

## An Unanointed Prophet

Rear-Admiral Peary, speaking at a republican banquet in New York recently, said:

"We can not stand still. A hundred years hence we shall either be obliterated as a nation, or we shall occupy the entire North American world segment."

The advantages of free speech are so great, that we are compelled to accept with these advantages the evils that follow from an occasional abuse of the privilege by persons sufficiently prominent to secure publicity for their views. It is to be regretted, however, that a man known to the public should so much enjoy indulging his imagination as to be indifferent to the effect which his utterances may have upon this country's relations with other nations. Admiral Peary does not, of course, claim to be inspired—he is simply expressing his private opinion, but his name, unfortunately, gives wings to his words. He fixes one hundred years as the period during which it will be necessary for this government to secure control of the continent, or disappear. Such a prediction from an obscure man would be foolish: from one in his position, it is little less than a crime. His prediction is based upon an assumption which has been demonstrated to be false—namely, that a nation must constantly expand or go into decay.

"We can not stand still," he exclaims, and then upon this unsupported statement, he proceeds to make a verbal conquest of the rest of the continent. Why is it impossible for us to stand still, so far as our territorial boundaries are concerned? Why is expansion necessary? And if necessary to us, why is it not necessary to other nations also? He seems disposed to apply the Darwinian theory to governments, and to argue that the big ones must swallow up the little ones until there is only one big government left.

One takes great risks when he puts aside the mental limitations which restrain ordinary mortals and claims to KNOW things that are unknowable. If he will examine the history of the world, he will learn that many boundary lines have stood for more than a century, and that nations that respected boundary lines were not obliterated. It has been a century since the boundary line between the United States and Canada was established, and yet both countries are more prosperous today than they were a hundred years ago. This country shares the larger part of North America with several Spanish-speaking republics, and there is no reason why there should be any dispute between them in a century or in many centuries. The idea that a nation can grow only geographically is as un-American as it is untrue. A man usually reaches his stature by the time he is twenty-one; after that he does not grow taller, and if he widens out, it is not usually a matter to boast of. He does not say—"I can not stop growing": on the contrary, he is glad to reach a physical limit, for then he can give his entire thought to intellectual development and to moral growth. As with a man, so with a nation; to measure a nation by its size is like measuring a man by his height or weight.

There is no reason why the United States should not grow larger in all that makes a nation great, without feeling that its boundaries are a restraint. Switzerland, Holland and Greece do not occupy much space on the map, but they have written a wonderful history, and when universal peace is assured the opportunities for service enjoyed by small countries will be still greater. What is said of Switzerland, Holland and Greece can be said of many other small nations. Greatness does not depend upon area. This nation has no thought of turning its attention away from the real standards to the fictitious ones set up by the jingoes. The president spoke for the United States when he declared in his Mobile speech that this nation would never acquire another foot of territory by conquest.

Our neighbors should not be disturbed by the prophecies of Rear-Admiral Peary; he has never been anointed and he speaks only for himself.

W. J. BRYAN.

### IOWA'S NATIONAL COMMITTEEMAN

March 30, 1915.

Mr. L. S. Kennington,  
Newton, Iowa.

My dear Mr. Kennington:

I am in receipt of your favor of March 24th enclosing a report of the meeting of the democratic central committee on March 22d, and saying that at the meeting a claim was made that I desired the appointment of Mr. Marsh.

I do not assume that my opinion is desired, but if the partisans of any candidate regard my views as having any weight in the election of a national committeeman, it is only fair that those views should be frankly stated and made known to all who have to act upon the subject.

The legislature of Iowa has voted statutory prohibition, and has also submitted to the people a prohibition amendment to the constitution. It becomes necessary, therefore, for the voters of Iowa to act upon the liquor question, both in choosing another legislature and in voting upon the amendment submitted. The democrats of Iowa, constituting a considerable portion of the voting population, must take action upon this subject both in the nomination and election of legislators, and also directly as they vote upon the prohibition amendment.

I take it for granted that the democratic party will act upon the subject in its state and local conventions, and even if it does not, the individual action taken by the members of the organization will, to a greater or less extent, commit the party on this subject and thus affect the party's strength in the state.

It is proper that the national committeeman should represent the attitude of the party on this question; in fact the liquor interests have already ruled out one good man because he is "dry." The only way in which the sentiment of the party can be made evident in advance of a convention or an election is for each person to vote as he thinks, if he acts as an individual or, as his constituents think, if he acts as a representative.

The liquor question is a moral question and our party's hope of success in the state of Iowa for years to come will, in my judgment, depend upon the manner in which it meets this question and the position it takes upon it.

