

MR. MACK ON MR. BRYAN

Mr. Mack, in his National Monthly, makes the following comment on Mr. Bryan's part in the Baltimore convention:

There may be in the part played by William J. Bryan something not yet fully understood. Undoubtedly he believed the end sought justified the means he employed. In the heat of the struggle there may have been some things said by Mr. Bryan, as well as by his opponents, which probably would not balance the scales of equal and exact justice, but the Nebraskan was fighting for party liberation from any symbol or camp fire sign of control by interests which profit from privileges and favors of government. The convention was wholly free from any such taint. This is true not only of its conclusion, but of its beginning as well. Because it was so, there has been read into Mr. Bryan's position at Baltimore a personal ambition and selfishness which we believe he did not possess. For instance a current number of Harper's Weekly in comment on the attractive features of the Wilson nomination, says:

"It removes the blight of Bryanism. Mr. Wilson owes nothing to the marplot who schemed to obtain the nomination for himself."

Bryan's greatest strength in the convention came from the assumption that he was looking for nothing for himself. For four months prior to the convention, he had had under consideration the suggestion that he become the temporary chairman of the convention. He had the assurance of the chairman of the national committee that the members of the committee on arrangements would support him for the post if he would indicate a willingness to serve; in fact, there would have been no opposition to Mr. Bryan for temporary chairman, either in the national committee or the convention itself, if he had desired the place and made known his desire prior to the meeting of the arrangement committee in Baltimore which decided the temporary chairmanship in favor of Judge Parker. But Mr. Bryan stated long before that meeting his disinclination to serve. About a month before the convention he sent a letter to the chairman of the national committee, of which the following is a copy:

Lincoln, Neb., May 17, 1912.

"Hon. Norman E. Mack, Buffalo, N. Y.
My Dear Mack—I wrote you the other day suggesting that the committee should ask the two leading candidates—I suppose they will be Clark and Wilson—to agree upon the temporary chairman. I believe it would be conducive to harmony if we could get a man who would be agreeable to both of these candidates. I neglected to add that I do not desire the position myself. I think that under the circumstances it is better for me not to take a prominent part in the organization of the convention. I suppose I will be a member of the committee on resolutions from this state. I have not conferred with the members of the delegation, but I take it for granted from the personnel that the members of the delegation will favor me for that position. Very truly yours, W. J. BRYAN."

Nothing could be more conclusive of Mr. Bryan's desire for self-elimination in the bestowal of convention and party honors at Baltimore. Although differing with him, as to the selection of the temporary chairman, and the substance of some of his speeches in the convention, we believe it untrue and unfair to put a personal ambition at the base of his fight for a progressive chairman to sound the convention keynote, a progressive candidate and a progressive platform. That he was not plotting for his own nomination is clearly evident. His friends knew that. If there are some who do not believe it to be true, the foregoing letter ought to be a convincing argument.

Mr. Mack assumes that Mr. Bryan could have been temporary chairman if he had desired the honor and he, no doubt, would have urged Mr. Bryan's name had the latter been willing to be a candidate for the position; and Mr. Bryan, in talking to Mr. Mack, assumed that he would have no opposition in case he desired the place, but subsequent events have raised a doubt in Mr. Bryan's mind and he is glad that he decided not to be a candidate before he learned that he could not get the place even if he wanted it. He was not offered the place—Mr. Mack could not speak for the full committee and the matter never came before the committee. Mr. Bryan appreciates Mr. Mack's statement.

A TRUST MAGNATE'S CHILDREN

The secret is out. Mr. Perkin's attachment for Mr. Roosevelt has been explained by the trust magnate himself. He is interested in his children; he wants to leave them a healthful and wholesome environment and he declares that Mr. Roosevelt is the only man in public life who is, in good faith, supporting his views. Now what are Mr. Perkins' views? He made a large sum out of the organization of the steel trust—the Morgan syndicate collected sixty-nine million dollars for its services in putting it upon its feet. He is still interested in the steel trust and a director. He is also interested in and a high official of the harvester trust. He believes in trusts and does not want them subjected to restraint by state laws. Neither does he want them annoyed by criminal prosecutions. He and Mr. Roosevelt have devised a plan by which the trusts will be recognized as permanent and be placed under the supervision of a bureau whose members will be appointed by the president. This plan suits a trust magnate and will be good for the trust magnate's children—but what about other people and their children? Is

it possible that the plain, every day man, who works for his living and who can not hope to leave his children much except a good government—is it possible that such a man will follow the leadership of George W. Perkins and create an industrial system for the exclusive benefit of the children of trust magnates. It can not be.

