THE PLATFORM ADOPTED BY THE MARYLAND DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION

Achievements

We, the representatives of the Democratic party of Maryland, in convention assembled, believe that our strongest claims upon the people of Maryland for the continuance of our administration over State affairs are, first, the constructive achievements of the Democratic party in this our party's administration under Governor Ritchie.

During the last half century there have been only two Republican State administrations. This has not been due to chance. It has been due to a general recognition by the people that the special problems and conditions which confront us in Maryland State affairs can be met through the agency of the Democratic party than through any other.

This involves a party trust, which the record shows we have fulfilled; because it is only the truth to say that during the last 25 years' successive Democratic administrations, through a long series of constructive measures and policies, covering the fields of education, health, roads, labor, agriculture, finance, employment, purchasing—in fact, all governmental activities — have placed our State in a position second to no other, both governmentally and in political ideals and practices.

Our party's record during the present State administration would be an issue in any event, but it will be the more so this time because Governor Ritchie is our candidate for re-election. We are ready to meet that issue and, in order that the people of the State may be fully advised about it, we will proceed to recall the more important achievements which have been accomplished under the present Democratic State administration since it assumed office on January 14, 1920.

We do not refer to the many State activities which, begun under other administrations, are being continued under this one, further than to say that every branch of the State's business is being conducted efficiently and economically and is characterized by the will for conscientious public service. We refer only to those things which can properly be credited to this administration alone.

We do this with as little comment as possible. We simply state the facts and let them speak for themselves.

Sincerity Of Democratic Pledges.

First, however, we ask the people to recall the sincerity with which our party promises have been fulfilled. Our platforms of 1919 and 1921 pledged this administration to many important and constructive measures. Our promises were all made clearly and simply. There was no buncombe about them. They were not made to catch votes. They were made to keep, and they were all of a character which could be kept. For instance, the Republicans promised an increased representation for Baltimore city so large that it was insincere and impossible to secure. We promised a smaller increase, but the largest that was practically obtainable. In no case did we promise more than could be done, and in every case we did what we promised. The sincerity with which we kept these past pledges is the best evidence that we will sincerely keep those contained in this platform.

Record In State Democratic Administration Organization.

The act providing for this became effective January 1, 1923. It has already resulted in much greater coordination and efficiency among the departments of the State government and in a more expeditious and business-like handling of the State's business. It has reduced the number of departments from about 80 to 19, and has brought the heads of these departments into closer contact and cooperation with each other and with the Governor. In addition to considerable direct savings it has enabled departments to handle a much larger volume of business without increased cost and will continue to do so.

Instead of centralizing additional power in the Governor's hands—and the report of the Reorganization Commission shows how much care was taken to avoid this—the act has abolished as unnecessary eight of the major appointments which the Governor previously had. Its benefits will become more and more apparent as time goes on.

Fewer Elections.

This amendment, ratified by the direct vote of the people, will save approximately $350,000 a year in direct taxes for the holding of elections.

The act providing for general registrations in Baltimore city every four years instead of every two years will save approximately $112,000 every four years.

Increased Representation For Baltimore.

The Constitutional amendment providing for this was passed by the Legislature and ratified by the direct vote of the people.

Women.

The political disabilities of women have been removed, and they are now eligible for any elective or appointive office.

State Tax Rate.

When this administration began, in 1920, the State tax rate was 36 31-72 cents. For the fiscal year ending September 30, 1924, the rate is 30 2-13 cents, a decrease of over 6 cents.

This decrease is not offset by increased assessments. Assessments have been increased every year for a great many years and new revenues have been added, too, but the State tax rate has gone up just the same. In 1907 the rate was 16 cents. Since then it has steadily mounted until for 1920 it was over 36 cents. The first year for which this administration fixed the rate was 1921. Assessments were increased that year and new revenues added, but beginning with that year, and in spite of broadened public activities and higher costs, the rate went down, and it has been going down ever

Increased assessments since 1921 have not yielded the State anything like the amount which the tax reductions have saved the taxpayers. While there was an increase in assessments in 1923 over 1921 of 10 per cent. (which included new assessments as well as increases in existing ones), there was a decrease in the State tax rate during the same period of 15 per cent.

