

SOME OF THE "DREAMERS" OF HISTORY

Following is an abstract of Mr. Bryan's speech on "Dreams" delivered at Lincoln just before the close of the campaign:

Senator Beveridge, in his speech in this city, paid the compliment of calling me a dreamer. It did not impress me at first, although I appreciated the kindly tone in which this distinguished representative of the republican party had spoken of me. A few days afterwards Gov. Cummins of Iowa called me a dreamer. Then I sat up and took notice. Not long after that Speaker Cannon called me a dreamer. This made the matter look serious. And then Gov. Hanley of Indiana followed and brought the same accusation against me. With these four witnesses testifying against me I might find it difficult to escape conviction, and I have decided to plead guilty and justify. Finding that I could not escape the charge, I began to look up the subject of dreams and to inquire of the dreamer's position in history. Philosophers tell us that the dream of today is the reality of tomorrow, and a poet has gone even farther and declared:

"The dreamer lives forever and
The toiler dies in a day."

But it is not safe to build an argument upon a poem, for poets sometimes take license with truth as with language. I have greater faith in the bible than I have in a poem, and therefore I went to the bible as I am wont to do. If I quote democratic authority the republicans attack my authority, and sometimes they keep me busy defending the democrats quoted, but when I quote the bible I leave them to fight it out with my authority. The bible tells us of dreamers, the most prominent among them being Joseph. His brothers were angered by his dreams, and when his father sent him out into the plains of Dothan, his brothers plotted to kill him. They did sell him to some merchants, who carried him into Egypt, and they reported to his father that he had been killed by a wild beast. Yes, Joseph the dreamer was put out of the way as many dreamers have been since, but after awhile his brothers were glad to go down into Egypt and get corn of him.

The democratic party is something like Joseph in this respect. It has had its dreams; its enemies have plotted against it, and now it is prepared to furnish the corn to those who have fought it and tried to put it out of the way.

The democratic party has contained many dreamers during the last hundred years. In fact, it was founded by a dreamer, Jefferson, and defended by Jackson, who was something of a dreamer. Jefferson's mind was filled with a vision of a self-governing people, and his whole life was devoted to an attempt to make the dream a reality. His dream was reduced to writing in the Declaration of Independence, and it breathes through all of his letters and public documents. He saw in the future a government resting upon the consent of the governed, strong because it was loved and loved because it was good. That dream is being realized in this country, for the tendency is to make our government more Jeffersonian by bringing it more and more completely under the control of the voters. The effort to secure the election of United States senators by the people is an effort toward the realization of Jefferson's dream. The effort to substitute the party primary for the boss-ridden convention is an effort to realize Jefferson's dream.

Not only in this country but in every country in the world the dream of Jefferson is taking form. Everywhere the party of the people is growing, and there is such a party in every civilized or semi-civilized country. The dreamer Jefferson will live when the friends of monarchy, the friends of aristocracy and the friends of plutocracy have all disappeared from the earth.

Nor were democratic dreamers confined to the early days. Fifteen years ago the democratic party had a vision of a United States senate brought into harmony with the people and made the highest legislative body in the world. That dream was crystallized into a resolution submitting the necessary amendment, and that resolution passed a democratic house of representatives by more than a two-thirds vote, and it passed the next house of representatives. So strong a hold did that dream take upon the public that after eight years a republican house of representatives was forced to adopt a similar resolution, and now two-thirds of the states of the union have endorsed the democratic dream and two democratic national platforms have demanded its realization.

The democratic party has been dreaming of

tariff reform for years and has pointed out the injustice of the high tariff schedules and the inequality which they have caused in the distribution of the wealth created. This dream is taking shape, and every year finds more advocates of tariff reform. A few years ago the republicans said that the tariff must be maintained until the infant industries could get upon their feet, but the infants are not only standing upon their feet but walk over everybody else's feet, so that argument has disappeared. Afterwards we were told that the tariff must be maintained for the benefit of adult industries to enable them to pay good wages but now we are exporting some five hundred millions of manufactured goods a year and competing in foreign markets with no tariff to protect us, and it can not be contended that we must keep a fifty per cent tariff in order to keep outsiders from running our own factories out of the country. The only argument now is that the tariff barons must hang together or hang separately.

The democrats have been dreaming upon the trust question, and their vision of an industrial system resting upon competition and protecting each individual in the enjoyment of his rights and opportunities is about to be realized. At first the republican leaders denied that there were any trusts. Then they insisted that there were good trusts and bad trusts. Now they admit that the trusts are bad but they only promise to regulate and control while the democrats insist on the annihilation of the principle of private monopoly. Every day the absurdity of regulation as a remedy becomes more apparent, and it will not be long before the democratic vision will be the vision of the whole people.

