

Mr. Bryan in California

10,000 HEAR APPEAL FOR PEACE

[From the Los Angeles Tribune, July 16, 1915.]

William J. Bryan was paid one of the greatest tributes yesterday afternoon that he ever received when he addressed 10,000 people from an open-air platform at Exposition park. Other thousands, unable to get close enough to hear him, stood in the sun for two hours and cheered when the others cheered, simply because they knew he was raising his voice against the present war, and the past and present attempt of the jingo newspapers to involve this country in the wholesale slaughter now going on in Europe.

Thousands of former Nebraskans and thousands of former residents of other states, most of them now residents of Los Angeles and vicinity, made up the vast throng, and they cheered at times until the Commoner had to raise his hand for silence before he could proceed.

Makes Virile Plea

Hitting straight from the shoulder and sending his word punches into the faces of all jingo newspapers, at home and abroad, he declared that the element which was trying to involve this fair land in the slaughter of millions of men, left itself open to attack, and advised his hearers to raise their voices in protest.

Mr. Bryan declared the cause of the war was to be found in a belief in the doctrine still existing in some countries that "might makes right," and at the same time denied that the war was either a race war, a religious war or a family war. He pointed to the fact that Catholic Austria and Protestant Germany are fighting side by side, that the kaiser of Germany is fighting two cousins, one on the throne in England, and the other on the throne in Russia, and offered as evidence that the war is not a race war by the fact that in this conflict the races are lined up as they have never been lined up, or mixed up, before.

"It is a mockery that men who worship God should kill each other," he said.

War's Horrors Depicted

In concluding his address he declared, in effect, that he was against war at all times and under all circumstances. That if Germany, or any other country refused to abide by international law, and insisted on killing Americans found on ships owned by the nations at war, he would still refuse to be drawn into the conflict.

"Should we go to war and revenge the killing of a hundred Americans," he asked, "and probably have a million more killed before we get out of it, or should we wait until the nations which now are insane and tearing at each other's throats are calm and willing to listen to reason? My answer would be to let Americans stay at home, where they belong."

The speaker quoted from the Bible a score of times, and quoted the three commandments, "Thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not covet, thou shalt not steal," in connection with almost every argument offered and every conclusion reached.

SCORES JINGO PRESS

[From Los Angeles, Cal., Tribune, July 16, 1915.]

Five hundred business men, including merchants, bankers, newspaper men and members of the Ad club,

applauded William J. Bryan yesterday at the Los Angeles Athletic club, where the Ad club luncheon in the Commoner's honor was given. And they applauded so heartily as he entered the dining room that it was several minutes after he was seated before the cheering ceased.

Just to show how much the Ad club admires both Mr. Bryan and the things he stands for, especially as they refer to peace, the club made him a life member within sixty seconds after he had finished his short address.

Mr. Bryan was introduced by Chairman Jack Wilson, former president of the Ad club. President J. Harry Pieper, before turning over the gavel to the chairman, remarked that the members were to have a double treat, "inasmuch as both Wilson and Bryan were their guests."

Feels at Home as Club's Guest

Mr. Bryan immediately assured the club members that he felt right at home, for, he explained: "I own a newspaper myself, and everything that interests you in the way of advertising, publicity and circulation also interests me."

The speaker made it plain to those at the banquet table that for several years he had been tied hand and foot, so far as defending himself against the false accusations of newspapers of the jingo variety are concerned. But he also made it equally plain that now he is free from official duties, he is going to expose them at every opportunity.

"I don't blame the reporters for the distorted interviews they are compelled to write," he said, "but I do blame those higher up. In the last few years I have been quoted at length, in many interviews that never were given. They have said that I said this or that, when, as a matter of fact, I had not said a single word. But you all know what kind of newspapers resort to this kind of interviews, for they are the same newspapers which would involve us in the European war and send millions of our sons to the slaughter pen."

"Would Stop at Nothing"

"They are the newspapers which would stop at nothing, if they could involve this country in the Mexican trouble. They are the newspapers which tried to get me to tell them why a special representative was sent to see Huerta, and then, when I refused, told Huerta in advance 'what the representative would say.' Also they asked Huerta what he would do if our representative said such things to him, and in various other ways did all they could to involve us in the trouble down there."

"And why? I will tell you: Because these newspapers of which I speak would do anything that big interests, with which they are associated, told them to do, regardless of what it might cost this nation in blood or money. These newspapers are known as the jingo newspapers, and wherever they are found they are a stench in the nostrils of decent journalism."

Tries to Inflame Public

Mr. Bryan explained in detail that the same newspapers had tried to make it appear that the difference of opinion between President Wilson and himself was a great, big gap, whereas, he said, he left not a single strained friendship in the cabinet.

He also accused the jingo newspapers of attempting to inflame the public mind, after he had resigned as secretary of state, by stating that the reply to Germany which Mr. Bryan objected to was a regular torch that would quickly set off the powder and

bring Germany to time or involve us in war.

MR. BRYAN AT LOS ANGELES

[From the Los Angeles, Cal., Tribune, July 23, 1915.]

William Jennings Bryan addressed a large audience at Trinity auditorium last evening on Fundamentals.