Every dollar realized from increased assessments in 1923 and 1924, the period of the present budget, is, or will be, intact in the State Treasury and available for the redemption of the State debt and the further reduction of State taxes, for which purpose alone it will be used by us.

Finance.

In assigning the assessment, insurance, auditing, banking and purchasing departments to the Department of Finance, the Reorganization act has co-ordinated those agencies which relate to the financial activities of the State, and rendered possible closer cooperation and supervision by the Comptroller, who is elected by the people. Each official collecting State money is now required to report monthly instead of quarterly, and collections and disbursements formally made by different departments and institutions are now being centralized as rapidly as possible in the Comptroller's office.

As part of the reorganization, the task of discovering instances where inadequate license fees were paid was assigned to the Comptroller's department, and this has resulted in adding at least $50,000 annually to the revenues of the State.

Public Schools.

The rapid progress and development of our public school system under this administration is known to everyone.

In 1918 Maryland's index number of school efficiency, according to Ayres, was 43.02, and we ranked thirty-fourth among the States. In 1922 Maryland's index number was 65.1. With this rating in 1918 Maryland would have ranked fifth among the States. It is, however, not possible to give our actual advance in rating since 1918, because the comparative figures have not been compiled.

At Teachers' College, Columbia University, 1923 summer session, Maryland was cited and recognized as having the best school legislation and the most promising type of effective school administration and supervision in the whole country.

Among important specific accomplishments may be mentioned:

Students in the normal schools increased from 181 in 1920 to 725 in 1923; graduates from 59 to 320. Additional dormitories at Towson and Frostburg and new normal school at Salisbury provided.

Large increase in first grade certificate teachers. Salaries more nearly adequate and made equal to those of the adjoining Northern States and the District of Columbia. Teacher training developed through free extension courses, classroom supervision and free summer courses.

School attendance increased by 17,700 from 1920 to 1923.

High school increased in number from 86 in 1920 to 147 in 1923.

County rally days and athletic meet held in every county. Fifteen thousand five hundred and seventy-seven children were examined physically and 24,016 defects corrected by local family physicians in 1921-1922.

A State equalization fund was provided and apportioned among those counties which cannot, with a 67-cent tax rate, carry the State program, and State help to the counties with respect to high school, textbooks and other matters was increased.

Agriculture.

In addition to carrying on and expanding the State's regular agricultural activities, such as county demonstration, extension service and experiment station, the following are some of the recent accomplishments:

Modern legislation passed on the subject of co-operative marketing, and special aid extended to dairymen, tobacco growers, tomato growers, canners and various commodities along co-operative lines.

The work of eradicating tuberculosis from dairy herds in Maryland practically started with the present administration, and 45,000 head of dairy cattle have been tested.

Liberal legislation passed for cooperative drainage of farm lands.

Maryland has been the first State to complete a survey of its soil, and it is now possible to plan crop rotations and to classify farm lands with respect to their best utility.

Greatly needed legislation passed governing the sale and ingredients of fertilizers.

Dairy and animal husbandry farm, with dairy manufacturing laboratory provided.

Southern Maryland Immigration Commission.

Roads And Bridges.

At the close of this administration 706 miles of new roads will have been built, bringing Maryland's road mileage from 1,646 miles to 2,352 miles. This constitutes 18 per cent. of the total road mileage of the State, and no other State has as much as 7 per cent. completed. By the close of this year the primary and secondary systems as laid down by the Federal Aid act will have been entirely completed.

The road system has been efficiently maintained and the laying of concrete shoulders introduced. Sixty miles of these have been laid, increasing the width from 14 to 20 feet and assuring protection to the roadbed.

