

## Mr. Bryan's Tour of the West

Editorial in Spokane Daily Chronicle: A great American is in Spokane today—a leader thrice beaten but a leader still.

Just to be a president—just to be a king—just to be a millionaire—it means nothing. The holding of an office without an object; the possession of a fortune without a purpose; the attainment of power or position without the ability, the courage or the desire to make use of opportunities for the good of mankind—it is worse than nothing. It is like a dwarf putting on the armor of a giant; he can not use it and it but serves to show how puny is his own frame.

It is a great thing to be the leader of a mighty nation; but it is not so great as to be the author of a mighty idea. To aspire to be the president of this republic is a high ambition; but there is a higher patriotism—that which strives without thought of self to make this republic better, stronger and happier.

Only one of 15,000,000 citizens can be elected president—one in four years; but to every citizen at all times is given the right to do his own thinking; to look for better principles and methods of government; to champion fair play; to be true to his ideals. If William Jennings Bryan can help to bring this fact home to the people of this city his visit will not be in vain.

### THE COMMONER

Editorial in Spokane Daily Press: We have with us today—this is not a circus announcement, such as the injudicious often use when Mr. Bryan comes to town—a great man, one of the greatest our country has ever seen. Some there are who disagree with Mr. Bryan's political views. The fact that he has been unsuccessful in running for the presidency has become the basis for a nation-wide jest.

But down in the heart of every man and woman it must be recognized that William Jennings Bryan is one of those great characters that seldom come before the public eye. He is an unselfish man; he declares that he is not the man of the democratic party, and yet where is the democrat placed upon such a pedestal as Bryan?

Through years of denunciation and the bitterness of defeat, he has risen from the "Boy Orator of the Platte" to a broad-gauged, lovable citizen who can be pointed out to our school children as a model of American manhood.

And who knows what would happen if Bryan became the democratic nominee?

Following is the report of Mr. Bryan's reception at Spokane: "What we now want is publicity as to the ownership of our newspapers. Do you know that a great many of our big papers are owned by men who stand back in the dark? Some are owned by railroads, by trusts or by franchise-holding corporations. They hire brilliant editors to colorform the readers while the owner picks the pockets of the people. The people are for this and the overwhelming demand will bring it and we shall do away with this assassin who stands back in the darkness and stabs those who defend the public weal."—Bryan in Auditorium speech.

In the thirteen hours that William Jennings Bryan spent in Spokane he delivered seven different addresses, spoke to 4,500 people and received the cheers from thousands more who had only the opportunity of seeing him drive by in a closed automobile.

His speeches covered a wide range of topics, running from politics to religion, but it was at the Auditorium in the afternoon that the address of the day was made and here Mr. Bryan devoted two and a half hours to the discussion of political conditions, outlining his political doctrines, sounding what might be called the keynote of the democratic national campaign and closing with a critical analysis of the two leading republican candidates, President Taft and Colonel Roosevelt.

The well-rounded oratory, the interposition of bits of wit and humor and the ever-present epigrammatic climax that never failed to bring forth the cheers stamped him as the same gifted orator as in 1896.

At the Auditorium also Mr. Bryan received his greatest ovation. Long before the hour for opening the doors, 1:45, the crowd packed the corridor and nearly filled Post street. It took

just 12 minutes to fill the theater, not only to seating capacity, but with standing room all taken. Manager Charles York says he never saw the house filled so quickly.

Before 2 o'clock the doors were closed and Manager York pleaded with the crowd in the lobby to go away. In the meantime the crowd outside kept swelling, till it backed up to Main avenue and left only room enough in Post street for cars to pass. Manager York was forced to telephone to the police station for aid in clearing the corridor, and it took a squad of 15 policemen and firemen half an hour to move the determined crowd away. Women who tried in vain to gain entrance report the crush terrific, but no injuries were received.

It is estimated that fully 2,000 were turned away, while inside were seated 2,500 people. As the automobile carrying Mr. Bryan came down Post street the crowd in the street gave vent to cheer upon cheer. At the stage door a crowd of 300 had gathered and besieged the commoner as he tried to gain the entrance, till he yielded, and, climbing upon an empty box, made a brief talk. Inside the Auditorium the ovation was a repetition of what he had received on the outside.

### SEATTLE WELCOMES MR. BRYAN

Editorial in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer: No matter how widely many of the people of Seattle may differ from the Hon. William Jennings Bryan on political and economic questions, the distinguished citizen from Nebraska is always welcome in this city. Regardless of all differences of opinion, the people here are always glad to greet and hear him.

Mr. Bryan is one of America's greatest living citizens. He is a leader whose influence has been felt in every part of the enlightened world, a close student of political and economic questions, a thinker of broad range, an able writer, an orator of high rank, and a man of high ideals on all questions of moment to his countrymen.

Mr. Bryan is not unknown to the people of this city; he has been here before; doubtless he will come again, and as often as he comes he will find the people here eager to offer him the homage a citizen of his sterling worth deserves. Seattle greets him.

