

HONOLULU NEWSPAPER COMMENT ON MR. BRYAN

Immediately prior to Mr. Bryan's arrival at Honolulu the Pacific Commercial Advertiser printed the following editorial:

"Mr. Bryan may hold certain views which are not acceptable to a majority of his countrymen, but the country recognizes him for what he is, and for what he has done, and acknowledges the part he has played in promoting a better understanding between the east and the west, by setting the nation so actively at work studying great economic and social problems that petty and sectional differences have been, in a measure, forgotten.

"The country sees in him a man who believes in a 'square deal' as firmly as does President Roosevelt; a man who loves his fellowmen; a man with a fine spirit, a large heart, a nature simple and serene; a man who, with true western ardor and enthusiasm, stands fearless, calm, insistent,—sometimes almost alone—in opposing the policy or traditions of his party, when such opposition seems to him right; a man who accepts defeat in such a spirit that it seems like victory.

"Mr. Bryan would have every democrat 'use his influence to secure a clear, honest and straightforward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak.' This is his scheme for the reorganization of his party. He is fully aware that platforms are not made that way, and he could appreciate the force of David B. Hill's remark at the St. Louis convention last year, when he said: 'Platforms are like sausages; the more you know about how they are made, the less respect you have for them.'

"Who can suggest a truer foundation for the platform of any party than Mr. Bryan has enunciated for the future conduct of the democratic party?"

"Whether as the 'peerless leader,' twice candidate for the highest office within the gift of the American people, and a factor to be reckoned with in all councils of his party, or, as the plain citizen who is attempting, with all the force of a strong mind, the pen of a ready writer, and an unusual gift of oratory, to aid in the solution of the problems that confront us as a nation, let us welcome Mr. Bryan to Honolulu.

"The committee on arrangements should see to it that the reception accorded Mr. Bryan is planned on broad lines, and without regard to party affiliations. The good will of the community toward the distinguished guest may then find expression in a manner that will be most pleasing to him, and at the same time, productive of that fellowship which should exist among all good citizens."

After Mr. Bryan's arrival at Honolulu the Pacific Commercial Advertiser printed the following editorial:

"Mr. Bryan made a fine impression in Honolulu. Since the days when he was the Boy Orator of the Platte and vied with the populists in radicalism, he has broadened into a statesman; and if he ever becomes president he will probably be glad that the office did not become his in early life. Age, experience, study of men and travel are doing for him what every publicist needs before he undertakes the first responsibilities.

"It is only of recent years that the great public men of America have realized the value of travel as a means of political education. Many American presidents were never beyond the sea in their lives. Andrew Jackson, one of the first of them, only knew a small part of his own America. Abraham Lincoln was never out of sight of land or in sight of the Rocky mountains. President Grant only saw the world after he had forever passed from office. Grover Cleveland

never crossed an ocean, and we believe, Mr. McKinley was a stranger to foreign lands. Of statesmen below the rank of president who have wandered far afield the number is now increasing; and it is often said that American legislation would be far wiser than it is, if the stated preliminary to high office were a trip around the globe. Evidently from what Mr. Bryan said in his speech yesterday he realizes this advantage and means to make the most of it, particularly in Australia and New Zealand, the lands of sociological experiment.

"Now that the eminent American has gone on his way, local interest will center on what he shall write about us in The Commoner. It is understood that he will describe his journey and recount his observations in that paper. That the latter will be virile and acute and the former vivid and picturesque may be predicted of the man."

The following editorial appeared in the Honolulu Evening Bulletin:

"William J. Bryan is a man among millions. Hawaii is not alone to congratulate itself that he has taken the time for a trip to this part of the expanding American domain. The American people will follow his movements and listen attentively to the conclusions resulting from his observations. The nation should profit from his tour. He'll do the whole country good if by no other means than letting the people know that there is another side of the question, and it is not as bad as sometimes represented.

"Every public man of our country who visits this territory and the possessions in the orient furnishes a valuable leading string to draw the attention of our mainland fellows to the really vital national problems that must be approached in a broad American spirit if the prestige of our country is to be maintained.

"We have been honored with secretaries and governors and congressmen and senators. It is probable that Mr. Bryan will exercise as much influence as any one of them in shaping public opinion. He is one of those men, unusual in the history of the world, who can be killed off politically every other day by his enemies but just as frequently comes to the front again in a manner that proves that he has the steadfast confidence of a large body of the people. Though the majority has been against him in the great national political battles he has fought, Mr. Bryan has proved that a man can bear no more distinguishing title than Mister and still exercise a power with the people, second only to that of the highest officer.