If I were a citizen of Iowa I would make my opinion on the subject manifest by casting whatever influence I had in favor of the selection of officials who would not be controlled by, or under obligation to, the liquor interests but would be positively and definitely committed to the home as against the saloon. The brewer, the distiller, and the saloonkeeper are in conspiracy against all that is pure in society, against all that is sacred in the family—against all that is good in industry and desirable in government. I do not mean to say that EVERY brewer, EVERY distiller, or EVERY saloonkeeper is consciously conspiring, but the business in which these men are engaged is the enemy of progress and civilization and they are not in position to oppose the influences that dominate it. Those who represent the liquor interests are conscienceless in their methods; they debauch the individuals through whom they act, and any party to which they dictate. The democratic party can only hope for success when it gives expression to high ideals and makes itself the champion of the noblest principles and the best policies.

Whenever a moral question is raised, therefore, there is but one side to it, unless the party is willing to sell its soul for a support which can not be more than temporary, and which can not be accepted even temporarily without the forfeiture of public respect.

It does not matter much what particular individual is chosen as national committeeman, but it matters a great deal whether he stands on the moral side or immoral side of the line that separates the forces that are soon to engage in political battle in Iowa. It would be far better to take an obscure man who is right on the liquor question than a well-known man who is wrong on the liquor question, for an unknown man ceases to be unknown when he becomes the exponent of a righteous cause,—he borrows strength from his cause; whereas, individual strength and personal influence dwindle into nothingness under the blight of an unholy alliance with an immoral cause.

If, therefore, anybody asks you my opinion, you may say that in any contest between a "wet" and a "dry" candidate for national committeeman I am for the dry candidate, and that I shall be greatly disappointed if the democratic party

in Iowa does not throw the weight of its great influence against the liquor interests and all that they stand for or desire.

Yours very truly,  
W. J. BRYAN.

### THE CONQUESTS OF PEACE

There is nothing good or glorious which war has brought forth in human nature which peace may not produce more richly and more permanently. When we cease to think of peace as the negative of war, and think of war as the negative of peace, making war and not peace the exception and interruption of human life, making peace and not war the type and glory of existence, then shall shine forth the higher soldier-ship of the higher battles. Then the first military spirit and its work shall seem to be but crude struggles after, and rehearsals for, that higher fight, the fight after the eternal facts and their obedience, the light against the perpetually intrusive lie, which is the richer glory of the riper man. The facts of government, the facts of commerce, the facts of society, the facts of history, the facts of man, the facts of God, in these, in the perception of their glory, in the obedience to their compulsion, shall be the possibility and promise of the soldier statesman, the soldier scientist, the soldier philanthropist, the soldier priest, the soldier man. "The sword is beaten into the plowshare, the spear into the pruning hook." "The war drum throbs no longer, and the battle flags are furled." But it is not that the power of fight has perished; it is that the battle has gone up onto higher ground and into higher light. The battle is above the clouds.—Phillips Brooks.

Charles Francis Adams, who died at a ripe old age the other week, contributed one famous comment on the Dingley tariff that is readily remembered. He was a manufacturer, and said of that tariff: "I stole under it yesterday; I am stealing under it today, and I propose to steal under it tomorrow. The government has forced me into the position, and I both do and shall take full advantage of it." Nearly all of his fellow manufacturers did the same, but none of them was as frank and truthful about it as he was.

About a third of a billion was lost in the manipulations which brought the Rock Island railroad, fundamentally a strong western railroad, into financial difficulties. The attorneys for the men who did the manipulating carefully explained to the investigators that it was "merely a mistake of judgment." A little later it was also discovered that they confined their mistakes in judgment to their dealings with other persons' money and not their own.

Colonel Roosevelt is still discharging the great guns of his rhetoric against the Wilson administration battlements, but no breaches in the walls have yet been made. The colonel's attack lacks one important element in successful warfare, that of surprise.

### ENDORSED BY COUNTY CHAIRMAN

We were greatly pleased this week to receive from Hon. A. C. Hindman, chairman of the Ada County Democratic Central Committee official endorsement of Commoner Week, the movement inaugurated by The New Freedom to greatly increase the circulation of The Commoner—W. J. Bryan's great national review of current problems. The democracy of the nation should set aside the week beginning with Monday, March 15th, as Commoner Week and remember the great work which Mr. Bryan has accomplished in the past by greatly enlarging his field of effort by increasing the circulation of The Commoner. We append herewith Mr. Hindman's letter and sincerely trust that every democrat in Ada county will respond by a subscription to The Commoner. Mr. Hindman writes as follows:

Boise, Idaho, Feb. 26, 1915.

Hon. Fred Floed, Editor The New Freedom, Boise, Idaho.—Dear Sir: I have noted with interest the move inaugurated by The New Freedom to observe the week of March 15th as Commoner Week, and desire to give my heartiest approval to the plan and its object, viz: increasing the circulation of William J. Bryan's great paper, The Commoner. Nothing will do so much to promote the interests of the national democracy, and make it a militant, successful organization as the general circulation of a newspaper which teaches the doctrine of true democracy. Very respectfully yours, A. C. Hindman, Chairman Democratic County Central Committee of Ada County.—The New Freedom, Boise, Idaho.