The new Severn River bridge will be shortly completed, the Susquehanna River bridge has been taken over and 14 one-way bridges on main lines have been reconstructed so as to carry three lines of traffic.

Snow plows have been introduced with the result that every State road is kept in condition for travel every day of the year and practically $200,000 a year is saved in spring repair work.

Prior to this administration there were no direction and distance signs. Now every State highway is marked with them.

Maintenance deficit, $1,179,555.07, due to inadequate maintenance appropriations in former years and to changing fiscal year, wiped out through gasoline tax.

Roads marked with white bands at grades and curves; culverts and obstructions whitewashed; camp sites established.

The $1,000,000 Robert Crain Highway, designed to make Baltimore instead of Washington the trade center for Southern Maryland, has been provided for and construction begun.

Department Of Welfare.

1. PENAL INSTITUTIONS—

The re-organization of the Penitentiary and the House of Correction has been complete.

Both institutions have been combined under one warden. This makes them mutually supporting, the farm at the House of Correction supplying both prisons and the Penitentiary furnishing skilled labor when needed at the House of Correction. The transfer of prisoners is now possible on a selective basis.

The State-use system has been inaugurated, embracing a shoe shop which makes all shoes for the inmates of State institutions; a printing shop for State departments; a furniture factory and an automobile tag factory which is making the tags for this State and will be able to take orders from elsewhere.

A committee of the leading physicians of Maryland has prescribed and approved the diet at both institutions and the same committee has re-organized the medical supervision and hospital treatment, with consultant specialists, trained nurses and social service workers.

2. INSTITUTIONS FOR THE INSANE—

Building for criminal insane constructed at Spring Grove; new infirmary at Rosewood; epileptic colony at Springfield; new building for colored insane at Crownsville.

Transfer by January 1, 1924, of all insane patients (approximately 250) from Bay View to State hospitals.

Training schools for nurses inaugurated at Springfied and Spring Grove.

Mental hygiene clinics established for preventive purposes by free treatment of incipient mental cases.

Workmen's Compensation And Mines.

The Workmen's Compensation law was redrafted and liberalized by the Legislature in 1920 as an administrative measure, two of the most important changes being a substantial increase in the allowances and reduction of the waiting period from two weeks to three days. In 1919 4,275 claims were filed with the commission. In 1922 there were filed 11,290 claims.

The Mining Code was adopted as an administrative measure by the Legislature of 1922. This code gives Maryland miners the benefit of the most modern and humane laws as to health and safety, and ends a 20-year controversy between operators and miners.

Schools in mining organized at Barton, Cumberland and Frostburg.

University Of Maryland.

Creation by Legislature of 1920 of State University through consolidation of Maryland Agricultural College with University of Maryland.

In addition to agricultural activities the following may be mentioned:

BALTIMORE CITY—New dental clinic, new quarters for accident cases, handling an average of 11 cases daily; development of pharmacy activities, organization of business and commercial schools.

COLLEGE PARK — New science hall, gymnasium, assembly hall and athletic field, engineering research department, new and improved housing accommodations for both boy and girl students.

Department Of Health.

Tuberculosis clinics established.

Venereal disease clinics increased from 4 to 16.

Anti-rabic treatment, 2,562 treatments given and every life saved.

Other communicable diseases, 132,056 investigated.

Bacteriological laboratories established at Hagerstown, Frederick and Hurlock for assistance of physicians. These facilities available now for practically all physicians in the State.

Medical inspection of school children under way in eight counties and being extended.

Washington county public health demonstration unit established.

Water and sewerage sanitary plans for 11 towns and State institutions studied and approved.

Bureau provided for enforcement of drug laws.

Public health nurses increased from 9 in 1920 to 32, and deputy State health officers from 5 to 10.

Bureau of Child Hygiene.

Care Of The Tubercular.

In addition to the maintenance of the best white tuberculosis sanatorium in the country, near Sabillasville, the Colored Tuberculosis Hospital at Henrytown will be finished and opened this fall and the reconstruction and enlargement of Pine Bluff Sanatorium has been provided for.

