

# THE HOME-COMING OF MR. BRYAN

## "NEBRASKA HOME FOLKS"

On Friday, August 24, a special train bearing upwards of one hundred Nebraskans left Omaha for New York to welcome Mr. Bryan upon his return from his foreign tour. From the start the excursionists were known as "Nebraska Home Folks," and they were everywhere greeted cordially and enthusiastically. The party was headed by Mayor Frank W. Brown of Lincoln, and Mayor James C. Dahlman of Omaha and eight other democratic mayors, and it was given out vociferously that the Nebraskans were going to be the first to greet their fellow Nebraskan upon his arrival within sight of American shores. This determination was carried out to the letter. Mayor Dahlman, who acquired the sobriquet of "the cowboy mayor" by reason of long residence in the cattle country during the early history of Nebraska, said that Mr. Bryan would first have to come aboard the tug occupied by the Nebraskans "if I have to rope him and pull him aboard." Because of their energy and western push the Nebraskans drew alongside the Princess Irene in a chartered tug ahead of all other vessels, save the yacht "Illini" occupied by Mayor Brown and party, and in accordance with his declaration Mayor Dahlman swung his lasso and the loop settled down over the shoulders of Mr. Bryan. It was not necessary, however, to drag Mr. Bryan aboard the tug. He climbed down the ladder to the Nebraskans' tug and was enthusiastically greeted by the "home folks."

"The sight of you is good for sore eyes," exclaimed Mr. Bryan as he shook the hands of his near neighbors and acknowledged their friendly greetings.

From the tug Mr. Bryan went aboard the private yacht, "Illini," owned by Edward F. Goltra of St. Louis, where he was received by other friends. After several hours on the "Illini" Mr. Bryan was taken to Lewis F. Nixon's houseboat where he was entertained at luncheon, then returning to the "Illini" he remained until Thursday afternoon, when he landed and was immediately deep in the monster reception prepared for him.

Late Wednesday forenoon, August 29, the "Princess Irene," carrying the Bryan party, was sighted off Fire Island and the notice was immediately followed by a race down the harbor to be the first alongside the big steamship. It required two tugs to carry the Nebraska party and the race between them for the honor of being first alongside the "Princess Irene" was an exciting one. As the tugs neared the steamship the "home folks" caught sight of Mr. and Mrs. Bryan leaning over the rail, and instantly the cheering began. Hats and handkerchiefs were waved, and Mr. and Mrs. Bryan, their faces wreathed in smiles, responded from the steamer. Huge boxes of flowers were immediately sent over the steamer's side for Mrs. Bryan, and as soon as the planks could be lowered both Mr. and Mrs. Bryan went aboard the first tug. It was raining, but this fact did not lessen the pleasure felt by the "home folks" nor those whom they had traveled 1,600 miles to welcome. As soon as those aboard the first tug had greeted the guests they were handed aboard the second tug and the welcoming scenes were repeated. In response to loud demands for a speech Mr. Bryan said:

"The United States is the best country in the world. Nebraska is the best state in the country, and Lincoln is the best city in Nebraska, but Fairview is better. I was coming to Lincoln to see you, but I find that you have come to New York to see me. I don't know how to tell you how glad I am to see you, and to be home again."

In response to inquiries as to how he felt, Mr. Bryan replied:

"If any of you can express himself in words better than mine I'll give him a month's wages to express how good I feel."

"We are here on a special train," said a member of the party, "and want you to go back home with us. We'll wait until you are ready. Will you come with us?"

When Mr. Bryan said he would be delighted to do so the cheering broke out again. Mr. and Mrs. Bryan then returned aboard the "Princess Irene" to await the usual quarantine inspection.

## THE ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK CITY

The following are extracts from the Associated Press report of Mr. Bryan's arrival in New York City:

Greeted by nearly every prominent democrat in the country and accompanied by them, Mr. Bryan was driven from the yacht landing at the Battery to the Victoria hotel. He was constant-

ly cheered by those on the crowded sidewalks. Once at the hotel he was fairly mobbed by thousands of his admirers, was called upon for an impromptu speech and then shook hands for more than an hour with an apparently never ending line of citizens.

He dined with his family and friends and was then driven in an automobile to Madison Square garden, where his welcome home was made complete in a series of remarkable demonstrations. The garden meeting was presided over by Mayor Tom L. Johnson of Cleveland. There were brief addresses by Governor Joseph W. Folk of Missouri, Augustus Thomas, the playwright; Harry W. Walker of the commercial travelers' anti-trust league, under whose auspices the reception was given, and Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Bryan also addressed an overflow meeting outside the garden. He was then driven to his hotel, where he was personally greeted by William R. Hearst, who had been loudly cheered as he sat in a box at the garden.

Mr. Bryan's entry into New York this afternoon was a series of ovations beginning with his landing at the Battery at 4 o'clock and reaching an early climax when he arrived at the Victoria hotel, Twenty-seventh and Broadway, an hour and fifteen minutes later. Here the home-coming Nebraskan was fairly mobbed by the thousands of persons who had gathered outside the hotel entrances and the hundreds who had forced their way into the corridors. Finally an entrance was effected by the police and Mr. Bryan reached the lobby stairs. He was halted and called upon for a speech and as the crowd surged about him, cheering lustily all the while, Mr. Bryan lifted his hand and secured silence.

