The first pledge was reassessment, which the people for years had been demanding. How the Democratic party refused compliance with this demand may be briefly stated. In 1887 such a measure was promised in its platform. A bill was introduced in the Legislature of 1888, but was never reported by the committee. In 1889 the Democrats again pledged themselves to reassessment. The Legislature of 1890 passed such a measure, which was vetoed. In 1891 they once more promised it. The bill was passed, but the Governor refused to sign it. In 1893 their platform again made a reassessment pledge. A bill was introduced in the Democratic Legislature of 1894, but was defeated.

The Reassessment Law.

After the many failures of the Democratic party to redeem its pledges and place upon the statute books this remedial legislation, that duty was entrusted to the Republican party. It was promptly met and fulfilled in the enactment of the reassessment law of 1896. This law accomplished an equalization of the burden of taxation. In Baltimore city alone sixty millions of stocks and bonds were assessed under the uniform tax of 30 cents on the hundred dollars, while the entire basis in the State has been increased eighty million.

Conduct Of Elections.

No less marked is the contrast between the Republican and Democratic conduct of elections. For many years up to and including 1895 elections in Maryland were a shame and a reproach to the State. Fraud was flagrantly practiced, citizens of high standing were, as at the last State election, knocked down, beaten, shot at and driven from the polls, and there was no assurance that the result was a true reflection of the will of the people. The first election under Republican auspices, held in 1896, was the most orderly within memory, and not a single serious breach of the peace occurred. It was a fair vote and an honest count. That this is true can be quickly shown by a comparison of the newspaper headlines over the account of the election in 1895 with those of 1896.

In 1895 the headings were: "Rowdyism Rampant;" "Roughing the Seventeenth Ward as in Plug-Ugly Days;" "Many Voters Knocked Down;" "Some Were Kicked and Not a Few Were Shot."

In 1896 the headings were: "New Law a Success;" "Privacy, Secrecy, Good Order and General Satisfaction to All Honest Voters;" "Heelers' Occupation Gone. Kept at a Safe Distance From the Polls, His Influence Has Departed."

The history of this fair election law is instructive. As early as 1884 a bill was presented to the General Assembly by the Reform League of Baltimore city, but the measure was not even considered. In 1886 the same association presented a bill similar to the law now in force, but it failed of passage, only two members voting in its favor. Again, in 1888, a bill was introduced, but was rejected without any consideration whatever. In the Legislature of 1890 a so-called reform measure was passed, which, while it reduced materially the expense of the Democratic campaign managers, did not eliminate any of the fraudulent practices. In 1895 the Republican platform pledged the party to the enactment of a law under the provisions of which a free and fair expression of popular opinion might be had. The redemption of this pledge is found in the election law of 1896. Along this line of reform I pledge myself to advocate such changes as will reduce corruption to a minimum and further secure a free and untrammeled exercise of the franchise. To that end I think it would be advisable to enact a bill similar to what is known as the Corrupt Practices act, which has worked well in other States.

Tobacco Warehouses.

One of the most signal reforms was that wrought in the tobacco warehouses. Upon my recommendation, the Legislature of 1898 passed a law whereby these warehouses, instead of remaining a burden on the State, became contributors to the State treasury, and have yielded a surplus greater than ever before.

State Finances.

The management of the State's finances has been such as cannot fail to commend itself to the people of the State. At the beginning of the Republican administration in 1896 the net debt of the State was $3,005,253.13. During the four years this debt has been reduced to $2,597,042.95, showing a decrease of $408,210.18.

Judiciary And School System.

It is especially important that the influence of politics should not be felt in the judiciary and the public schools. This principle I have earnestly sought to put into practice in the face of many years of contrary precedent. In 1892 the power of appointment of the school boards was taken from the judges of the various judicial circuits and placed in the hands of the Governor for the purpose of converting the boards into party agencies, so that when I assumed office in but two counties did they bear a semblance of Republican representation.

While there has been no law enacted to exclude politics from the management of the schools, the matter has been largely met by me by giving minority representation on all boards, and to this policy I propose to adhere. At the same time, I shall recommend to the next Legislature the passage of such a measure covering this point, and also a substantial increase in the compensation of school teachers.

Other Reforms.

In these several notable instances the Republican party has shown its willingness to meet the rights of the people, but it has not stopped there. Its progressive spirit is further illustrated by the passage of a free school-book law, increased appropriations for education and charitable purposes, the creation of teachers' and farmers' institutes, the establishment of a geological survey, a department for the destruction of agricultural pests, an immigration bureau, the betterment of reformatory institutions, the care of the insane and a general toning up of all the departments of state.

