

About The Commoner Editor

San Francisco Post: However a majority of the voters of this country may differ with the views of William Jennings Bryan—and this difference of opinion has been demonstrated several times—Mr. Bryan has the faculty of retaining the respect of his political friends and foes. The chief reason is that the commoner is a good loser. That is the real test of a big man. The average man looms up in success but there is much more to the man who can appear big and impressive in defeat. Bryan has been the leader three times in what seemed good chances to secure the honor most coveted by Americans—the presidency.

We are opposed to many policies advocated by Mr. Bryan, but we are absolutely certain that he is sincere in everything that he advocates. When he did discover that he made a blunder in the matter of financial reform some years back he was big enough to admit that he was in error. If Bryan believed the same in the matter of silver today as he did then, we feel certain that he would advocate it in the face of all opposition and ridicule. In all his battles—and Mr. Bryan has been a fighter during all his public life—he has preserved his tolerance and his good humor.

Of course, the continued candidacy of William Jennings Bryan has become a national joke, but it is a joke between friends. There is love and even deep respect for the butt of that joke. On the other hand, Colonel

Roosevelt will be a different sort of joke a little later in the year, for the simple reason that he is not the big man that William Jennings Bryan has shown himself to be.

The feeling of the American people toward Bryan is best shown by that eminent philosopher, Mr. Dooley, who frequently has discussed him in the columns of the Post. Mr. Dooley sometimes speaks humorously of "Willum Jennings," but in the same voice there is an element of respect and admiration that few popular leaders command from their supporters. There is nothing today quite so sincere in politics as the admiration of the uncompromising Bryanites for the "peerless leader." It is one of the elements that make American politics interesting. Besides there has been no democratic candidate with whom the republicans have been so anxious to shake hands after the presidential elections.

The devotion of William Jennings Bryan to his party and its policies is emphasized at this time by the conduct of a former force in the republican party. Compared to William Jennings Bryan with his capacity for loyalty and self-sacrifice, Roosevelt, who deserted his party and repudiated its principles, seems practically small and mean at this time. Men of all parties are making that comparison today. That is why William Jennings Bryan, putting aside his own disappointment and fighting to place another man in the position which has been his own life's goal and his heart's desire,

goes higher in the estimation of his political friends and foes today.

While we are just as firmly opposed to Mr. Bryan's policies and just as prone to enjoy the joke of his perpetual candidacy, we, with every fair-minded voter in the United States, pay homage to the commoner as a gentleman and a leader who must command respect, no matter what cause he advocates.

Baraboo (Wis.) Democrat: While extending congratulations, let us not forget Bryan. Next to Wilson, no man did more to bring about the people's victory than the illustrious Nebraskan. Hats off to William Jennings Bryan!

Lincoln County (Wis.) Tomahawk: William Jennings Bryan pulled off the greatest stunt of his life at Baltimore. Had he failed in this, his political career would probably be short lived. But he made a gallant fight for a good purpose—for the good of the people—and won. The great commoner, in fact, has always worked and fought for the good of the people, but his great intellectual power and foresightedness was never appreciated as it should have been. His career thus far is wonderful and commendable. After being defeated for the presidency three times, he now has a warmer spot in the hearts of the American people than ever before. Almost every day I hear some republican remark: "I voted against Bryan three times, but I would have liked to have had a chance to vote for him this time." After being called the boy orator, the dreamer and various other names, he now

looms up as the greatest intellectual giant and statesman living during his day. Whether or not he will ever be president, he has been of great service to not only the people of the United States, but to the entire world, and the historians will give him due credit for his accomplishments.

Batesville (Ark.) Guard: But back of it all, it must not be overlooked that William J. Bryan figured in this democratic victory more than any living man.

Beginning with his fight on Belmont and Murphy at the Baltimore convention he refused to compromise and declared if the democratic nominee could not carry the state of New York without the support of these men, and if the state of New York was to be dominated in the convention by them, he wanted none of New York, and would support no man before or after who owed his nomination to them.

Like a famous orator said of a great republican standard-bearer some years ago, "Like an armed warrior, like a plumed knight," W. J. Bryan walked down that convention hall and threw his shining lance full and fair in the face of the defamers of his party and the betrayers of his party's pledges and platforms.

If Wilson had not won, and if he had lost the east, the loss would have been charged to Bryan for his audacity at the convention and for his uncompromising spirit since that time. And now that there is victory, let him have the glory that is his.

Oakland (Cal.) Review: Now that the glare of the election day

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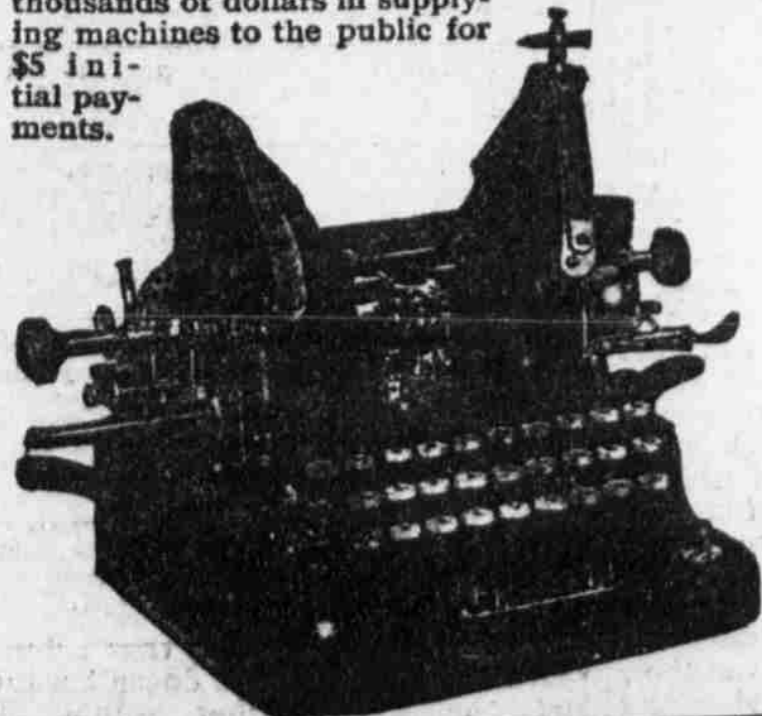
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