

Urges Signing Abstinence Pledge

Following is the report, taken from the Detroit Times, of the meeting at Ann Arbor in which Mr. Bryan urged the signing of the total abstinence pledge:

Ann Arbor, Mich., Nov. 30.—The American premier, who thrilled and inspired 5,000 university and high school boys in the Hill auditorium, Saturday night—as the outstanding feature of the largest Y. M. C. A. boys' conference ever held—disclosed a new national field of activity in which he proposes to enlist the most powerfully persuasive voice in the public life of America today.

This new moral project, suggested to Mr. Bryan by the phrasing of the appeal of 4,000 Michigan boys for his presence at their conference, was revealed by the secretary of state in a digression from his address, "The Making of a Man." The foremost peace advocate of the world has secured the signatures of 30 governments to his arbitration proposal; he now proposes to get the youth of America to "sign up" with him in a covenant of abstention from alcoholic beverages. Fully three-fourths of the great body of young men arose when he called for an expression. The pledges, headed by the signature of the secretary of state, will be circulated by the 4,000 Y. M. C. A. boys of Michigan, who invited Mr. Bryan to the conference.

Mr. Bryan's significant "digression" was as follows:

"Having told you something that my mother stamped upon my mind before I was 10, and something that my father stamped upon my mind before I was 15, I come to a third thing that they united in impressing upon me when I was so young that I can not remember.

"I do not remember when I first signed the pledge. If I had to guess I should say that it was the day that I learned to sign my name, but I may have signed it a few times before that with my mark. But what I do know is that I have been signing the pledge all my life. And I know further that, as long as I live, I shall sign the pledge any day if, by signing, I can get one human being to sign with me. (Applause.)

"I believe in signing the pledge. It has been a protection to me. When I went into public life they told me a man had to drink in order to be in politics. It is a lie. A man does not have to drink to be in politics. There is no position that a sober man can not fill better than a drinking man. (Loud applause.)

"When the president asked me to become a member of his cabinet I told him that I knew of but one objection that could be raised against me, and that was that we did not use wine and would not serve it. He left it for my wife and I to decide, and it did not take us long to do it. (Applause.) We have not found it necessary to use wine in extending hospitality to those who represent other nations; this nation's diplomacy is not of the kind that makes it necessary to give a man drink in order to deal with him." (Applause.)

"May I digress just a moment? The day before I left home I met a friend who was drinking and I asked him if he would sign the pledge with me and he said that he would. I drew up the pledge and it read: 'We, the undersigned, promise, God helping us, never to use intoxicating liquor as a beverage.' After he had signed it I said to him: 'We will have two copies of it, I will keep one and give your wife the other. He replied to me, 'Do you know that my wife will think more of that pledge than if you gave her a thousand dollars?' I said, 'It is worth more to her than a thousand dollars.' I had that pledge in my

pocket as I was coming east the other day when your leader, Mr. Van Dis, met me in Chicago and showed me this invitation, signed by 4,000 boys. I could not resist such an invitation." (Applause.)

"I could not decline it and do you know how that invitation began? Read it—'We, the undersigned'—and that made me think of the pledge in my pocket and I decided to make a proposition to you. I want to sign a pledge with just as many of you as will sign. I am going to ask those in charge of this meeting to give you a chance to sign a pledge here or when you go home. I have already signed it. I would like to have every boy here sign that pledge, and then I would like to have him go home and get as many more signers as possible, commencing with his parents and his brothers and sisters, and with his friends.

"If we could just get men to sign the pledge and keep it, we would not have the disgraceful spectacle that we have in this country today with four times as much spent for liquor as for education and 10 times as much as is spent for religion. If we had this condition we would not have all the sorrow and suffering that drink causes. If the young men of this state will bind themselves together in agreement not to drink, it will soon be easy to solve the liquor question and to drive the saloon from our midst.

"I do not want any one to rise unless he is willing. I do not want this to be done in any sudden passion or fit of enthusiasm. It is a pledge for life. But, how many of you have thought about it enough to rise and indicate that you are willing to sign the pledge with me? How many of you? (At this point nearly all the boys in the audience arose). Boys, I am much obliged to you, and I want these boys down here to know that students in the gallery rose too."