Police Reorganization.

I stand upon the strong and broad platform adopted by our convention, and would not take away a single plank of the same. It is well known that at the last session of the Legislature I favored the passage of the Putzel bill for the reorganization of the Police Department of Baltimore city. I asked the aid of certain Democratic Senators, among them two of the distinguished gentlemen who are on the opposing ticket, to favor the passage of that measure, but they would agree to no bill which did not include a bipartisan board, and even this scheme was repudiated by Democratic members generally.

Today I am in favor of what is known as the Reform League measures for the reorganization of the department. If our party is successful, then those measures will be enacted.

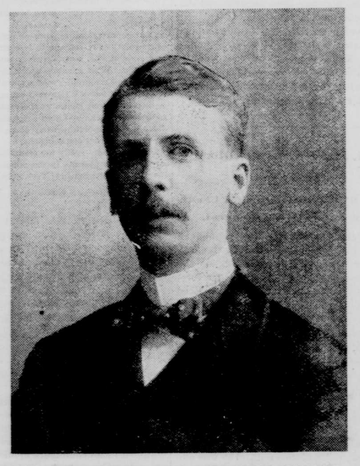
The Oyster And Crab Industry

Is one of the most important in the State. Much has been accomplished already for the protection of that large and worthy class of citizens who are engaged in this occupation. Their rights and privileges should be carefully guarded, and no legislation enacted inconsistent with the pledges of the Republican party in 1895 and reaffirmed this year.

Appointments To Office.

In making the large number of appointments to office which is a part of my prerogative, if elected, I shall follow the same rule that I have observed—namely, that "public office is a public trust." While the opinion of the Executive in the consideration of applicants must necessarily be influenced by the character of the recommendation, after an appointment has been made I shall not hesitate promptly to remove an incumbent whose unfitness for his position has been shown. I shall, therefore, expect all those who may receive appointments from me to do their full duty, without regard to political favors of any kind.

In conclusion, gentlemen of the committee, I can only say that during my entire administration of the great trust committed to my care four years ago I have been actuated by a desire to do what was best for the people of the entire State, regardless of party affiliations. My record is before the people, and should they choose again to intrust me at the head of the State, my future course will be guided by the same motives, and I shall have the experience of my past official career to aid me in performing my duties to the best interests of the State.



HON. PHILLIPS LEE GOLDSBOROUGH.

MR. GOLDSBOROUGH'S LETTER

The Candidate For Comptroller Accepts And Reviews The Record Of The Last Four Years.

Mr. Phillips Lee Goldsborough's letter, which was also addressed to Mr. Pearre, was as follows:

I am grateful for the honor offered by the Republican party in tendering me a renomination for the office of Comptroller, and am conscious of the broad responsibilities that follow the acceptance thereof.

These responsibilities I accept, and, should the voters of Maryland see fit to bestow upon me the office for which I have been nominated, it shall be my aim to so administer the trust that it shall be said the interests thus committed to my charge have been well and faithfully kept. The Republican party, in its platform of 1895, distinctly pledged its nominees to great and needed reforms in the government of Maryland. The leading papers of the State warmly indorsed the utterances of the Cambridge platform, and fearlessly fought for the supremacy of that party. In this battle for "good government" the independent Democratic voters of Maryland stood side by side with the Republican party. It cannot be that the memories of the struggle of November 5, 1895, have passed from the minds of those who did yeomanry service upon that day, and did it cheerfully, though the danger was not light, that Maryland might be lifted from that political thraldom which had darkened her fair escutcheon for years past. I need not particularize; the memory of those days and political deeds still live, and it cannot be, nay, it is not so, that those who rescued this State from the hands of those who had not properly executed the trusts reposed in them will permit the work then done to be now undone.

Pledges Kept.