THE BALTIMORE PLATFORM

August 19, 1912. Mr. Ernest H. Abbott, The Outlook, New York City. Dear Sir: Have just found your letter on my return to the city. If this is not too late you can say:

"The platform adopted at Baltimore is the most progressive ever presented to the country. It speaks out plainly and strongly on every important question. It puts the party on record in favor of a tariff for revenue only, to be approached gradually; the popular election of senators; an income tax; presidential primaries; the election of national committeemen by popular vote, service to begin immediately; a single term for the presidency, and labor legislation. It opposes the principle of private monopoly; the Aldrich bill, and any central bank and imperialism. These are only a few of the subjects treated. In Governor Wilson we have a presidential candidate who inspires confidence among progressives of both parties, and whose fighting qualities have already been tested. His election seems assured. Governor Marshall, his running mate, is a strong personality and has also shown his courage in political battles—his greatest being his successful effort to secure the selection of a United States senator by popular vote. The Baltimore convention made a record for progressiveness, and has set the pace for the campaign." Very truly yours, W. J. BRYAN.

MR. WATTERSON ON ADVERTISING

Mr. Watterson—his venom not finding adequate expression through legitimate criticism—now accuses Mr. Bryan of being actuated at Baltimore by a desire for publicity with a view to chautauqua attendance and Commoner circulation. Mr. Watterson has taken an active part in conventions, as he will, if pressed, blushing admit, but he probably never had an enemy mean enough to attribute it to "advertising." Mr. Bryan's enemies seem to be of a lower grade. But, speaking of money making, what a mistake—from a pecuniary standpoint—Mr. Bryan made in not allying himself with Mr. Watterson's friends! Wall street is a good paymaster while one is in a position to serve it; Mr. Morgan, Mr. Ryan and Mr. Belmont, for instance, have many interests to look after. Then there are the breweries and the distilleries who need men to speak for them. There are lots of ways of making money when one can get rid of his conscience, but lecturing, though somewhat wearing, is, after all, more enjoyable in spite of Watterson's criticisms.

All of the democratic platform that Mr. Roosevelt did not take, according to his interview, was only fit for the insane. The ex-president seems determined to conduct his campaign against the democrats, on the same high plane on which he pitched his campaign against President Taft.

Mr. Roosevelt "sees" bosses everywhere except in his own select company, but he is having a hard time to convince even himself that Mr. Wilson owes the bosses anything, and if he has such trouble convincing himself how can he hope to convince the public?

Mr. Roosevelt opposes Mr. Taft because the latter still is what the former was, and Mr. Taft opposes Mr. Roosevelt because the latter is what the former promised to be. A small matter to fall out over.

Usually the guarantor suffers when his principal falls but Mr. Roosevelt claims a third term as a reward because Mr. Taft, whom he guaranteed, did not make good.

It was supposed that Mr. Taft would represent the standpat element but from his speech of acceptance it looks like he is catering to the go-back vote.

Mr. Roosevelt continues to discuss questions, not subjectively or objectively, but adjectively.

Its a poor state that can not get up two republican conventions this year.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN FUND

Democratic campaign contributions sent to The Commoner for week ending Aug. 23, 1912:

