotechnics go forth to grapple with political problems, soundly and splendidly equipped, standing together as a solid phalanx and with no desire to emulate precedents of unwholesome discord.

"The best acquired in schools is the forming of ideals, so in the schools of politics. To lost sight of ideals is to lose interest in the present and lost hope and faith in the future.

Stiff back-boned Republican politics, is what Editor Harger calls it, and I guess that is what we need.

"It is only a short step from history to prophesy and, friends, what I see before me may not be the millennium but it is a long stretch toward it. The future is so brilliant that the past achievements of the Republican party seem dim by contrast.

"There is yet a nearer vision. My eyes seem focussed upon the geographical centre of the United States. I see a great commonwealth, spreading over 81,000 square miles of the most fertile land ever kissed by the sun's rays or moistened by the dew from heaven. The affairs of this commonwealth so wisely administered by one of her truest and most worthy sons that his dream of "efficiency in high places"--of "loftier ideals"--for a "wider and deeper justice"--a quickened sense of public honor and public duty"--is become a reality. And I behold Kansas, "beloved mother," "whose name is graven hard and deep on the core of every loyal heart, " the favored state of the Union--occupied by a contented and prosperous people and the mecca for homeseekers from all lands.

"The prophetic vision simply reveals the inevitable, for, "As the sun ere it is risen sometimes paints its image in the atmosphere, so often do the spirit of great events stride on before the events and in today ~~xxx~~ already walks tomorrow."

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KANSAS DAY BANQUET, January 29, 1915

SHALL THE REPUBLICAN PARTY BE MAINTAINED? Willis J. Bailey, Atchison
Former Governor of Kansas.

"A friend of mine, after noticing that I was to be one of the speakers here tonight, asked me what subject had been assigned me, and I told him, "Shall the Republican Party be Maintained?" He thought a moment and then said, "Governor, that seems ridiculous. The idea of having to make an argument that the Republican party be maintained in the face of the experience of the past two years, is simply a waste of energy, for there is no question but what the American people would confess judgment in the affirmative, could the question be submitted to them tonight."

"I have received a goodly number of newspaper clippings with comments on my having been given a place on this program. Some of them were complimentary, more of them in a facetious vein of criticism, referring to me as the embodiment of "standpatism" with a kind of mournful echo as the "crime of the Chicago convention," with more or less of regret for what had been commonly called the reactionary element of the Republican party.

"Without entering any complaint for the mild criticism and surely with no apology for my kind of Republicanism, I want to ask your indulgence while I try to elucidate my definition of the much flaunted over-worked expression, 'progressive principles,' as well as the much ridiculed and mis-represented word 'standpatism.'"

"First, I am an American citizen, who believes that the welfare of this country is paramount to the success of any party or to the success of the ambition of any men or set of men, meaning by this that I believe in the enactment and enforcement of such laws as will bring the greatest prosperity and the greatest happiness and comfort to every citizen of this country, whether at home or abroad.

"The question that confronts every citizen and especially the young men and women, whose lives are in front of them, is how can I best serve my country in the capacity of a citizen; how can I best meet and fulfill the great responsibilities that have come to me, not of my own choosing, but as an inheritance and a legacy through more than a century of the nation's life under constitutional government?

"Assuming for the moment my conclusions are correct, then the subject assigned me, "Shall the Republican Party be Maintained," is a

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living issue, worthy of our careful consideration. The short intervals when the Republicans have not been in control only adds luster by comparison of party achievements. I have no special indictment to bring against the Democratic party. That is not necessary. It is doing all and more than is necessary to bring ouster proceedings at the next general election.

"The Democratic party is and has been a minority party in this country for more than fifty years and it is in power today, not upon any merit of its own, but because of an unfortunate and useless division among those who do not believe in the fundamental principles of the Democratic party. For the few minutes that I shall claim your indulgence I want to discuss the unfortunate differences that are responsible for Democratic success.

"A few years ago it began to be fashionable to be progressive; to be a progressive Republican by some meant more than to be just a Republican. Now, it always seemed to be unnecessary to have to be called a Progressive Republican because the fact that a man was a Republican was a guarantee that he believed in progress, for the history of the Republican party is the history of the growth and progress our country has made, since the days of the Civil War, and it is the history of Kansas, as well, whose birth was co-incident with the birth of the Republican party. Now, what is genuine, real progressive Republicanism? Is it the adoption of every new fad that is offered by ambitious men, discarding old and well established principles of government? I do not believe every new law that is proposed is necessarily a good law. I feel sure you can take a step backward just as easily as you can forward. And going back is worse than standing still.

"The best and only real test of any new departure is that it brings greater happiness and prosperity to our people or lessens the cost of government without lessening its efficiency.

"If being progressive means that we are to substitute a pure democracy for our constitutional representative government, then I am not a progressive and I declare the word a misnomer, for pure democracy is as old as history and no nation has survived the experiment.

"Representative government, under constitutional limitations is the legacy that has come to us through the wisdom of the ages and I

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deplore any attempt that will in any way lessen its efficiency and permanency. The initiative and referendum, the recall of judges, all, it seems to me, are assaults against the bulwark of constitutional government.

"Mexico is now giving a living example of the initiative and referendum and while they don't seem to be getting any nearer a settlement of the deplorable conditions down there, perhaps they are not fully advised of what is in the mind of some of our progressive statesmen and I take the liberty to suggest to T. R. and Old Bill White and those who believe with them, the world of opportunity that is afforded by the conditions in Mexico and that missionaries are needed down there more than we need agitators up here. Catchy expressions, either of commendation or condemnation, should not carry conviction, unless justified by facts and experience.

"Occasionally I hear a man say: 'I am independent in politics. I belong to no party. I wear no party collar and pay no attention to party leadership or party organization.' He is just one peg better than the man who pays no attention to politics at all, who never attends the primary or votes, but who accepts all the blessings of government and howls about high taxes. This man is, in my judgment, a failure as a citizen. But this independent voter gets chesty and struts around and often really imagines he is some statesman of high class, progressive type. To this independent voter, I want to say in all kindness, it is my opinion, based upon careful observation, that you amount to about as much in emphasizing ideals into law, as the bushwhacker did in winning battles in the great rebellion. The bushwhacker, if he shot right, might have done some good. But remember the great battles that have been fought and won in history that have changed the map of the world and the trend of civilization, have been won through organized effort and concerted action.

"The Republican party has met and defeated many so-called progressive principles in the past and in each defeat the wheels of human progress have turned forward and the nation's life has been placed upon a higher plane and a more permanent basis.

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"I might mention the settlement by the stern arbitration of the sword the question "whether the United States of America was a great sovereign power or whether she was simply a federation of states in compact to be broken at will." When the progressive proposition of the greenbackers was advocated that money was simply the fiat of law, The Republican party settled the controversy by resuming specie payment. When another great progressive measure was advocated by one who admits that he is one of the most progressive of the progressive, namely the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the God-given ratio of 16 to 1, the Republican party declared for the gold standard, and thereby maintained the nation's honor.

"I mention these things to show that all is not gold that glistens and all is not progress that is called progressive. No, my hearers, there are certain principles of life and correct living that are fundamental and which will never be improved on.

"The golden rule, the ten commandments, the sermon on the mount, are unamended parts of our Christian civilization as much today as when they were uttered long centuries ago, and I believe that representative government, within constitutional limits, is our inheritance from the wisdom of the centuries that are past.

"For this the Republican party has stood for more than half a century. It has given every piece of legislation here in Kansas, and the nation as well, that makes for national progress and the happiness and welfare of all the people.

"Upon this record the Republican party will in 1916 go before the American people and ask to be maintained."

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