

A GOOD POLITICAL CREED.

In accepting the Democratic nomination for Congress in 1884, Gen. Black said:

I believe in a government simple, efficient, inexpensive – one devoid of pomp and display, expending its wealth for the good rather than the empty glory of the people; one that is administered with the least expense consistent with efficiency and safety, and that shall exercise its ultimate powers of taxation only for the governmental needs. If this be a true rule, then the various economic and financial questions that arise may surely be adjusted in accordance therewith.

I do not believe it to be a proper function of government to tax the whole people for the especial benefit or bounty of any class of the people who have not been service rendered to themselves can never entitle those who perform them to taxation in aid.

I do not believe that any system of industry or investment established in pursuance of law, even on a false basis should be exposed to reckless or sudden change in governmental policy. The true rule should be applied and necessary changes made by such gradual processes as to enable those who have invested labor or capital, to conform to such true rules with the largest practical notice and the least possible loss. I believe in wise, steady, sensible reduction of taxation.

It goes without saying by me who have been so largely benefited by the pension system of the Government, that its great functions should be used for worthy veterans, their dependent fathers and mothers, and those widowed and orphaned by the sword and the sad exigencies of war, so that to those entitled thereto the aid extended by a grateful people shall be fairly and equitably paid, as partial compensation for loss of health and natural support. I believe that the fact that a man has been accepted by the Government as a soldier after a due examination by a Government surgeon, should be conclusive as to his physical soundness at that time.

Labor and capital should be the recipients of just treatment; no man and no government can thrive by inequity. Capital has always efficient methods for securing its voice in national affairs; labor may well ask that full and especial regard be paid to its interest and especial efforts should be made to remove from all fields of competition convict contract labor or imported contract labor.

I believe that every unearned or forfeited acre of public land should revert to the Government and that all the public domain not fairly granted away, should be reserved to actual settlers; that the entire system of land grants to corporations is a mistake in policy and wrong in results; and that all the ungranted lands still within Government control should be held in sacred trust for the people.

I believe that honest is the only true policy for men and officers and Governments; that the representatives of the people should closely guard their interests; that a Congressman is a watchman as well as a law-maker; and that he should exercise the full powers of his high position to prevent fraud, check imposition, reduce expenses, restore the old-time tests of capacity and honesty. I do not believe that any man has the right to vote for or against any measure wherein he is financially concerned, directly or indirectly.

I am for such a tariff as will raise the necessary revenues to pay the Government expenses and obligations.

I hold with the United States Supreme Court that nay system or scheme that raises one dollar more than this is robbery.

I hold that in the levying of this tariff it should be so adjusted as to afford the most benefit to the American laborer and investor, having in view always the Government.

It should never be so levied as to foster monopolies or put the American people at the mercy of combination, protected in their outrageous plans by the tariff.