

while those who profited by legislation were constantly in touch with the powers that be and when the people awoke to the true condition, they found self-interest in control of every branch of the government. The protest recorded in 1910 was a timely warning that the old order must vanish, that a new day had arisen, that a new order was at hand. No more was legislation to be enacted in hotels and appointments to office made in Pullman cars. The new order was destined to destroy the cobwebs of the past and the Sixty-second congress kept the step.

"The success of 1912 was a ratification of the work begun two years prior and today we are facing the problem of making good to those who gave us this lease of power. New desires and new thoughts are today driving out those of yesterday. Yesterday those in power believed they were masters instead of servants, that human interests were subservient to property and that laws were in the interest of the few.

"This nation is today entering upon a new era. For nearly a half century it has been departing from the ideals of the fathers and has caused property rights and selfish desires to become supreme.

"That nation is strong wherein the individual is given all rights compatible with organized society. Today millions are calling as never before for escape from a course of dealings that is unjust and unworthy a free people. The richest nation on earth and yet at war with labor; a per capita wealth that is amazing yet the peasantry of the nation not receiving their just reward; a nation framed in equality and yet strengthening the hold of classes.

"A bill of rights marvelous in its statement and yet one man taxed for the benefit of another; a government of the people and yet the masses have the least to say. Will our party dedicate itself to the public good or to private benefactors?

"Our face is turned to the east, we are looking at the rising sun, and if for an instant we look around and give one glance backward, we will be driven from the course and our place taken by those who will move forward in the line of human rights.

"Legislation must have for its purpose the greatest good for the country. Remedial legislation is a necessity. The appeal comes from every home, from every workshop, from every farm side for the enactment of measures in which the common good is the basis. The question of taxation is supreme and the tax gatherer is not limited to the national capital or the county courthouse.

It is evident to anyone who has given thought to this subject that the power of taxation as exemplified in our tariff laws exacts a greater tribute to its beneficiaries than the government does for its own existence.

"This is not only true with reference to tax upon the food we consume and the clothing we wear, but upon transportation. The tax exacted for transportation has crushed individuals as well as localities and our party will not do its duty if that tax is not corrected. A tax on consumption should be at the minimum and it never will be if private interests are permitted to make the levy. These questions must be solved in the interest of a just and humane government or we will not be permitted to remain in power.

"No country is just that taxes the loaf of bread or the clothing its people wear. Untaxed food and untaxed clothing is a necessity and the party will not live that continues to unnecessarily tax these commodities. To tax the food we eat and the clothing we wear is but subjecting the individual to a hardship not justified by a democratic government.

"State governments exempt from taxation the homes of those who bared their breast to the bullet storm that we might have a united country and frequently has exempted from taxation the home of the working man.

"Why should not the national government say to all, that upon food and clothing there shall be no tax and thereby give relief to a class that needs assistance and are yet the bone and sinew of every government. This cry goes forth from every village and hamlet in this land, and our party if it remains true to its historic past must stand for the least taxation upon those who are the least able to bear it.

"In the contest of 1912, the democracy of the people spoke as it never did before. The democratic party went before the people led by men who believed in equality and was successful, unaided by bosses and unsupported by the monopolistic press.

"The Mississippi valley, the home of democ-

cracy with a unanimity that was commendable from one end to the other, gave practically a unanimous electoral vote for the sage of Princeton and by that act has given notice that it becomes the center of power in this nation.

"It was the first to declare for the election of United States senators by the people; it declared for an income tax; it stands for the initiative and referendum, for direct primaries, for a lessened tax on the necessities of life, and it sends forth today with all the power and significance possible, that not one backward step shall be taken; that the government of the future must be that which brings to the home of the individual every right he is entitled and destroys every vestige of tribute.

"We are led today by one who stands in the foremost ranks of thinkers of the world. Democracy made no mistake in the nomination and election of school master and patriot governor of New Jersey. Of noble purpose, of high ideals with an intellectuality, comparable with Jefferson, with the vigor and backbone of a Jackson he will drive from power the corrupter of government and the beneficiaries of selfish interests. His administration will take its place by the side of that of Jefferson, Jackson and Lincoln as one of the milestones in our history. Of humble origin and yet of unbounded wealth, of intellect, with a heart beating in the interest of humanity he takes his place at the head of our nation as typical democratic American citizen.

"Without the aid or assistance of bosses or combinations he has risen to the highest pinnacle given to man. He stands dedicated to maintain a government of the people and for the people.

"Washington declared, 'That there existed in the economy of nature an indissoluble union between virtue and happiness, between duty and advantage.'

"Jefferson declared, 'Equal and exact justice to all men of whatever state or persuasion, religious or political; peace, commerce and honest friendship with all nations.'

"Lincoln declared, 'I take the official oath today with no mental reservation and with no purpose to construe the constitution or laws by any hypercritical rules; we are not enemies but friends.'

"Wilson declared, 'With this vision we approach new affairs, our duty is to cleanse, to reconsider, to restore, to correct the evil without impairing the good, to purify and humanize every process of our common life without weakening or sentimentalizing it.'

