

## State Press Comments on the Municipal Contest at Lincoln

A state's interest in municipal contests involving her most important cities is shown in the recent city election at Lincoln, Nebraska, May 4, in which Charles W. Bryan, associate editor and publisher of The Commoner, was elected mayor by a large majority. Lincoln is operating under the commission form of government and, nominally, is strongly republican in politics. Following are some comments made by the Nebraska state press:

Fairbury (Neb.) Journal, May 13, 1915: The election of Charles W. Bryan to the position of mayor of Lincoln is of interest to men of the entire state of Nebraska. His overwhelming victory, in the face of the most bitter and determined opposition shows that the people of Lincoln are fully awake to the personal strength of Mr. Bryan. Elsewhere in the state there may linger a feeling that Charles W. Bryan is merely the brother of the distinguished secretary of state. His friends and neighbors in Lincoln know that he has elements of strength entirely his own.

The special interests of Lincoln furnished the sinews of war to put up the fight against him, and the fact that he was able to overcome them shows also his political shrewdness. He was able to force the gas company of Lincoln to terms, merely by respectfully asking the president of the company to furnish dollar gas at once and politely showing that if the request was not granted, he would begin a campaign on that issue alone.

Mr. Bryan must have great strength with the voters of Lincoln if he can make good on that kind of a proposition; but he did. The president of the gas company immediately acceded to his request and a victory was gained in a few hours, which the defeated administration stated could not be accomplished in months.

Mr. Bryan had no newspaper back

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Do you know that out of every one thousand insurable persons, that is, those found on medical examination to be in good health, that from ages 20 to 30 about 8 will die each year; that from the ages of 30 to 40, about 9; from ages 40 to 50, about 12; from ages 50 to 60, about 20; and from the ages 60 to 70, about 44. That is, about 920 of the 1,000 will be in their graves before the age of 70 is reached. Yet from a physical point of view each one of the thousand had an equal chance to live 70 years.

Have you a wife or children or an old mother or father, or debts exceeding your estate? Do you know that life insurance is by all odds the very cheapest way you can provide, with absolute certainty, for the family and protect your estate?

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of him, he had no political party—he merely knew what he was about, knew how to go about it to accomplish the desired end, and he had the ability and courage to proceed forthwith to do it.

We summarize his work in Lincoln only to show that Mr. Charles W. Bryan is a force to be reckoned with in the political and social life of the entire state. Mr. Bryan was probably the most instrumental factor in securing the passage of the law for the initiative and referendum. In this he met up with the great special interests and especially the entrenched brewery interests of Omaha, but he eventually defeated them.

In the last legislature he gloriously defeated the insurance trust, even after the trust believed that victory was theirs, and Mr. Bryan did this merely by striking at the opportune moment, by knowing and understanding men and their motives, by being absolutely clean and free from entangling interests or taint, himself.

There is not another man in the state of Nebraska who works harder for the interests of the people than Charles W. Bryan, and all with no other reward than his love for the game. He is shrewd, resourceful, untiring, persuasive, able, honest, clean and all the time active and aggressive.

The Journal has no authority to predict the political future of Charles W. Bryan. No man knows his ambitions for if any person can keep his counsel, Charles W. Bryan can. He never "leaks." He never "slops over." He moves steadily along, apparently little concerned. He may be a candidate sometime for a statewide position. He has the qualifications and the ability to fill the governor's chair, to such a degree that if he should ever land there some of those who have filled that office will shrink and shrink until about all that will be left of them will be their pictures hanging in the executive offices.

Summarizing again, we want the people of this community to become more acquainted with Charles W. Bryan, mayor of Lincoln. Legislation for the benefit of the people is safe in his hands and the people of the state should stand ready, regardless of party ties, to support him, if the occasion comes, even as the people of Lincoln supported him in his fight against the special interests of the capital city.

Custer County (Neb.) Republican, Broken Bow: And C. W. Bryan is to be one of Lincoln's city commissioners, with strong probabilities of his being mayor, he having come under the wire second in the race there Tuesday, only Commissioner Dayton leading him. Another evidence that the Bryan brothers have considerable reason for self congratulations in the matter of the enemies they have made. The fact that these succeed in misleading a considerable number of less desirable enemies in their camp doesn't seriously detract from the evident good judgment the Bryan brothers use in selecting enemies. For those you select are always able to carry with them some of them you wouldn't have chosen if it were left to you, but there is always hope that the latter will sometime discover that they are simply carrying someone else's grouch, and then they will drop it.

Adams County (Neb.) Democrat, Hastings: The Bryan-haters in and out of Lincoln, now that Charley

Bryan walloped the daylight out of them in the recent Lincoln election, are proceeding to fix up a program for the new mayor as nearly impossible of accomplishment as can be. Yet we venture to predict that Mayor Charley Bryan will more than make good with reasonable Lincolnites.

Columbus (Neb.) Telegram: With all the public-service corporations hysterically trying to beat him, and with the local and foreign booze interests trying to wipe him off the political map, Charley Bryan ran right up close to high man at the election for city commissioners in Lincoln last Tuesday. Victory over such a combination is indeed remarkable, and the victory stamps Charley Bryan as something more than a castle-carpenter in the realm of politics, and makes him now as much an element to be reckoned with in state politics as is his distinguished brother in the field of national politics.

