

MR. BRYAN'S SPEECH AGAINST JUDGE PARKER

Following is the Associated Press report of Mr. Bryan's speech against Judge Parker: Baltimore, Md., June 25.—Mr. Bryan, proposing the name of John W. Kern of Indiana, in the convention today said that in thus "dissenting from the judgment of our national committee as expressed in its recommendation, I recognize that the burden of proof is upon me to overthrow the assumption that the committee can claim that it is representing the wishes of this convention and of the party of the nation.

"I remind you that the very fact that this convention has the right to accept or reject that recommendation is conclusive proof that the presumption in favor of this convention is a higher presumption than in favor of the wisdom of the committee.

"If any of you ask me for my credentials; if any of you inquire why I suggest to this convention that one from the smaller states should presume to present a name, and ask you to accept it in place of the name they presented, I beg to tell you, if it needs to be told, that in three campaigns I have been the champion of the democratic party's principles, and that in three campaigns I have received the vote of six millions. If that is not proof that I have the confidence of the party, I shall not attempt to furnish proof. Confidence reposed in a human being carries with it certain responsibilities, and I would not be worthy of the confidence and of the affections that have showered upon me by the democrats of this nation if I were not willing to risk humiliation in their defense.

"I recognize that a man can not carry on a political warfare in defense of the mass of the people for sixteen years without making enemies, and I recognize that there has been no day since the day I was nominated in Chicago when the enemies have not been industrious in their efforts to attack me from every standpoint.

"The fact that I have lived is proof that I have not deserted the people. If, for a moment, I had forgotten them, they would not have remembered me.

"I take for my text this morning the text that the committee has been kind enough to place upon the walls for my use.

"He never sold the truth to serve the hour.' That is the language of the hero of Monticello and I would not be worthy of the support I have received if I were willing to sell the truth to serve the hour.

"We are told by those who support the committee's recommendation that it is disturbing harmony to oppose their conclusions. Let me free myself from any criticism that anyone may have made heretofore or may attempt hereafter. Is there any other delegate in this body of more than 1,000 who tried earlier than I to secure harmony in the convention? I began several weeks ago. I announced to the sub-committee that I would not be a candidate for temporary chairman. I might have asked, without presumption, at the end of sixteen years of battle, when I find the things I have fought for not only triumphant in my own party but even in the republican party, the modest honor of standing before this convention and voicing the rejoicing of my party. But I was more interested in harmony than I was in the chance to speak to this convention. Not only that but I advised this committee to consult the two leading candidates, who together have nearly two-thirds of this convention instructed for them, and get their approval of some man's nomination, that there might be no contest in the convention.

What suggestion could I have made more in the interest of harmony than to allow two-thirds of this convention a voice in the selection of its temporary chairman?

"In the discussion before the sub-committee these friends of Mr. Clark and Mr. Wilson were not able to agree; one supported Mr. James and the other supported Mr. Henry, but in the full committee last night the friends of Mr. Wilson joined with the friends of Mr. Clark in the support of Mr. James. Mr. Clark's choice, and yet the committee turned down the joint rule thus made. I submit to you that the plan that I presented, the plan that was submitted, was the plan for securing harmony and that plan which the committee followed was not designed to secure harmony.

"This is no ordinary occasion. This is an epoch-making convention. We have had such a struggle as was never seen in politics before. I have been in the center of this fight and I know something of the courage it has brought forth and something of the sacrifice that has been required.

"I know that men working on the railroads, earning small wages, with but little laid up for their retiring years, have defied the railroad managers and helped us in this progressive fight at the risk of having their bread and butter taken from them. I have known men engaged in business and carrying loans at banks who have been threatened with bankruptcy if they did not sell their citizenship, and yet I have seen them defy these men and walk up and vote on the side of the struggling masses against predatory wealth. I have seen lawyers risking their future, alienating men of large business in order to be the champions of the poor.

"I have seen men who had never made a speech before, go out and devote weeks of time to speech-making because their hearts were stirred. It seems to me now that when the hour of triumph comes, the song of victory could be sung by one whose heart has been in the fight."

Mr. Bryan then paid cordial tribute to the services of Senator Kern who, he said, had sacrificed time and strength and money. He declared that Kern "stood with me on that Denver platform that demanded the election of senators by direct vote of the people; that the republican convention had turned it down by a vote of 7 to 1.

"He helped in the fight for an income tax and he has lived to see a president who was opposed to us take that plank out of our platform and put it through a house and senate and thirty-four states of the union have ratified it and now he is leading the fight in the United States senate to purge that body of Lorimer, who typifies the supremacy of corruption in politics.

"I repeat what better man could we have to represent the American spirit of democracy. (Applause.) My friends, when I now contrast (applause, hisses, cries of "Parker" and "Kern").

The Chairman: "The convention will be in order."

Mr. Bryan: "When I now contrast—"

Mr. Bryan was again interrupted and the chair again appealed for order.