"You know, when I am working in politics I must get a majority to agree with me before I can get anything I believe in put into operation, and it is not as easy as you might think to get a majority to agree with you always. But if I can get one human being to start on a better way I have done something, and it will make me glad all the rest of my life if, by coming here tonight, I have been able to protect any of you by a pledge against the evils of intemperance. Forgive this digression. I think it is the most profitable digression I ever made in making a speech."

Mr. Bryan believes that 50,000 Michigan boys will join him in this total abstinence pledge. His plan is to present the same to the youth of every state as opportunity offers.

James Schermerhorn introduced Mr. Bryan as a personality and influence comparable to Gladstone in the political and social life of England—"a spiritually-minded man of the world." He can come to a boys' conference from a political convention, said Mr. Schermerhorn, without changing his mind or his methods.

The conference closed Sunday afternoon with an address by Fred B. Smith, of New York, whom Mr. Bryan commended to the boys as bearing the mantle of the great Moody. Mr. Smith's subject was "A Strong Man," and it was a powerful exhortation to lead the Christian life. Many arose for prayers.

GOOD WISHES

White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., December 7, 1914. Mr. Chas. W. Bryan, Lincoln, Neb. Dear Mr. Bryan: I am most happy to tell you that I have ALWAYS been a great admirer of Mr. W. J. Bryan, have supported him with all my heart every time he

has been before the people for the presidency, and shall always esteem him as second to no man our country calls GREAT. The stand he took before the Baltimore convention, and the way he won out on it was enough to immortalize him, had he done no other great things for the masses of the people. Long may he live and prosper, and may his associate editor be spared to stand by him and The Commoner to the end. Yours very truly, J. S. Surber.

NEW RUPTURE CURE

Don't Wear a Truss



Brooks' Appliance. New discovery. Wonderful. No Obnoxious springs or pads. Automatic Air Cushions. Blinds and draws the broken parts together as you would a broken limb. No salves. No plasters. No lies. Durable, cheap. Sent on trial to prove it. Full information and booklet Free

C.E. Brooks, 1736B State St, Marshall, Mich

A Sewing Machine Offer

We want to put a SINGER Sewing Machine into your home for a free, fair, full trial.

We want every woman to see for herself why the Singer is recognized as the best in the world.

Send a postal for our free booklet.

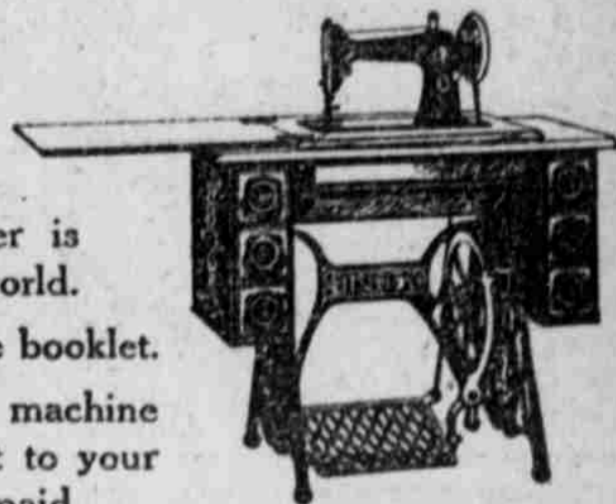
Select from it the type of machine you would like to have sent to your home for free trial, all charges paid.

If you decide to buy it, terms will be made to please you.

If you don't want it, it will be taken back at our expense. Write for the booklet now. Address,

SINGER SEWING MACHINE CO.

ROOM 310
SINGER BUILDING, NEW YORK CITY



GET A "FACILITY" GOLD-PLATED SAFETY RAZOR



THERE IS NO BETTER RAZOR THAN THE "FACILITY," AND NO BETTER BLADE AT ANY PRICE

Heavy, reinforced Goldplated Facility Razor Frame and Three double-tested Facility Blades, oil-honed on steel, in a black leatherette hinge-cover box, lined and mounted in Cherry Satin and Velvet, with patent fastener. Additional blades will be furnished at any time, at 3 for 10 cents.

HOW TO GET THIS RAZOR

Facility Safety Razor.....	\$1.00	} SEND ONLY
The Commoner, 1 year.....	1.00	
The American Homestead, 1 year.....	.25	
	\$2.25	\$1.35

This offer is open to both old and new subscribers. Each Razor will be carefully packed and mailed direct by parcels post.

This Razor will make a beautiful Christmas or Holiday Gift. Send in your order at once.

ADDRESS THE COMMONER, LINCOLN, NEB.