The pledges of four years ago have been kept; the ref[illegible] been accomplished —yes, every [illegible] nd the people of Maryland [illegible] now know that during t[illegible] of Governor Lownde[illegible] ur years of good, [illegible] ally, but at the sa[illegible] ministered. Upon [illegible] and ready and v[illegible] t our distingui[illegible] s, and if that r[illegible] n and disgrace [illegible] that is retardin[illegible] and causing a [illegible] every Republican [illegible] s charged by the [illegible] for Attorney-Gen[illegible] I say that we who [illegible] by the Republican [illegible] are not entitled to the [illegible] son of Maryland. But, le[illegible] hat that record is, upon what proof this "terrible indictment" is framed and found. Was it an act of "degradation" and "disgrace" to pass a reassessment law, a free school-book law? Was a "reign of terror" brought about in Baltimore city and throughout the State by the enactment of an "election law?" Was not the "reign of terror" spoken of something that existed prior to and in 1895? Did the passage of a law giving to Baltimore city a new charter bring about this "disgrace" which this gentleman refers to? If these be the counts of the indictment to which the Republican party must plead, then I say we are guilty, for it was that party which placed those laws upon the statute books of Maryland. But may I not ask, has not the wrong political party been accused, and should not the Democratic party be indicted for not having years ago adopted reform measures which the people of the State were justly demanding?

But of these reform measures, these pillars of good government which the Republican party has builded in the past four years, I shall not write in detail, but will confine myself to the operations of the Treasury Department of the State, over one branch of which I have had the honor to preside for the last two years, and which, for two years immediately preceding, were under the direction of another Republican official, the Hon. Robert P. Graham, thus covering four years of Republican administration.

Reduction Of State Debt.

At the close of the fiscal year September, 1895, we find that the net debt of the State was $3,005,253.13, while at the close of the fiscal year 1899 the net debt was $2,597,042.95, or a reduction in four years under present administration of $408,210.18, notwithstanding in the meantime the Legislatures of 1896 and 1898 increased the State debt $1,200,000 for the purpose of rebuilding the Maryland Penitentiary, entire new buildings at the Second Hospital for the Insane and additional buildings at the Maryland House of Correction, namely:

Maryland Penitentiary.....	$800,000.00
Second Hospital for Insane....	320,000.00
Maryland House of Correction.	80,000.00
Total.....	$1,200,000.00

Had not the Legislatures above mentioned increased the debt as aforesaid by $1,200,000 the actual reduction in favor of Republican administration would have been $1,608,210.18.

Cash Carried To Sinking Funds.

Now, let us compare the transfers of actual cash collected from the direct State tax of 7¼ cents under Democratic administration, and reduced under Republican administration to 5¼ cents, the other 2 cents of State tax being levied, collected and paid for free school books. By such comparison we find that under Democratic administration, for the years 1892, 1893, 1894 and 1895, there was carried to the several sinking funds the sum of $974,281.35. In addition to this a further sum of $248,343.32 was carried by them to the said sinking funds, but this latter sum was obtained from the General Government of the United States, sale of State property and collection of the amount due on the bond of a State official, instead of by direct taxation, and, therefore, cannot be used in this comparison. Under Republican administration for the years 1896, 1897, 1898 and 1899 there has been carried to the sinking funds the sum of $1,139,051, or an actual gain in cash of $164,769.65. The levies for 1892, 1893, 1894 and 1895 embraced the rate of 7¼ cents for State debt, while this rate was reduced in 1896, 1897, 1898 and 1899 to 5¼ cents, the other 2 cents going to free school books, as before mentioned. The sum of $600,000 has been paid for such free school books during the present administration, which, had the levy remained the same as in 1892, 1893, 1894 and 1895, the present Treasury officials could and would have invested in actual cash for the sinking funds, making a difference of $764,769.65 in four years. As it is, they have carried to the sinking funds $164,769.65 more actual cash of the moneys collected, and that, too, with a tax rate of 2 cents less, and there remains in bank to the credit of the State, as of September 30, 1899, the sum of $1,110,231.48.

Public School Tax.

And again. The amounts collected and distributed to public schools for the years 1892-3-4 and '5 aggregate $2,360,985.30, while the amounts so collected and distributed under the present administration for the years 1896-7-8 and '9 are $2,652,008.03, or an increase of $291,022.73—$72,755.68 per annum for the last four years—and besides this there remained to the credit of the public schools at the close of the past fiscal year (1899) a sum not less than $360,000.

Saving In Interest On Public Debt.

In January, 1898, the present Treasury officials of the State, deeming it best to consolidate many of the various loans of the State, inasmuch as the defense redemption loan was then due, and the State having large holdings of its stock recommended and secured the passage of a law commonly known as the "Consolidated Loan of 1898," whereby the said several loans were refunded and consolidated. By such operation the interest on these loans, or the State debt, amounted in 1899 to $237,664.68, as against $280,049.56 in 1895, a saving of $42,384.78. In the year 1900 this charge will only amount to $174,279.78, or a saving of $105,769.78 over 1895.

Interest On Deposits.