Delinquent Boys And Girls.

Cottage system at Maryland Training School for Boys considerably enlarged.

Maryland Industrial Training School for Girls (Montrose) removed from Baltimore city to 340-acre farm near Reisterstown, with mansion building and two cottages.

Both institutions made part of the Department of Education under the Reorganization act, so as to dissociate their youthful inmates from the penal or reformatory idea.

Merit System.

Became effective January 1, 1921, and its application has been extended by executive order until it includes 85 per cent of the 3,000 State employes. This means practically all of them except the Governor's appointments, nearly all of these being policy-forming heads of departments, teachers of the State University, as to whom the best judges [illegible] that the right of free selection should exist, and road repair men, who are day laborers. The administration of the department is regarded by civil service authorities as second to none in the country.

State Purchasing Agent.

This department is now operating in entire co-operation with every other department and institution. As reliable a check as it has been possible to make shows a minimum average saving on annual purchases, due to this department, of 10 per cent, or $100,000 a year.

Public Utilities.

The Public Service Commission, in its decision in the Baltimore city gas and electric rate case, saved consumers over $1,300,000 a year. Baltimore's gas rate is now the lowest on the Eastern seaboard and the company's credit is unimpaired.

The commission has aided in securing good electric light and power service at reasonable rates to many sections of the State. It consummated the plan whereby the Kensington and Sandy Spring Railway was taken over by the Capitol Traction Company, thus assuring through service to Washington. It aided in the continuance of natural gas service to the Cumberland and elsewhere in Western Maryland when the abandonment of that service was threatened.

Baltimore Police Department.

Substitution of a single commissioner for the old board of three and reorganization of the entire department on a metropolitan basis.

National Guard.

The end of the World War left the States without any National Guard at all. The organization of Maryland's National Guard, to its peacetime basis of 3,326 men, has been practically completed.

County armories placed under control of local commissions.

Governor's civilian staff abolished.

Forestry And Fire Prevention.

Called first interstate fire prevention conference in the country, which resulted in a permanent committee in this and other States and a national conference and nation-wide movement against fire loss.

Legislation passed for conservation of forest resources and State demonstrations in reforesting waste lands.

Soldiers And Sailors' Memorial Building.

The $1,000,000 Soldiers and Sailors' Memorial Building, adjoining the City Hall Plaza, Baltimore, to which the State has contributed $400,000, will shortly be completed.

Pledges Of The Democratic Party

We pledge our party to an efficient, conscientious and economical administration of the State Government in all its branches.

Taxation.

The State tax rate having been reduced over 6 cents during this administration, we pledge our party to such further decrease as the most rigid but sensible economy will make possible.

In addition to the eight major offices abolished by the Reorganization act we promise the elimination of all other offices and positions which can in any way be dispensed with without harm to the public service.

We promise that every dollar realized from increased assessments in 1923 and 1924, the period of the present budget, shall be applied solely to the redemption of the State debt and the reduction of State taxes.

Further Legislation.

We pledge our party to the passage of no laws which are burdensome to or unduly regulatory of the public, or which create new offices which are not shown to be essential.

State Reorganization.

We promise that the State reorganization plan, which became effective January 1, 1923, shall be faithfully carried out, so that its great possibilities for increased efficiency and economy shall be realized to the full.

In particular we call attention to the fact that under the reorganization plan the State Auditor's office was reorganized and put upon a full-time basis as of January 1, 1923, with the purpose that every department of the State Government and every institution handling State funds shall be audited at least once a year, which was not possible before, and if experience during the present year shows that the State Auditor's force is still not sufficient to make such annual audits, then we promise such additional legislation as may be necessary to accomplish that purpose.

Public Schools.

We pledge our party to the continuous support, both moral and financial, of the public school system, to the end that Maryland may assume her rightful place in education among the States, which she is now well under way to do.