Mr. Bryan: "When I now contrast the candidate presented by the committee I can do it without impeaching his character or his good intent. (Applause.) But, my friends, not every one of high character or good intent is a fit man to sound the keynote of a progressive campaign. (Applause.) There are 7,000,000 of republicans in this country, or were at the last election, and I have never doubted that the vast majority of

them were men of high character and good intent, but we would not invite one of them to be temporary chairman of our convention. (Applause.)

We have a great many democrats, who vote the ticket who are not in full sympathy with the purposes of the party. I not only voted the ticket, but I made speeches for the candidate when I was not at all satisfied with either the candidate or the influences that nominated him and directed the campaign in 1904. (Great applause.)

"I assume that no friend of Judge Parker will contend that he was entirely satisfied in 1908, with either the candidate or all of the plans or purposes of our party. I remind you that this is not a question where personal ambitions or personal compliments, or the pleasant things are uppermost. We are writing history today, and this convention is to announce to the country whether this convention will take up the challenge thrown down at Chicago by a convention controlled by predatory wealth or answer it by putting ourselves under the same control and giving the people no party to represent them. (Long continued applause.)

"We need not deceive ourselves that that which is done in a national convention is done in secret. If every member of this convention entered into an agreement of secrecy we still act under the eyes of these representatives of the press, who know not only what we do, but why we do it, and who told us to do it. (Applause.) The delegates to this convention must not presume upon the ignorance of those people who did not come, either because they had not influence enough to be elected delegates or money enough to pay the expenses of the trip, but who have as much interest in the party's welfare as we who speak for them today. (Applause.)

"And these people will know that the influences that dominated that convention at Chicago and made its conclusion a farce before the country, the people know that those influences are here and are more brazenly at work than they were at Chicago. (Applause.)

"I appeal to you. Let the commencement of this convention be such a commencement that the democrats of this country may raise their heads among their fellows and say, the democratic party is true to the people. You can not frighten it with your Ryans nor buy it with your Belmonts. (Long continued applause and cheers.)

"My friends, if this candidate selected by the committee, was an unknown man, we would judge him by the forces back of him, and not by you gentlemen who may try to convince yourselves that you owe it to the committee to sustain its action, even though you believe it a mistake.

"That, my friends, is not the question. We know who the candidate is as well as the men behind him. We know that he is the man chosen eight years ago, when the democratic party, beaten in two campaigns, decided that it was worth while to try and win a campaign under the leadership of those who had defeated us in the campaign before. (Applause.) The country has not forgotten that that convention was influenced to its act by the promise of large campaign funds from Wall street, and they have not forgotten the fact that, after the corporation management had alienated the rank and file of the party, Wall street threw the party down and elected the other man. (Great applause.)

"They have not forgotten that when the vote was counted we had a million and a quarter less votes than we had in the two campaigns before, and a million and a quarter less than we did the campaign four years

afterward. They have not forgotten that it is the same man, backed by the same influence, that is to be forced on this convention to open a progressive campaign with a paralyzing speech that will dishearten every man. (Applause.)

"You ask me how I know that that speech would not be satisfactory without reading it. Let me tell you; the speech is not so many words; it is the man and not the words that make a speech.

"My friends, we have had time that enabled us— (Mr. Bryan was interrupted by yells from the audience.) We have been passing through a great educational age, and the democratic movement has been sweeping all obstacles before it around the world. In Russia, emancipated serfs have secured the right to a voice in their government. In Persia a people have secured a constitution. In Turkey the man who was in danger every hour of being cast into prison without an indictment, or beheaded without a charge against him, now has some influence in the molding of the laws. And China, the sleeping giant of the orient, has risen from a slumber of two thousand years, and today is a republic waiting for recognition. (Yells.)

"And while the outside world has been marching at double-quick in the direction of more complete freedom our nation has kept step, and on no other part of God's footstool has popular government grown more rapidly than here. In every state the fight has been waged. The man whom I present has been the leader of the progressive cause in his state, and once joint leader in the nation. I challenge you to find in sixteen years where the candidate presented by the committee has before an election gone out and rendered effective service in behalf of any man who was fighting the people's cause against plutocracy.

"Now, this is the situation— (Cries of "Parker" and hoots and cheering.) This is the situation which we have to meet. The democratic party has not been the leader— (renewed hooting, cries of Parker and cheering for Bryan.)

The Chairman: "Gentlemen, Mr. Bryan has the floor."

Mr. Bryan: "The democratic party has led this fight until its action has stimulated a host of republicans to imitate them. I will not say they have acted as they have because we acted first; I would rather say that they at a later hour than we have caught the spirit of the time, and are now willing to trust the people with the control of their own government. (Applause.) We have been traveling in the wilderness. We now come in sight of the promised land.

"During all the weary hours of darkness progressive democracy has been the people's pillar of fire by night. I pray you, delegates, now the dawn has come, do not rob our party of the right so well earned to be the people's pillar of cloud by day." (Great applause and cheering.)

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