Just a little while ago the big special interests in Lincoln laughed at the suggestion that Charley Bryan could defeat the pet mayor of the interests. Today those who laughed are stupefied by the immensity of the victory scored by the man who stood for dollar gas and other good things wanted by the common people. Bryan not only carried himself to victory but he overwhelmingly defeated the present mayor, who never seemed to know where he stood on any public question until after consulting his corporation advisers. Bryan took the people into his confidence, told them just how he stood on every pending city problem, and asked their support for his progressive platform, rather than for himself.

Some day the democrats of Nebraska will have a candidate for governor who will be honest in telling the people how he stands on public problems, and then the party will profit by an exhibition of honesty in high office. That candidate may, or may not be Charley Bryan. However, it is easy to estimate that if he should ever want to make a race for governor, and should take the people into his confidence, as he did in the Lincoln fight, he would win as readily in a state contest as he won in Lincoln. That is to say, he could win at the November election, where all the people would have a chance to vote for him; but if the same influences which controlled the state senate should dominate the democratic primary, then Charley Bryan would stand about as much show to win the nomination as the proverbial snowball in Texas.

But the political atmosphere is clearing in Nebraska, and it may be possible that next year some good democrat may be nominated for governor, and another one for United States senator, without reference to the plans and specifications of the big interests.

The election of Charley Bryan as a city commissioner in Lincoln is earnest notice to the big interests in Nebraska that their day of political domination is fading, and that the night of their discontent is very near.

Adams County (Neb.) Democrat, Hastings: The election of Mayor Dahlman for the fourth time in Omaha and with him six democrats to guide the destiny of the state metropolis does not surprise us very much as they are old hands at the city business and have, in the main, made good. The surprise is Charles W. Bryan's runaway win in Lincoln. The business men's (?) organization, all corporations and their hangers-on, the Daily Star, the politicians, (republican, democrat and bull moose,) all the riff raff, dirt and vice, fighting him teeth and toe nail, the esteemed State Journal pretending friendship, but secretly knitting him and furnish-

ing the dope for the open fighters, all this united opposition was swept into the scrap pile when the good people of Lincoln gave their answer. Some runner, Prince Charley. Good luck attend his administration is the wish of friends in the state. It wasn't a party victory; it was a victory of a Greater Lincoln.

Riverton (Neb.) Review: The democrats of the state have witnessed the beautiful sight during the past few weeks of a most unholy fight waged against Charles W. Bryan by a supposed democratic daily newspaper—the Lincoln Daily Star. There was nothing less than horse stealing that the Star did not lay at the doors of this man Bryan. It raked every charge possible up to the doors of this man, and viciously and maliciously sought to encompass his defeat in his mayoralty campaign in the city of Lincoln. Every friend of the special interests of that city; every reactionary democrat and every Bryan hating democrat and every other disreputable influence in that city was back of the Star in its fight on Charlie Bryan. Out state democrats were humiliated by the tactics employed by that newspaper in its attitude toward one of the hardest working and best known democrats of the state. They knew down underneath it all was the benign intent of these fat fryers to special privilege, to kill the Bryan influence in the democratic party in Nebraska. It was a studied effort by a bunch of democrat political porch climbers to strike a dagger into the very vitals of Bryanism, and it was to this movement that the Star lent its most untrifling aid, while the World-Herald hunk-doraed amen. Not all the men who opposed Bryan were of this class. It was these, however, who made the most rabid attacks on the man—such as the Star made. Despite the fact that Mr. Bryan had to go up against the hottest directed fire ever turned upon a candidate in Lincoln, and despite the fact that a so-called "business men's" association directed their full batteries at Mr. Bryan's head—despite all this, he carried every ward in the city over Mayor Zehrung and piled up 1,400 majority over him, and only lacked 276 votes of being the high man of the ten candidates making the race for a place upon the city commission. Commissioner Dayton, upon whom no fight was made, was the only man to receive a greater vote than Mr. Bryan. It was a great day for the slaughtering of the friends of special privilege and corporation rule and corporation masters. Let us introduce you, fellow democrats, to the man who whipped all the above agencies to a frazzle and in due time will sit at the head of the city government of Lincoln—the Honorable Charles W. Bryan.

Blair (Neb.) Enterprise: C. W. Bryan, brother of Secretary of State W. J. Bryan, was elected city commissioner of Lincoln at last Tuesday's election, defeating F. C. Zehrung, mayor for the last two years, against whom he was pitted, and will probably be chosen mayor of the city. The city of Lincoln is governed by five commissioners and a very bitter fight was waged against Mr. Bryan by the democratic supporters of Senator Hitchcock.

Thomas County (Neb.) Herald, Thedford: The election in Lincoln resulted in a victory for the conservatives in the Sunday theatre contest, and for C. W. Bryan as against the corporations and saloons of the city. This is not only important to the city but to the state, as almost every community in the state is interested in the character of the capital. Something over 4,000 students are in the university besides those in the other