"The time was when it was said that Bryan could not change his mind. Experience has also shown that it isn't safe to believe all that his opponents have said of him. He has made a much greater success of keeping in touch with the spirit of the people than his special opponents within the ranks of his own party. Mr. Bryan did not enthuse over the annexation of Hawaii. Thus far he has seen little virtue in the retention of the Philippines. In dealing with Hawaii it is not probable however that Mr. Bryan will support any other plan than a well rounded scheme of American development. He cannot fail to be pleased with much that he sees here during even a brief stay. He will have an opportunity to see for himself that Americanism in Hawaii does not necessarily represent degeneracy for Hawaii or Americanism, and seeing, he cannot fail to be inspired with a desire to put his American shoulder to the wheel and help the thing along.

"Mr. Bryan will doubtless encounter conditions here that will grate on his Nebraskan-American nerves. The oriental and the semi-feudal

conditions on large plantation properties sometimes arouse a spirit of revolt in the minds of men fresh from the mainland. This condition is one not built up under the American system of government. It cannot be revolutionized in a day or possibly a decade. The assistance of such men as Bryan is needed to aid in promoting changes in a manner that will not destroy the industrial structure during the reformation period. Hawaii wants him on its list of workers, not for selfish reasons only but because America's position in the Pacific must be maintained and Hawaii is the great outpost of peace and war.

"There are lines of operations that call for Americanism before partisanship. Hawaii is the first station along that line in this part of the American world. Mr. Bryan has never shirked any responsibilities placed upon him as an American citizen. That is why Hawaii anticipates his active friendship."

The Hawaiian Star printed the following editorial:

"Honolulu today entertains one of the foremost Americans of his time—William Jennings Bryan. Mr. Bryan occupies and has occupied a somewhat unique position. The only high office he has ever held has been that of congressman, and he held that before he had come into national prominence. He has twice been a candidate for president of the United States, and though twice defeated it was only after campaigns unexampled in the supreme effort made by the marshalled elements and interests which through varied and sometimes contradictory influences, had been arrayed against him. After each defeat he stood forth a larger figure in public estimation. His defeats were in no sense personal, except as a great leader invests any cause he champions, with his personality, and every great cause invests the personality of its leader with some of its own importance and distinction. He has been not only the leader of a great party, but a great leader of men. By the magic of a single speech on a great occasion, he sprang at once into leadership, not only of his party but of another great party, and he is one of the few men who have ever been the enthusiastically supported candidate of two great national parties.

"As the years have passed the asperities and the prejudices of bitter campaigns have softened, and William Jennings Bryan has secured a deeper and stronger hold on the respect and admiration of the American people as a great American.

"Mr. Bryan is now on a tour of the world, studying political and economic problems as he goes. We have much in Hawaii that would be of interest to him, aside from our climate and our scenery, if he had time to examine it in detail. But even in the hurried way in which he must see things during his short stay and the effort of his entertainers to enable him to see as much as possible, he will get ideas and conceptions that will aid him in giving proper proportion and perspective to what he may learn hereafter from varying sources and in more academic way about us. His visit here we trust will give him pleasure and do him good. It certainly can not fail to do us good. It is a good thing to have visits from the men who influence the world. There is a vitalizing influence about it. They get to know us in that personal way that means so much. Subjectively and objectively there is a benefit. The people of Honolulu also welcome with island hospitality and cordiality, Mrs. Bryan. She has been the helpmeet of her husband through all the years of his struggles and success, of his obscurity and of his eminence. We wish for them both an enjoyable day in Honolulu, and that they may carry with them nothing but pleasantest memories."

"MIGHT BE WORSE"

The St. Louis Globe Democrat says: "On the whole, Secretary Shaw has a pleasant tale to tell. The government's receipts for the fiscal year 1905, which ended on June 30, were \$697,000,000, and its expenditures were \$720,000,000. This shows a deficit of \$23,000,000 for the first year, but it was much smaller than had been expected some months earlier."

Of course, "nothing is so bad but it might be worse," even under a republican administration.

THE SUBSIDIZED PRESS

There is one feature of the insurance investigation that has not been prominently men-

tioned in the daily newspapers, this particular feature being the revelation of the fact that the insurance companies employed "press agents" whose duty it was to secure the publication as "editorial matter" in daily newspapers and weekly and monthly magazines of articles laudatory of these insurance companies. Whenever public criticism was aroused these "press agents" were supposed to get busy and secure the publication of articles in every newspaper and magazine possible, the articles being printed without distinguishing marks and having every appearance of being the utterance of the newspaper or magazine.

These "press agents" seem to have experienced no difficulty in finding daily newspapers

and periodicals of various classes whose publishers were willing, for a consideration, to sell their editorial space. There is a sinister significance about these revelations that demand the careful consideration of the public. The press is looked upon as a great public educator, but it too often happens that a portion of the press is content if it can make financial profit by educating the people to believe in false doctrines. It has come to pass that some great daily newspapers are vast business machines controlled by men whose views are biased by the counting room's receipts, and who give little or no heed to the moral duties imposed upon them by reason of their position in the moral and economic world.