Roads And Bridges.

We pledge our party to the adequate maintenance and reconstruction of the State road system, and to its further extension under the post and lateral road-fund plans.

We promise that after the expenses of administering the Motor Vehicle Department and the Traffic Court have been deducted, the proceeds then remaining from motor vehicle license fees and from gasoline taxes shall be applied exclusively to the maintenance, reconstruction and widening of State roads, 20 per cent. to Baltimore city and 80 per cent. to the State Roads Commission.

We promise adequate provision to continue necessary bridge building; the removal of all one-way bridges as soon as practicable, and proper provision which will enable the State, in conjunction with the railroads, to eliminate dangerous grade crossings on State highways as rapidly as practicable.

We promise reciprocity with the District of Columbia as to Automobile licenses as soon after January 1, 1924, as a proper reciprocal agreement can be made, said date being the earliest time when under Maryland law, the same can be granted by this State.

We will make the bridge over the Susquehanna river at Havre de Grace toll free.

By applying the proceeds of the existing gasoline tax to the reduction of motor vehicle license fees, as provided by the act passed by the Legislature of 1922, we will cause 1924 automobile license fees to be reduced from 60 cents per horsepower to approximately 30 cents per horsepower.

Agriculture.

We pledge our party to the continuance and proper extension of the State's agricultural activities in all branches, and when the non-partisan Agricultural Commission appointed by the Governor recommends its program for the development of agriculture in Maryland, we will give all the aid we can, consistent with the public good, to put that program into effect.

We pledge our party to such appropriations as will be sufficient, with the aid received from the Federal Government, to eradicate tuberculosis from all Maryland dairy herds before the close of the next State administration.

University Of Maryland.

We recognize the importance of the University of Maryland as a State agency in direct touch with agriculture and other industries and the professions, and we favor its proper development as a sound business investment for the benefit of the people.

Prisons And Care Of Insane.

In the State hospitals for the insane and feeble-minded, and in the two penal institutions the State, through the Department of Welfare and through the boards of trustees who are so freely volunteering their time and service, is engaged in the work of rebuilding manhood and womanhood, of re-establishing character and of caring for those afflicted by mental disease; and we pledge our party to carry on faithfully the trust thus assumed and to enact appropriate legislation for such additional facilities as may be required for the full performances of this task.

Health.

We pledge our party to stimulate the establishment of adequate local sanitary governments in those counties which need and desire the same; to extend the tuberculosis clinic service until every citizen in the State is able to secure prompt examination and advice; to complete the bacteriological laboratory service by establishing one more branch laboratory; to do all that can be done to secure a safe milk supply to every citizen of the State; to provide for adequate inspection of all meat for human consumption; reasonable extension of the public nursing service.

Women And Children.

We pledge our party to the passage of such legislation as may be needed to better the conditions of women in industry and to improve and modernize our State system of child care.

The latter field is now being studied by a commission appointed by the Governor pursuant to act of the last Legislature.

We favor such legislation as will enable women to register for voting purposes upon stating simply that they are over 21 years of age.

Conservation.

We pledge our party to the policy of State purchase of oyster shells for the replenishing of our oyster beds. We advocate legislation prohibiting seed oysters being taken from the State. We favor legislation appropriate to stop pollution of the Chesapeake Bay and other waters and tributaries.

We favor an adequate program for the protection and propagation of the game fishes of the fresh waters of the State.

State Armories.

The State's plan for constructing additional armories at Hagerstown, Centreville, Cumberland, Silver Spring, Crisfield, Easton and Kensington was made dependent by the last Legislature upon the sale of the old Fourth Regiment Armory lot in Baltimore city, and could not be carried out because this lot could not be sold. We pledge our party to such legislation as will assure the building of State armories at each above-named cities, and also necessary improvements at the Field Artillary Barracks at Pikesville, the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore and the One Hundredth and Fourth Medical Regiment Armory in Baltimore, and proper provision to aid in the continuance of the Air Service Flying Field now located at Dundalk.