"Ladies and gentlemen," he began, "I believe that later this evening is the time for me to make a speech and you must not expect one now. When a man is in difficulty, he has a right to call upon his friends for assistance. I am in difficulty now. I am trying to get home, but I have been traveling so much of late that for the life of me I can hardly tell where home is."

"In Washington," called an enthusiastic auditor.

"The White House," shouted another.

"And we're going to put you there," yelled a third.

Then everyone cheered. Mr. Bryan smiled indulgently.

"I thought home was in Nebraska," he continued. "Only until 1908," shouted the crowd.

"Some said it was in Missouri," added Mr. Bryan, amid laughter. "I've about come to the conclusion that if I find friends like this everywhere I don't care where home is. Soon I am going to take a course in college, for at a recent gathering in London where several languages were spoken I felt constrained to make excuses because I could speak but one. But I would have to know every language in the world to tell you how much I thank you."

Mr. Bryan shook hands with a few personal friends. This was the signal for a general rush and the Nebraskan was almost swept out of the Twenty-seventh street entrance of the hotel before the police could stem the tide. Finally order was established and the impromptu reception proceeded.

Several thousand persons passed in line and Mr. Bryan shook hands with all. Distinguished men of the democratic party, visiting governors, United States senators and representatives, national committeemen and legislators, mingled with the New Yorkers. The reception lasted for more than an hour.

Mr. Bryan then retired to his apartments and had dinner with his family and a few intimate friends. He then took a brief rest before proceeding to Madison Square garden for the feature event of his stay in New York.

## MADISON SQUARE GARDEN MEETING

Following are extracts from the Associated Press report of the Madison Square Garden meeting:

The doors of Madison Square garden were opened at 5:30 o'clock and by that time hundreds of ticket holders were clamoring for admittance. Police lines had been formed for three blocks from all entrances. In this way the early comers were all handled. The immense auditorium, with its tiers of balconies and galleries, rising to the great glass roof began to fill up so quickly that the ushers and policemen had difficulty in adhering to the seating arrangements. It was a gay-spirited, big-natured audience which

had a cheer for every one. There were calls and counter-calls from the various state delegations. "The Nebraska Bryans home folks" arrived in a body and were given seats just back of the speakers stand, at the Twenty-seventh street side of the garden.

Before the meeting was called to order a band played merrily. When the first strains of "Dixie" were sounded the thousands of Bryan well-comers were on their feet in an instant and the cheers completely drowned the band.

As each notable democrat entered the hall and was recognized his name was called and the cheering was renewed. Twelve thousand persons, many of them women, were seated by 7 o'clock and an hour later not a vacant seat was to be seen. Hundreds of policemen and fifty firemen were on duty in the giant structure.

At 8 o'clock when Mr. Bryan had not yet arrived, Harry W. Walker, on behalf of the Commercial Travelers' Anti-Trust league, called the assemblage to order. He said: "Ladies and Gentlemen, Fellow Citizens From all Over this Broad Land: On behalf of the Commercial Travelers' Anti-Trust league, I have the great honor of asking this home-coming welcome to come to order. The league welcomes back Mr. Bryan fresh from his triumphs in the old world as the most distinguished and best beloved private citizen on earth. It is my real pleasure to introduce to you the chairman of the reception committee, Missouri's governor, Hon. Joseph W. Folk."

Governor Folk was given an ovation and it was several minutes before he could speak.

## GOVERNOR FOLK'S ADDRESS

The mention of Mr. Bryan's name called forth renewed cheering. Then, when quiet had been restored, Governor Folk proceeded.

"What we say here may count for little; our words may be of only passing moment, and soon forgotten. But those ideals that bring us here will remain; when those present at this assembly shall have passed away. We come not of ourselves alone to welcome home the distinguished American in whose honor we gather, but to voice the love and faith of millions in the great leader who has again set foot upon his native land—millions who love him because his hands are clean, his heart is pure, and his soul has not been touched nor tainted with the scars of unearned gold. Nor in him alone do we place our trust, nor in aught that is human, but rather in those eternal truths which he has loved and served so well.

"We are on the threshold of the greatest political awakening this nation has ever known. It marks the beginning of a new age. The next few years will be distinguished as the time in which industrial problems are solved, the reign of the special privilege brought to an end, and the doctrine of equal rights fixed in national policies and in the conscience of mankind. Things are not tolerated for a moment now that not long ago were submitted to in silence. Only a few years past bribery was considered merely conventional. Legislative halls were made dens of thieves, and the touch of the unclean dollar of privileges was over all. Dishonesty in public life was either unnoticed or regarded with despair. Then a dormant public conscience was aroused to the necessity of stamping out the offense that strikes at the heart of free government, and of making the government representative in fact as well as in name.

"The energies of this public conscience have been extended from the domain of the public wrong-doer to that of the private wrong-doer, and are probing into the workings of rascals of every kind. The insurance investigations have sent forth their messages, rebates revelations have been seen and heard, and innumerable grand juries have been drawn aside, and revealed to the startled gaze of the people the anarchy of corruption and greed in their bacchanal of avarice.

"This awakening that has resulted from the revelations of wrongs, is the spirit of true patriotism. This word has almost ceased to have meaning, and was often used as synonymous in the war. We are now learning that there may be as much patriotism in giving ones time to the betterment of civic conditions and in getting good men into office as in baring one's breast to the bullets of a public enemy in time of war. The people are commencing to appreciate the fact that the government of city, state and nation belongs to them, and that they can take the government into their own hands whenever they wish. No