The democratic party has had its dreams on the labor question. Seeing the conflict between employers and employes with the strike as the only remedy of the workingman, it has had a vision of arbitration which will not only secure justice but establish friendship between employer and employe. It is a disgrace to our civilization and a reproach to the party in power that the laboring man must starve his wife and children by a prolonged strike in order to secure an improvement in wages or conditions of labor. The president has caught something of the democratic dream and settled one coal strike by arbitration, but his party has failed to adopt the principle. Even the president has not yet come up to the democratic vision on the subject of government by injunction. He is still willing that the laboring man should be denied the right of trial by jury—a right so sacred that it can not be taken from a convicted thief.

For more than a decade the democratic party has had its dream of effective rate legislation, and this dream has been written into three national platforms. We are gratified that we were able to furnish a platform declaration for the president when he found no republican platform which took the people's side on this question. We are glad that the democratic dreamers in the house and the senate supported him when many of the republican leaders were bushwacking and throwing obstacles in the way. It was a democrat, "Ben" Tillman, who managed the bill in the senate when the republican leaders wanted to defeat it, and democrats supported the nine amendments of that republican dreamer La-Follette, of Wisconsin, although republican leaders opposed all these amendments.

Yes, the democratic party has its dreamers, and every day brings those dreams nearer to a realization. Every element of popularity that the president has—and he seems to be the only popular republican leader—is due to his adoption of democratic dreams, although he has only adopted a few of them and these only in part. It is an evidence of democratic sincerity that they have supported a president of the opposite party better than the republicans have supported their own president.

But the republicans have had some dreamers in the party. Hamilton had a vision of an aristocratic government, and that vision was embodied in a form of government which he sought to have adopted. Fortunately it was rejected, and every year carries us farther away from the ideas of Hamilton and nearer to the ideas of Jefferson. Lincoln was a dreamer but he found his inspiration in Jefferson, and Lincoln's arguments no longer have weight with republican leaders.

The republican party has had some recent dreams, but they have proven to be nightmares. It had a dream of empire. It pictured the United States as the possessor of colonies and following at the tail end of the European procession. Every

year shows the costliness of the experiment in colonialism; every year brings us nearer to the democratic position, which is the American position, namely—that the right of the Filipinos to self-government must be recognized as the right of the Cubans to self-government has been recognized. Every year makes it more evident that we should have promised independence at the very beginning and that we must ultimately promise it—the sooner, the better.

The democratic party even now has a dream that must sooner or later commend itself to the thinking people of the country. It is a vision of a government brought into harmony with divine will. God's plan is to suit the reward to the intelligent effort, but the republican party has reversed that law—that those who toiled the longest and the hardest have the least to show for it while those who through the favoritism of government lay tribute upon the masses are growing rich by leaps and bounds. The president cries out in alarm that the swollen fortunes must not descend to posterity, and he suggests an inheritance tax as a means of making the possessors of these fortunes disgorge. While an inheritance tax will be some improvement, the democratic plan is better still. Instead of being content to secure a part of the plunder when the plunderer dies, the democratic party proposes to withdraw the taxing power from private hands and to destroy monopoly. When equal opportunities are open to all and when no one can grow rich by cunningly defrauding his neighbor, no man can grow rich enough to make his fortune a menace to the country. When each one is confined to the reward which he can earn by giving society an equivalent service, the menace of predatory wealth will be removed and justice established. This is a democratic dream. This is the democratic dream of a government administered according to the doctrine of equal rights to all and special privileges to none.

Even republicans must see that history is vindicating democratic dreams. Republicans, will you join with us in the effort to realize the greatest of all political dreams and help to make this government what it should be, a government of the people, by the people and for the people?

NEED TO BE AROUSED

The recent disaster to an electric train near Atlantic City has had the usual result. First a general outcry, "Place the responsibility," and then a speedy return to the apathy that marks our consideration of these fearful disasters. "We have grown deplorably accustomed to these accidents," declares the Brooklyn Eagle. We read of a terrible accident and shudder as we read, then lay the paper aside and forget all about it. More people are killed in railroad accidents in one year in America than were killed in any single battle during the civil war. We would be shocked beyond compare to read of a pitched battle on American soil in which 7,000 men were killed and 15,000 injured, yet we give no heed to the fact that the railroads of the country kill and wound that many every year. For the three months ending June 30 there were 3,103 railroad accidents in the United States—an average of one an hour. An average of more than twenty people are killed and 100 seriously maimed in railroad accidents every day in the year, but we make only spasmodic protests against this needless slaughter. "Place the responsibility" and punish those responsible. That is the only way to reduce the number. Make it cheaper to prevent accidents than it is to sacrifice human life.

VICTIM OF SPELLING REFORM

The "spelling reform" idea seems to have several good points. The latest one revealed is its ability as a detective. A Maryland man has been convicted of perjury on the evidence of his "simplified spelling." In a letter he had tried to write the word "probably" and the effort was his undoing. On trial he was asked to write several sentences in which the word appeared, and each time he wrote it "proably," just as he had written it in the letter. He was convicted. As a victim of "simplified spelling"—probably the first one since it was launched—it would seem that this man is entitled to some consideration and sympathy from Mr. Carnegie, if not, indeed, a "hero medal."