### MR. BRYAN IN OREGON

Editorial in the Oregon Daily Journal: With many standing throughout a two hours' address, ten thousand heard Mr. Bryan last night, and other thousands were unable to enter the tabernacle.

The like has seldom been seen. The Nebraskan seems greater in defeat than in victory. Save Gipsy Smith, no man has drawn so great an audience in Portland.

It is an anomaly that three overwhelming defeats for the presidency have not crushed Mr. Bryan. No other man could have survived them, and still retain so great a personal following. Any other man would have been driven by his disasters into political obscurity.

Nothing succeeds like success. Mr. Bryan has reversed the rule, and risen steadily under political catastrophe. It is one of the marvels of a human career.

The Bryan of last night is the same Bryan of sixteen years ago, but different. He is the same in that his face is still toward the future. He is still insurging.

He is still inexorable. He is still uncompromising. He has not retreated. He has been beaten, but not crushed. He has been vanquished, but not destroyed. He is still a commoner among the commoners.

But he is also a broader Bryan. Travel, time and events have widened his horizon. His address was from a world viewpoint. It was a survey of world movements, and a philosophical application of them.

It teemed with optimism. It saw good and growth everywhere. It rehearsed changes for the better in Russia, in Persia, in China, in England, and more especially in the United States.

Last night's speaker was a Bryan of hope, encouragement and good tidings. The discussion was that of polished and mellowed maturity. It was sweetened with the utterances of a national brotherhood. Its attacks, if uncompromising, were softened by a delightful humor and genial wit that made them more sunshine than sting.

Three defeats have probably eliminated Mr. Bryan from presidential possibilities. But his

millions of admirers believe him to be a greater man as a private citizen than most men could possibly be as president.

### THOUSANDS TURNED AWAY

News report from Oregon Daily Journal: William J. Bryan's hold upon the people of Portland was again remarkably demonstrated last night, when 10,000 people crowded the Gipsy Smith auditorium and thousands more were turned away at the doors, unable to pack themselves in hearing distance of the speaker. Hundreds of men climbed to the roof and gathered around the skylight to hear what drifted through from below.

Seldom has a public man, even in the heat of a campaign, been accorded such an ovation as Mr. Bryan received, and throughout the meeting he swayed the listening thousands with his oratory, driving home his argument with clever analogy, and leading up to each point with a descriptive power that held his hearers to intense interest.

Although he spoke for two hours and twenty minutes, it was not until the last half hour that he warmed up to the Bryan of old. It was when he turned his guns upon Taft and Roosevelt that he became again the Bryan of '96, electrifying the audience by his sharp thrusts at the rival republicans, pointing with withering sarcasm to the inconsistencies of the republican leaders, and pleading the cause of the democracy with the fervor of a great advocate.

The progress of a triumphant democracy was the general theme of the Bryan speech, and it gave a world-wide review of the progress of the nations. Lessons were drawn from foreign nations to show the intellectual and moral awakening that has brought revolution and new power to the people. Turning last to the United States, the speaker reviewed the progress made the last few years, showing how principles of the democratic party have been taken up and carried into law by the dominant party.

There was also a note of altruism, a pleading of the cause of man as superior to the call of the dollar. To these general themes most of the speech of the great commoner was given, and it was not until the closing came that present day issues were handled with the old Bryan touch.

Mr. Bryan came to the platform with Governor West, H. B. Van Duzer, Bert E. Haney and D. M. Watson. As he made his way to the front the audience rose and the cheering continued for minutes, until Bryan had made his way to the platform and bowed his acknowledgement. Mr. Van Duzer, who is chairman of the democratic county committee, presented Governor West, who introduced Mr. Bryan.

### SCENES IN PORTLAND

Following is the news report from another Portland paper:

William Jennings Bryan, probably the most popular democrat and one of the foremost citizens of the land, was Portland's guest yesterday.

As on former occasions from the time of his arrival shortly before 1 o'clock in the afternoon, until his departure at midnight for Tacoma, he was tendered a continuous ovation. In this demonstration, which was as much a testimonial of admiration for the man as it was a cordial reception to Portland and Oregon, party lines were eradicated and both democrats and republicans participated.

For two and one-half hours last night at the Gipsy Smith auditorium, Mr. Bryan held an audience of 10,000 persons while he delivered an address on general political conditions. Fully one-half that number was turned away, being unable to gain admittance.

Mr. Bryan discussed the progress of the country educationally and the moral awakening of the people, particularly along political lines. He told of the spread of popular government, strongly indorsed the initiative and referendum and the recall. "Big business" and stock watering were vigorously assailed.

Referring to the presidential situation, Mr. Bryan said the entrance of Roosevelt into the contest was an indictment of President Taft that would be used by the democrats to advantage in the campaign. Roosevelt was severely scored as a candidate who had never been identified with any of the "progressive ideas and measures until long after they had been enunciated and fought for by Senator La Follette.

Mr. Bryan charged that Roosevelt was always lined up with the interests in campaigns where Bryan and the democrats were fighting for progressive reform. He was greeted with thunderous applause when he declared that