Prior to the year 1893 no moneys were earned upon State deposits in banks. Why, I am not sufficiently advised; yet during the years 1896-7-8 and '9 moneys from this source yielded the magnificent sum of $33,376.65. In other words, under the present administration, for the four years past, there has been received $19,584.33, more money than during 30 years of Democratic administration.

Receipts From Licenses.

In the years 1892-3-4 and '5 the receipts from this source amounted to $477,820.08, while during the years 1896-7-8 and '9 the income from this source aggregated $566,904.80, or a gain of $89,125.72.

The Spanish-American War Fund.

Chapter 380, of the acts of 1898, authorized the expenditure of $200,000 for the purpose of arming and equipping the State Militia in the Spanish-American War, yet so economically was this branch of the service administered as to require only an expenditure of $125,000. And it is with pardonable pride, I think, that we point to the fact that every dollar of this money has been paid, without the burden of one cent of taxation. Of this sum $78,153.65 has been refunded by the general Government of the United States, and the condition of the State Treasury has been so good as to warrant the wiping out of the entire balance, viz: $46,846.35, notwithstanding the large amount of cash set aside to the credit of the sinking funds.

Appropriations To Institutions.

By comparison of the amounts paid to said institutions, interesting results are obtained. During the years 1892-3-4 and '5 there was paid from the Treasury to said institutions the sum of $1,491,585.68, as against the sum of $1,717,629.94 for the years 1896-7-8 and '9, or a larger sum by $226,044.26, or an annual increase of $56,511.06. And this, too, with a loss to the Treasury during the last four years of $55,000 per annum, the dividends on the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

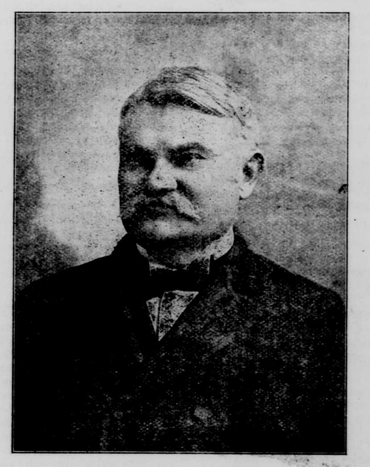
Tax On Corporations' Gross Receipts.

The increase of revenue from this source under the operations of the new assessment law of 1896 has been very marked. The receipts for the years 1892-3-4 and '5 aggregate only the sum of $524,096.99, as against $742,054.14, or an increase of $217,957.15 for the four years of the present administration, notwithstanding the fact that the receipts for the year 1896 amounted to only $118,291.81, being the last year under the old assessment, while the receipts for 1899, under the new assessment law of 1896, aggregated the enormous sum of $260,983.30, or a gain in round numbers of $143,000.

Increase In Taxable Basis.

One of the reforms or measures promised in the Cambridge platform of 1895 was a fair and just assessment law. Therefore, it is with pleasure that I direct and call attention to this covenant so scrupulously kept. Let the figures speak for themselves. In 1896, under the old assessment law of 1876, the basis and tax at 17½ cents was $540,461,747 and $959,319.53, respectively, as against $611,539,646 and $1,085,482.88 for the year 1899, or a gain in basis of $71,077,899, and a gain in tax of $126,163.35, which tax, as well as gain, is specially dedicated to schools, free school books and the sinking funds, thus demonstrating beyond the shadow of a doubt the absolute practicability and wisdom of a reduction of the State tax from 17½ cents to 16 cents, or lower, as contemplated and advocated by the present administration and the present platform of the Republican party.

Contemplating and reviewing such a record—reduction of State debt, augmentation of sinking funds, increase in State revenues, assured decrease in State tax rate—can it be said that the Republican party has not fulfilled and kept in good faith every pledge made to the people? Upon that record we again appeal to the conservative judgment of the citizens of Maryland, who expect and demand a rigid accountability of the trust reposed in public officials, and we feel assured that such an appeal will be nobly answered at the polls in November next. If this be done, then, as were kept the pledges of 1895, so shall be kept the pledges of 1899.



HON. JOHN V. L. FINDLAY.

MR. FINDLAY'S LETTER

In It He Scores Democracy For Attempting To Revive The Race Issue This Year.

I accept the nomination for Attorney-General and, if elected, will endeavor to discharge the duties of a very responsible office to the best of my ability. Rowdyism is always a menace to society, come from what quarter it may, but the logic or propriety of attempting to abate one species of rowdyism by an incitement to another is not altogether clear to my mind. The very essence of rowdyism is the spirit that appeals to race prejudice, at the recent outrageous exhibition of which in another land the civilized world—even in the presence of Dreyfus pardoned—still stands appalled.

