

Mr. Flagler's Vision

(Abstract of address of William Jennings Bryan, Dec. 8, Flagler Day, Palm Fete, Miami, Fla.)

Memorial days are not for the benefit of the dead. The author of Grey's Elegy very beautifully expressed a sentiment which is appropriate for such an occasion as this:

"Can storied urn or animated bust
Back to its mansion call the fleeting breath?
Can honor's voice provoke the silent dust
Or flattery soothe the dull cold ear of Death?"

No, it is for the living that this program is prepared; to enable the present generation to prove by manifestations of appreciation that it is worthy to be the beneficiary of Mr. Flagler's foresight and indefatigable energy, and that lessons, drawn from his life, may inspire others to like achievements. Mr. Sewall, because of his official position as President of the Chamber of Commerce and his long and intimate acquaintance with Mr. Flagler, was the proper person to bring before you an outline of his life and some of the details of his work, and his address admirably measured up to all the requirements of this great occasion. My task is an easy one; I am to emphasize the value of a man with a vision. Solomon uttered the final word on this subject when he said, "Where there is no vision the people perish." Without such men there can be no progress.

But let no one think that the dreamers lot is as happy while he lives as it is imperishable in history. He is often ridiculed and sometimes persecuted. The Bible tells us that Joseph's brothers hated him because he was a dreamer. They even conspired to put him to death, but, fortunately, some merchants passed that way and the brothers sold him into bondage instead of taking his life. They thought they had put the dreamer brother out of the way, and had almost forgotten him when a famine came upon them and they were sent down into Egypt to buy corn. When they arrived there they found their dreamer brother—and he had the corn. The dreamer turns scoffing into reverence when his vision is vindicated. Mr. Flagler had the corn.

Some men have ideas but no money with which to carry them out—for this reason most inventors make others rich and die poor. Some have money but no ideas to spend it on. Mr. Flagler had both the vision and the money with which to make his vision a reality. When he built a railroad to Palm Beach and planned a big hotel to accommodate expected patrons, the doubters laughed at his faith—neighbors are not always prompt in honoring their prophets. He saw the possibilities of the East Coast and had the courage to risk his reputation and his money to make his dream come true.

Dreams grow; and, so, Mr. Flagler's vision expanded. After he had started Palm Beach on its career he heard of a climate still more congenial and chose the mouth of the Miami river as the site for the greatest child of his brain and heart. Other adventurous builders sought out fertile plains or pleasant valleys or the sides of mountains rich with ore, but the founder of Miami dared to suspend a city from the skies and to trust its future to surf and sunshine and to ocean breezes that carry healing in their wings. He had an instinct for values; as his eyes feasted on Bay Biscayne his ears could catch the words of some future poet singing of its beauties, as one has sung of the bay of Naples:

"I care not if my little skiff,
Floats swift or slow from cliff to cliff,
With dreamful eyes my spirit lies,
Beneath the walls of Paradise."

Later his vision was enlarged again and he constructed the overseas road to Key West, another ambitious project which time has vindicated.

The city fathers do well in giving our principal street the name of Miami's Patron Saint. If they have erred at all it is in not affixing to his name a word more dignified than street. Avenue would sound better, but if that would bring confusion into the plan adopted, why not Flagler Way, as the Appian Way—the great Roman highway was named for Appius Claudius who began its construction.

John Boyle O'Riley has coined a striking phrase in praise of the man with vision: he says, "The Dreamer lives forever while the toll-er dies in a day." His words are no reflection on the masses without whom no dream could be realized—they simply focus attention on the valuable service rendered by the designer, the architect, the man whose vision is wrought out by the multitude.

And now what shall we do with the city which

Mr. Flagler conceived and of which he laid the foundation? What is our vision of what Magic Miami should be? We can best honor the name that will forever be dear to the people of Miami by giving to this beautiful spot a wholesome environment which will attract the best citizenship of the nations and thus make permanent the city's growth and progress.

WHEELER ON POLLOCK

"United States District Judge John C. Pollock ought to resign, if he is quoted correctly as saying, 'Unless such prohibitory laws as the Eighteenth amendment are repealed while there is yet time, bringing an end to the present epidemic of liberty-curtailling legislation, the United States faces inevitable revolution.' This is the comment of Wayne B. Wheeler, General Counsel of the Anti-Saloon League of America, when informed that Judge Pollock had made this attack on national prohibition.

"A judge who takes an oath of office to sustain the constitution and enforce the laws, and then gives out a statement which tends to bring enforcement of the law into disrepute, is unworthy of the high office which he holds.

"Many judges on the bench who are strong prohibitionists refuse to become propagandists for the law, because a judge is supposed to take the law as it is and enforce it, without making comment as to the wisdom of the legislative department.

"There is some reason for a judge commending a law enacted for the public good, but a judge who declares that an amendment to the constitution, which prohibits a recognized evil like the liquor traffic will bring on revolution is going far afield of his judicial duty.

"If Judge Pollock cannot enforce an amendment which was submitted by more than two-thirds of both branches of congress and ratified by fifteen-sixteenths of the states of the union, he ought to resign, rather than embarrass the government, which has honored him, or weaken the law which he has taken an oath to enforce."