"These were the utterances of patriots and President Wilson dedicates his life to this government and the fulfillment of party pledges. How can he fail? The people stand to protect and maintain him.

"Upholding the arm of our president are those in whom we have implicit faith and confidence. We recognize one standing by his side, who when the robe of democracy was trailing in the dust held it up as the shield and protector of humanity. One who never lost faith in the people. He stands this hour by his side to sustain and encourage him in the mighty work he is doing. How can he fail with America's greatest commoner, William Jennings Bryan as the flag bearer?

"The army of democracy is moving onward. On one side stands teeming millions asking but opportunity, upon the other stands greed, graft and power. Without impairing the good we must correct the evil and our failure to recognize what is wrong and attempt to destroy it will mark our capacity for government. It is not that we shall destroy the strong, but that we shall protect the weak; it is not that we shall foster a belief that a paternal government is best, but that we shall declare that the government shall not become a partner in business in which it has no share in the profits. We must declare that the youth of this nation are not to be destroyed in workshop; that vice and crime must not find a foothold in our cities; that a minimum wage is a necessity; that the money powers must not hang as the sword of Damocles over the head of the people; that the life of one individual born in the image of his Creator reared in education and patriotism is worth more to a republic than all the wealth of all the ages; that government shall not tax one man for the benefit of another; that the mighty forces of nature as exemplified in our rivers and lakes shall be utilized for public good not selfish interests; that the tax on transportation shall be based on the physical value of the property not on the size of the corporation; that the government shall be master not the creature; that wealth is based on happiness and contentment not mighty armies and gigantic navies; that the rule of the

people is preferable to a government by beneficiaries. To accomplish this is the work of our party and we invite all classes to unite with us in its accomplishment that a democratic government may not perish."

"RECLAIMING KANSAS"

Governor George H. Hodges of Kansas spoke as follows:

"I know not what star stood over the cradle of the infant son that was born in the Bryan home in Salem, Ill., March 19, 1860. It is sufficient for our purpose to know that for the past seventeen years, that boy grown to manhood, has been the dominant figure in American politics, and is today stronger and more firmly fortified in the public confidence than any other man in American public life.

"We come tonight bearing to him from the people of Kansas a message of congratulation, of love, and loyalty; and bringing to him the assurance, on this fifty-third anniversary of his birth, that in my state his name is still magic, and its mention is still greeted with the old time sincere applause.

A few years ago Lyman Abbott, the friend of Mr. Bryan's great imitator, said, 'The career of William Jennings Bryan is without parallel in American political history.' In the course of the same article the distinguished editor of the Outlook said, 'His program is nothing less than a reconstruction of American political democracy, and in our judgment he has inaugurated a movement that will grow to formidable proportions.'

This was said six or seven years ago. The prophecy has come true. Mr. Bryan has pushed the reconstruction of American political democracy to a successful issue, and today the government of the United States, and of most of the states of this nation, is in the hands of that reconstructed political democracy.

"And why has all this come to pass?"

"Mr. Abbott himself assigned the reason when he said that Mr. Bryan had reduced the profession of politics to an honest trade and wrought a moral revolution in American public life. Because of his soundness of heart, because more than any living statesman he is thoroughly under the compulsion of moral idealism, Mr. Bryan has been able to keep the good ship democracy in her progressive course, and has enabled her to weather storms that threatened to engulf and has brought her safely to harbor.

"No man in public life has ever been assailed more violently. The most skillful champions of corporate privilege and predatory wealth have broken their lances upon his shield and have retired discomfited from the fray.

"With Mr. Bryan's soundness of heart goes indomitable energy, courage and persistence. Like another Hercules, he has come from each labor feeling that he has done a creditable day's work but always ready for another. If he wrestled with a Nemean lion yesterday, he is ready to strangle the Lernean hydra today. If it were pointed out to him that he had not brought up Cerberus from Hades, he stood ready to tackle the job. If they twitted him with not bringing back the golden apples from the garden of Hesperides or with not cleaning out the Augean stables, he redoubled his efforts, took off his coat and in the year 1912 he completed both tasks.

"Mr. Abbott was right. The career of William Jennings Bryan is without parallel in American politics. From that day in Chicago in 1896, when he flashed across the political horizon like a meteor, his place in the hearts of the American people has never been insecure. Successive defeats have been only apparent, and each time he renewed the battle, he strengthened his hold upon the public. Mr. Bryan did not spring full panoplied from the helmet of the statue of 'Chicago' at the convention of 1896. He grew. As he stands today he is a growth, and I am firmly convinced that he will continue to grow and to fill a still larger place in the hearts of the American people and in the destinies of this great republic. Here is a man after the people's own heart. He represents qualities which they share. He has won their confidence by doing in a conspicuous manner work which they believe ought to be done. Their power is behind him because he is what the people think he is.

"Richard Cobden, when he was making a moral issue of the repeal of the Corn laws, said: 'The only way in which the soul of a great nation can be stirred is by appealing to its sympathies with a true principle in its unalloyed simplicity. And, further, it is necessary for the concentration of a people's mind that an in-