State Purchasing Department.

We favor the establishment of warehousing facilities for the storage of merchandise purchased under favorable market conditions, thereby insuring greater economy and better inspection than is possible when purchases are limited by the storage facilities of the using authorities.

States' Rights And Prohibition.

The fundamental principle of the Democratic party has always been that overcentralization of power in the Federal Government and Federal invasions of the rights of the States are destructive of our form of government and of the liberties of our people.

The provisions of the Volstead act constitute a clear departure from this principle of government, and we believe appropriate steps should be taken by Congress to turn the subject back to the States, so that each State, within constitutional limitations, may have the opportunity of settling it in accordance with the wishes of its own people; and until that time we believe that the Volstead act should be amended so as to permit the manufacture and sale of beer and light wine where permitted by local law.

As long as the Eighteenth Amendment is part of the Constitution we recognize, of course, that it should be upheld and respected. We are forced, however, to realize that the existence of the Volstead act has caused a disregard for law and order and a degree of actual lawlessness unparalleled in this country. Particularly is this the case in those States where the Volstead act, lacking popular support, has nevertheless, been enacted as a State measure. As long, therefore, as the Federal Government elects to interpret and enforce the Eighteenth Amendment in Maryland through the Volstead act we feel that the responsibility for such enforcement here should rest on the Federal Government alone; and we, therefore, believe that the task of enforcing the provisions of the Volstead act should not be assumed by this State.

This does not mean that we depart in the slightest degree from full recognition of the right of the people of the various political units of the State to secure from the Legislature and approve at the polls such prohibition laws as they deem best for the respective counties and communities in which they live. This is the Democratic principle of home rule, which has been many times exercised in Maryland. The Maryland Court of Appeals has held that the local laws thus passed and approved are still in force. While, therefore, we do not approve the Volstead act as an enforcement measure in this State, we favor the strict enforcement of these various State local laws and such amendments thereto as may from time to time be adopted.

Conclusion.

The pledges of this platform will be faithfully and fully executed if the Democratic party is continued in control of the State administration.

The State candidates, Albert C. Ritchie, of Baltimore City, but now a resident of Annapolis under the Constitution, for re-election as Governor; Thomas H. Robinson, of Harford county, for Attorney-General; William S. Gordy, Jr., of Wicomico county, for re-election as Comptroller, and James A. Young, of Allegany county, for Clerk of the Court of Appeals, are the unanimous choices of our party.

Upon this platform and with these candidates we submit our cause to the people.

Tolchester Company



CHANGE OF SCHEDULE
(Weather Permitting)
SASSAFRAS RIVER LINE
(In Effect 2.45 p. m. Sept. 4, 1923.)

Mondays and Wednesdays steamer will leave Fredericktown at 6.30 a. m., Betterton 7.45 a. m., Worton Manor 8.45 a. m., Tolchester 9.45 a. m.

Tuesdays and Saturdays, steamer will leave Baltimore at 2.45 p. m. for all the above landings. (Does not stop at Tolchester on Saturdays.)

PORT DEPOSIT AND HAVRE DE GRACE LINE
(In Effect 2.45 p. m. September 5. 1923.
Express Service.)

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, steamer will leave Port Deposit at 6.30 a. m., Havre de Grace at 7.00 a. m., Betterton 8.15 a. m., Tolchester (except Saturdays) 9.45 a. m.

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, steamer will leave Baltimore at 2.45 p. m. for Tolchester, Betterton, Havre de Grace and Port Deposit.

TOLCHESTER SATURDAYS
(Effective Sept. 8, 1923.)

Leave Tolchester 9 a. m. and 4.45 p. m.

Leave Baltimore 7 a. m. and 2.45 p. m.

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" Utility Coupe - -	640.00
" Sedan - - - - -	795.00
" Commercial Chassis -	395.00
" Light delivery - -	495.00
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