It was the first time the Commoner has given Fundamentals in Los Angeles, and the address, heard by a representative audience, was hailed as a masterpiece. Masterly in diction, in delivery and in thought, Fundamentals gripped the thoughts of Mr. Bryan's hearers.

Fundamentals is an unusual address. It is a collection of thoughts by a deep thinker, dealing with the more serious problems of life. It is an address brimful of poetry, of philosophy, of humor and of ideas that challenge the thought and attention of all who hear it.

Bryan in Good Humor

Ruddy as a cherry, radiating good nature, Mr. Bryan arrived at the auditorium shortly after 8 o'clock. Most of the audience already were in their seats, but there were a few remaining to greet him, and when his automobile drew up there was a hearty cheer.

Seated on the platform were some 150 men and women, mostly officers of the Federation of State societies and of the many societies forming the federation—representatives of practically every state in the Union, Alaska, Canada and Hawaii. Draped around the balconies were pennants of the various societies.

Previous to the appearance of Mr. Bryan, Bruce Gordon Kingsley at the organ played a number of national airs. The Star Spangled Banner was the signal for the large audience to arise and remain standing until the last note had died away in the great dome above.

Just before Mr. Bryan was led upon the stage a pitcher of orange juice Miss Peace had presented the Commoner was brought in and placed on a table. This was the signal for a burst of applause that was repeated at frequently recurring intervals until the address was concluded and the handshaking was over.

Bryan Given Ovation

The appearance of Mr. Bryan was the signal for a demonstration. Every man and woman in the audience arose and remained standing until he was seated. There was long and continued handclapping and the women greeted Mr. Bryan with the Chautauqua salute.

Judge Benjamin F. Bledsoe of the United States district court introduced Mr. Bryan. He declared he regarded the opportunity to do so as one of the great honors of his life.

Before Mr. Bryan had time to acknowledge the compliment he was greeted with an ovation, as he arose to speak, that must have warmed his heart.

After he had concluded his lecture Mr. Bryan was accorded a reception on the platform. It seemed as though every man and woman in the audience knew him personally. He was congratulated on all sides on his address.

WELCOME, MR. BRYAN

[From San Jose, Cal., Mercury Herald, July 24.]

Former Secretary Bryan will be the guest of Santa Clara county today. He is too imposing a figure in the public life of the country to be greeted as a great leader of a great party or as one who has been closely identified for five and twenty years with the political destinies of the nation. He comes not as a public official or partisan, but as the chief representative of a cause widely separated from

partisan purposes, embracing as it does men and women of all creeds, political and religious, to whom it appeals with peculiar impressiveness.

The doctrine of peace has no more able exponent in any country than Mr. Bryan. To one as sincere as he the very word is stamped in the warp and woof of those convictions and ideals which have served as the guiding star of his life. To him Christianity is not a formalism but a vital reality capable of regenerating and of transforming evil tendencies whether in the individual, in the nation, or in the world. Perhaps no address delivered in modern times has enjoyed a wider circulation than Mr. Bryan's "Prince of Peace." Printed in all tongues, although delivered years ago, it is still winging its way through the world bearing its message of peace and good-will to all men. Mr. Bryan esteems no ambition more highly than to consecrate his great talents, his convincing gifts, to human betterment. Had he in his earlier years devoted his life to politics as a modern politician, as an opportunist rather than an idealist, the three disappointments which checked his efforts to become president of the United States would probably not have happened. But as Senator Newlands has well said, the man's sincerity is too deep and abiding to be abandoned for any office, however great.

San Jose and Santa Clara county are honored by the former secretary's presence. He will find that while thousands in this county have no sympathy with his political views, and many will dissent from his peace program, they have the utmost confidence in his integrity, and the deepest respect and admiration for his ability. Welcome, Mr. Bryan, and may your brief visit be memorable in the sincerity of its reception; and your defense of the cause of peace, fruitful both now and in the years to come.

CHAMPION NO MAN

The Selma Journal is the only daily paper of any importance in Alabama that is championing the cause of Mr. Bryan in the present circumstances.—Montgomery Advertiser.

The Journal is championing no man. Issues far greater than any man are at stake today. If peace and humanity are Bryan's cause, we champion it. If keeping the United States free of blood and carnage is his cause, we champion it. We champion the cause of America, and we stand now ready to be tried before the American bar of public opinion. We refuse to allow politics, or the political future of any man or set of men, to be weighed beside the blood and bleaching bones of the flower of American citizenship, or the heart crushing pangs and terrors of the world's tenderest, sweetest and purest women and children.

Now, Buddy, do you understand whose cause we champion? We dare you print these lines.—Selma (Ala.) Journal.

COMMENDS MR. BRYAN'S STAND

Virden, Ill., 7-20-1915—Mr. C. W. Bryan, Lincoln, Neb. Dear Sir—Many congratulations on the good sense of The Commoner in letting out just enough and not too much of the national or administrative workings. In due time Mr. Bryan's place will be as much magnified as it is in many places cut down. I appreciate his modesty in withholding what he said in the argument to Wilson on sending the first note. Strange to say, I got a hint from the Toledo Blade that satisfied me why Mr. Bryan signed the note of May 13th.

I could write a long letter, but it is enough to say I am Bryan's friend, and he is America's greatest son.

J. B. GARDNER.