CHICAGO SHOULD HAVE MINT

The west will heartily endorse Secretary Houston's recommendation in regard to the establishment of a mint at Chicago. The west is entitled to it. He says:

"It is recommended that the congress consider the advisability of establishing a coinage mint in Chicago. A mint in that city would better adjust the facilities of coinage to represent business conditions in the country; assist in meeting the demands for coinage, particularly in the middle west and south; facilitate distribution of coins to those points; reduce the expense of shipping, the cost of which is now burdensome to the government and to banks by reason of the remoteness of existing mints from new business centers, and relax the present excessive pressure on the existing mints.

"It is recommended that the congress consider ent business conditions the facilities that were provided fifteen years ago. The process of exchanging the output of the present mints has reached the utmost limits of safety. Should congress authorize the establishment of a mint at Chicago, the business interests of the entire country would be served. It is further suggested that the vaults of a mint at Chicago could be used for the storage of government funds previously in the custody of the subtreasury now discontinued."

William Allen White, who still clings to the notion that the Republican party is the one hope of the nation, recently made the prediction that if the rights of the farmers were not adjusted and if they were not put on at least an equality with speculators at the counter of the banker, the nonpartisan league would sweep the country. When it is noted at Washington and every state capital there is a well-paid and numerous lobby maintained by the business interests and what they are there for, it is apparent that the nonpartisan league has cause for complaint.

A DESERVED REBUKE

General Chas G. Dawes administered a deserved rebuke to the Republicans who have been hunting for mistakes in the prosecution of the war. He reminded the committee that it was a national war, not a party war, and insisted that the emphasis should be placed on the achievements and not on small details. This testimony may not improve his chances for a cabinet position but Dawes' patriotism is above his ambition any way. He even had the courage to urge the confirmation of John Skelton Williams, our great comptroller.

W. J. BRYAN.

Smuggling Should be Stopped

Statistics show that British territory on the north and just off the east coast of the United States is being used as a base for the wholesale smuggling of intoxicating liquors into this country. There is no more excuse for the use of adjacent territory for conspiracies against the prohibition law—a law carrying out the constitution and sustained by the Supreme Court—than for the use of such territory for conspiracies against any other law of the land. Piracy would not be given protection under the British flag, why should smuggling?

Congress should pass a new resolution asking the President to bring the subject to the attention of the British government, but to have full weight such a resolution should be accompanied by legislation providing adequate punishment for American citizens who make use of foreign territory for conspiracies against the laws of their own country. We should do all in our power to prevent violations by our own citizens and then our appeal to Great Britain cannot be disregarded.

The easiest way to punish such American citizens is to withdraw citizenship from him when he leaves the country for the purpose of violating his country's laws. If he violates the law while in this country he can be punished as a criminal; why should he receive the protection of his government while he is conspiring against his country's statutes? If he leaves for that purpose, or while away becomes a law-breaker, his return should be barred as we bar the entrance of any other criminal. W. J. BRYAN.

JACKSON DAY, 1920

A year ago last night in this good town Mr. Bryan, at a Jackson day dinner, warned his party against making the league of nations as negotiated by the President the issue in the approaching campaign. In the circumstances, it was a bold thing to do. The President had a firm grip on the democracy, and the league was uppermost in his thoughts and purposes.

Mr. Bryan's warning went unheeded. The President called for "a solemn referendum" on the league, got it, and for him it proved to be very solemn. The largest plurality ever recorded in this country was recorded against the league.

Mr. Bryan emerged from the wreck a prophet. His stoutest opponent could not deny him the credit of having sensed the situation correctly. The people would not have the league, and among those rejecting it were hundreds of thousands of Democrats.

What will it profit the prophet being thus confessed a prophet in his own country? — Wash. Post Star.

Agitation is so often criticised as a poor method of securing what is wanted that it is worth while to call attention to the fact that the organized opposition of consumers to the sales tax as a substitute for the excess profits tax has killed it definitely as a revenue measure. The merchants of the country who have been compelled to split their big profits with Uncle Sam had devised a plan whereby they were to add 2 per cent to every sale they made and collect it from the customer. The boldness of the scheme was only exceeded by its baldness.

A New York baker is making and selling bread for five cents a loaf. Elsewhere the prices is ten cents, and the loaves are no larger. Which reminds us that during the war, it was developed in a court trial, that one of the largest makers of flour in Nebraska charged to overhead expense all that he contributed for liberty bonds and war activities, and added it to the cost of his product.

RECORD FOR 1921

One of the United States senators most responsible for the overwhelming defeat last fall of the Democratic nominees is telling the public how our party can win next time. He thinks it all depends on congress. Democrats of the present congress will make the congressional record for 1922, but it will need a lot of activity among the rank and file of the voters to give us a congress to make the record for the campaign of 1924. The progressive Democrats should lose no time in organizing for the next congressional election, and to begin with, they should organize around a constructive, progressive platform, the thing that the last national convention failed to do.