The Race Issue.

The Democratic platform, silent upon nearly every other issue, both State and national, utters no uncertain sound on this, and the Democratic candidates have given it their hearty indorsement in order that Maryland may be placed in line with what they are pleased to style our "Sister Southern States." All the States of this Union are sister States of Maryland—those to the North and West of us, as well as the South—and we do not believe that it is either patriotism or policy to attempt to place Maryland on one side of a sectional division. We thought that it was the sentiment of Maryland, as well as elsewhere, that the Spanish War had wiped out Mason and Dixon's line.

Police Reorganization.

As to police reorganization, we are in favor of the principle and the measures that will make the force a nonpartisan organization, an achievement only made possible by Republican success in 1895, and we look with some suspicion upon the promises of the Democratic party, which waited for a generation before it discovered the necessity of this reform, and then only under the compulsion of Republican initiative and leadership.

National Issues.

We believe that whatever concerns the welfare of the United States concerns also the welfare of the respective States, and that it is the duty of the party in its State conventions to plant itself squarely upon the great principles of the party as declared in national conventions, and, for that matter, to take the initiative in giving a proper direction to public opinion. The question whether the gold dollar shall be the standard of monetary value and the ultimate money of redemption of all the fiduciary currencies in circulation vitally affects the dealings between the citizens of any particular State, as well as the dealings between them and the citizens of other States, and it is simply absurd to say that such a question raises a national and not a State issue. The Congress of the United States, of course, can only settle it, but the opinion out of which a proper law upon the subject is to eventually emerge can only be created in the several States. Every Democratic platform, with the exception of Maryland, has a deliverance on this issue, and the Democratic party in Maryland, in its platform of 1895, first declared for gold, and afterward wabbled toward silver, and then took on such a cross-eyed expression toward both gold and silver that no one could tell in which way it was looking. We can respect a man, however much we may differ from him, who believes honestly in what is known as free silver, but we have no respect for a party that is too cowardly to proclaim itself upon the most vital issue of the day and seeks to hide its cowardice in a transparent subterfuge too silly to deceive anyone. The plain truth is that the Democratic party in this State is in no position to make a declaration in favor of the gold standard, for the obvious reason that such a declaration would amount to a repudiation in advance of the platform and the candidate of the national Democracy in 1900. That platform and that candidate is just as certain to declare for free silver, and that candidate is just as sure to be W. J. Bryan, as the Democracy of Maryland will flop over to both platform and candidate when the time comes.

There will be many individual exceptions, of course, as there were in 1896—as some of the Democratic candidates on the State ticket, for example, and others—but the majority of the party, the faithful 100,000, will go that way, and hence it would be rather embarrassing to find themselves committed in advance against their own candidate and that candidate's most cherished creed. At all events we think that there is a much more satisfactory solution of the party's present attitude on the money question than the idle pretext that the doctrine of sound money has no proper place in a State platform.

Questions Before The People.

Just here the question suggests itself: What are the issues which concern the people of this State, and as to which it is proper that they should make a public deliverance? By confession the State administration has done its full duty. No man can say that the law has not been impartially enforced, the revenues faithfully collected and honestly disbursed, the finances put in healthy trim for a further reduction of the public burden, the elections made peaceable and fair, and all things conducted for the honor and welfare of the Commonwealth. If there are no national issues then, because these would be out of place in a State platform, and no State issues, because the government of the State has been so wisely administered as to leave nothing open for serious criticism, then, pray, what are the considerations of sufficiently grave import to induce the people of this State to turn over its government to a party which only four years ago required a revolution, not without blood on its skirts, to displace, and after a prolonged reign of terror and fraud, during which the ballot-box was raped over and over again by murderous rowdies and thugs, whose skins were not black? The single issue proposed by the Democracy is a suggestion that will resurrect this rowdy spirit again, which, under the pretext of opposition to the black man, is only waiting the opportunity to disfranchise both white and black and enter upon a new career of crime and plunder. We do not believe that the sober intelligence of this State can again be betrayed so soon into the folly of permitting a party to play upon prejudices to recover the power of which it was so justly deprived.

Free work is better than free trade, free gold than free silver, and a free and undefiled ballot better than all, and these things can only be had through the agency of the only party which knows its mind for four years at a time. With the principles of this party and with the high aims of the national Administration I am, and have been, in full sympathy and accord, and would regard it as a calamity if Maryland went back to its old wallow with the ring Democracy.

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