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PLAN OF ORGANIZATION AND ACTION.

WHEELING, W. VA., JULY 25TH, 1870.

Dear Sir:—

On the fourth Thursday of October next, an election of very great importance to the people of West Virginia occurs.

In each township of the State, the voters will be called upon to choose—

- One Supervisor;
- Two Inspectors of Elections;
- One Township Treasurer;
- One Township Clerk,
- One Overseer of the Poor;
- One School Commissioner;
- Justices of the Peace;
- Constables;
- Surveyors of Roads, &c., &c.

In each County of this State there is to be elected

- One Sheriff;
- One Clerk of the Courts;
- One Recorder;
- One Prosecuting Attorney;
- One County Surveyor;
- One or more Assessors;

A full House of Delegates is also to be chosen, together with one member of the Senate from each Senatorial District. Upon this body will involve the very grave duty of selecting

One United States Senator,

To represent West Virginia in the upper Branch of Congress, for the term of six years.

In each of the three Congressional Districts, the people will elect

One Member of Congress;

And in the State at large,

- A Governor;
- A Judge of the Supreme Court of Appeals!
- A Treasurer of State;
- A Secretary of State;
- An Auditor of State;
- An Attorney General.

To show that it is clearly within the power of the Democracy to fill a large majority of the above-named offices at the approaching election, we need only refer to the fact that we have been steadily and rapidly gaining upon the Radical party at every election since our partial organization in 1864, until at the last election we actually carried the State on the popular vote by about 1,200 majority, and carried a majority of the Supervisors in two-thirds of the counties of the State.

The popular current is so strongly set against Proscription and Heavy Taxation, as to insure a most overwhelming victory to the friends of Progress, Liberty and Economy, at the next election, if we will but work with system and energy.

Every reasonable effort should be made—

First. To win to our cause as many of the voters as we can by appeals to their reason, virtue and patriotism ; beginning our efforts NOW, and continuing those efforts wisely, persistently, and effectively until the election.

Secondly. To secure as full as possible an attendance at the polls, of the friends of the cause. At our last general election, nearly 20 per cent. of the members of our party who could have Registered, neglected to do so ; and more than 20 per cent. of those who did Register, failed to vote.

In part, this failure to vote comes from casualties which cannot be wholly prevented. But, in a great degree, it comes from *imperfect organization* and *inefficiency* of effort in *some localities*.

Nothing is more unjust or more discouraging than to lose in a few localities by want of zeal or energy, all which our friends gain elsewhere by great exertions and sacrifices.

What we need and wish to secure is *concert* between *all* our localities. *Every COUNTY—every TOWNSHIP—every SCHOOL DISTRICT* must contribute its full share. Our friends in every locality must devote themselves to their duty *at home*, and must bring out the best possible result in their own election districts. And they must feel that their associates and allies in *every other* election district are *doing the same* thing. The sense of mutual reliance and of concert between all, will add to the spirit and energy of every part.

ORGANIZATION.

In each County there should be an Executive Committee of at least three members at the county seat, and one member in each Township.

The members of this Committee should be men who will voluntarily undertake, and can be *relied upon* to perform the duties devolving upon them with alacrity, and patient and persevering energy. These qualities will more generally be expected from young men, who are fresh and full of generous zeal and inspiring hope, and to whom work has not yet become a burden. We need in this, as in other cases, to bring to the aid of the veterans, who have stood for our cause through the dark struggles of the past ; we need to bring to their aid *new men—fresh* and unwearyed—*young* men, just coming upon the stage of political

action. We must ally the Democracy with the future. We must strike the roots of its growth into fresh soils.

The Chairman of this County Committee should go *personally* into every Township, and extend the organization into every election district: superintend its working, and keep it in full action.

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION.

The member of the Committee in each Township should proceed at once to form a Township Committee, consisting of not less than ten persons. A *majority* of these persons should be *active young men*, who, while advising with the more experienced members of the party, shall assume the active work of conducting the canvass from now until the election is over.

The names of the persons so appointed for each election district should be forthwith reported to the Chairman of the County Committee, and also to the Chairman of the State Committee.

LIST OF VOTERS IN EACH TOWNSHIP.

The Committee in each Township will proceed at once to make an accurate list of all the voters of their respective Townships.

The object of doing this *now*, instead of waiting until later in the season, as is the general custom, is to have the benefit of systematic action from the beginning.

You must not underrate the importance of this list, both *during the campaign* and *at the election*. Nothing else can give SYSTEM and CERTAINTY to your operations.

It will greatly aid you in making this list to get a copy of the registry at the last election, which can be done in most Townships. You should then add the names of those who were entitled to register, but whose names were not on the registry, and of those who have since become entitled. No pains should be spared to make the list *complete*, and *keep it perfect*, by making the necessary changes from time to time. You should carefully classify the names, as Democrats, Radicals, Doubtful and Unregistered. In addition to this, you should indicate *moderate* Republicans, by writing at the end of the line, against the name, the letter M.

It is also important that you insert the post-office address of each voter, that documents may from time to time be sent to them. Men are growing moderate and thoughtful, and many will hear our side who would formerly have refused.

It is confidently believed that every dollar expended at an early day in the circulation of proper reading matter, appealing to the reason and conscience of the people, will avail our cause more

than ten times the amount expended on the eve of the election. County and township Committees and Liberal men of our party, should give this matter their earnest attention.

NATURALIZATION.

It will also be the duty of the Township Committee to ascertain and enter on their lists all cases of Democrats entitled to be naturalized.

REGISTRATION.

It will be the duty of the Township Committee to see that all Democratic voters residing in their Township are duly registered, in the manner and within the time required by law.

CONDUCT OF THE ELECTION.

Immediately before the election, the Township Committee should meet and organize for the polls on the election day, and *call to their aid all the active working Democrats* of the Township.

1. They should revise the list of voters, and appoint one or more persons to take charge of the list, and check the names of the voters as they arrive; and keep the proper persons informed of all those who fail to come.

2. They should arrange for teams to bring in such voters, as are unable to come of themselves, or who fail to attend.

3. They should cause every Democratic voter to be seen immediately before the election and induced to attend, *early in the morning*, so that in case of failure, there may be ample time to send after him.

4. Whenever there is any doubt about the attendance of a voter, he should be sent for immediately. A little trouble should not be counted against the possible loss of a vote which can be made certain.

Many voters are lost of those who intend to come, but finally yield to obstacles or waste the opportunity in delay.

Finally, we appeal to you to join in putting this system of organization into full and complete operation in your locality. If all will unite in it, (and our friends are doing so wherever the matter has been presented to them,) the labor will be so divided as not to bear heavily upon any; the combination of many littles will swell an aggregate which will astonish all, and you and we will contemplate the results with satisfaction.

LEWIS BAKER,

Chairman of the State Executive Committee.

GEO. R. TINGLE, Sec'y.

J. M. Callahan, Am. 11/16