| | |
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| A. B. Bryan, Tenaha, Tex. | \$ 1.00 |
| E. Sheets, Alcony, Ohio | 1.00 |
| P. J. Bryant, Aromas, Cal. | 5.00 |
| Otto H. Boyesen, Bowman, N. D. | 5.00 |
| L. H. Harrell, Grandview, Tex. | 10.00 |
| T. M. Hodgman, St. Paul, Minn. | 5.00 |
| W. E. Ambler, R. 1, Mt. Pleasant, Ia. | 4.00 |
| D. T. Boone, Elkins, Ark. | 2.50 |
| J. S. Harris, Weston, Ore. | 2.00 |
| Clark Wood, Weston, Ore. | 1.00 |
| L. I. O. Harra, Weston, Ore. | 1.00 |
| L. R. Van Winkle, Weston, Ore. | 1.00 |
| E. E. Binfield, Prosser, Neb. | 5.00 |
| Jos. J. Culbertson, Ashland, O. | 2.00 |
| C. M. Hermens, San Luis Rey, Cal. | 1.00 |
| W. C. Gorgas, Ancon, Canal Zone. | 10.00 |
| E. E. Moran, Whitman, Neb. | 5.00 |
| G. W. Fitzpatrick, Snohomish, Wash. | 2.00 |
| Stephen Koch, Snohomish, Wash. | 2.00 |
| Jas. S. Williams, Bisbee, Ariz. | 5.00 |
| Raymond Moore, Cucamonga, Cal. | 1.00 |
| R. M. Johnson, Islitas, Tex. | 3.00 |
| R. M. Shoemaker, Islitas, Tex. | .50 |
| J. F. Buchanan, Islitas, Tex. | .50 |
| J. P. Bradberry, Islitas, Tex. | .50 |
| J. G. Wilson, Islitas, Tex. | .50 |
| A. Friend, Duluth, Minn. | 1.00 |
| Morris Vincent, Chelsea, Mich. | 1.00 |
| Thos. Huselby, Mobeetie, Tex. | 3.00 |
| Patrick J. Toohey, Sparta, Wis. | 1.00 |
| F. W. Swanson, Alamosa, Colo. | 1.00 |
| S. L. Merriman, Anglin, Wash. | 1.00 |
| W. S. Paton, Foster, Ala. | 1.00 |
| J. A. Kuykendall, Royse City, Tex. | 1.00 |
| F. F. Plouf, 403 N. E. 4th St., Minneapolis, Minn. | 1.00 |
| F. D. Hornbaker, Darlow, Kan. | 1.00 |
| J. A. Bane, Saybrook, Ill. | 1.00 |
| C. L. Smith, Toledo, O., 622 Federal St. | 2.00 |
| Evan Edwards, Appleton, Wis. | 1.00 |
| Milton Richardson, Dorris, Cal. | 1.00 |
| Will Hankins, Dorris, Cal. | 1.00 |
| George Otto, Dorris, Cal. | 1.00 |
| Dorfman V. Rosenthal, Dorris, Cal. | 1.00 |
| Minnell Evans, Dorris, Cal. | 1.00 |
| Dorris Hardware Co., Dorris, Cal. | 1.00 |
| Thomas Powell, Dorris, Cal. | 1.00 |
| E. X. Herr, Dorris, Cal. | 1.25 |
| J. N. Dyar, Dorris, Cal. | 1.00 |
| A Democrat, Moundville, W. Va. | 2.00 |
| John Kokole, Red Bluff, Cal. | 1.00 |
| Thomas Nugent, Cabery, Ill. | 5.00 |

\$118.75

NEW DEMOCRATIC CLUBS

New clubs reported to The Commoner since the last published list, up to and including Friday, August 23rd:

Wilson and Marshall Club, St. Johnsbury, Vt.—R. A. Cramer, president; George W. Caldbeck, first vice president; J. O. Droum, second vice president; James A. Impey, secretary.

Wilson and Marshall Club, Burr, Neb.—H. S. Hurst, president; Jacob Frey, vice president; W. Scott Holden, secretary and treasurer.

Wilson-Marshall Club, Wheaton, Minn.—Rev. H. G. Gaunt, president; J. T. Erickson, vice president; George G. Allanson, secretary; Judge E. J. Fortune, treasurer.

Woodrow Wilson Club, Eureka, Utah.—W. E. Evans, president; Hall Gear, vice president; T. J. Sullivan, secretary.

Wilson and Marshall Club, Eureka Springs, Ark.—Wade H. James, president; S. A. Deihl, secretary.

Wilson and Marshall Club, Whitefish, Montana.—Dr. J. A. Tillett, president.

Wilson and Marshall Club, Farrell, Pa.—R. H. Johnson, president; Phillip Charles, secretary; S. P. Bryan, treasurer.

Wilson, Marshall and Lewis Club, Williamsport, Md.—C. J. Davis, president; W. J. Taylor, vice president; W. S. Steffey, secretary.

A GOOD MOVE

William H. Thompson, chairman of the democratic state committee for Nebraska has called upon the democratic editors of the state to gather in their respective congressional districts August 30th for the purpose of consulting as to the campaign in progress.

This is a good move and might well be followed in other states of the union.

A London dispatch states that Lloyd's are insuring some persons against loss in case Governor Wilson is elected but this item does not state in what form of grand larceny those desiring insurance are engaged.