

Mr. Bryan in Virginia

[From Richmond, Virginia, Times-Dispatch, Oct. 10, 1915.]

"I believe the country approves of the President's policy of keeping the country out of war with Mexico and in maintaining the neutrality of the nation as to the European war," said former Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan in the course of an interview given The Times-Dispatch on his way from Petersburg to Richmond yesterday afternoon. He said that the indications are that the dispute between the United States and Germany had reached a satisfactory settlement, but he would not discuss diplomatic affairs.

The former secretary discussed the political outlook for the democratic party next year, and also talked freely of his personal future and views. He came to Richmond from Chase City and Blackstone, at each of which places he spoke yesterday. Accompanying him was Attorney-General John Garland Pollard, who introduced him to the audiences at each point.

Will Remain in Politics for Next Twenty Years

Mr. Bryan clearly indicated that he had no intention of becoming a candidate for office, but he made it plain that he intended to remain in politics the remainder of his active life, which he estimated to be twenty years. While he predicted a democratic victory next year if the campaign should be fought out on economic issues, he would not be quoted on the prospect of President Wilson being the sole candidate before the national convention. He said he preferred to wait until the President himself had discussed that matter.

The prohibition and woman suffrage question will not be issues in the next national campaign, Mr. Bryan thought, and he added that he hoped neither would be. The time would come later when these questions would come to the front.

Mr. Bryan is winding up a speaking campaign, which has taken him through eleven states, in each of which he has made two or more speeches against what is termed the propaganda of "preparedness for war." He made it clear that he thought the policy of preparedness, if adopted, might wreck the party's chances of victory in 1916.

Has No Intention of Being Candidate for Office

When asked if he contemplated being a candidate for public office, Mr. Bryan replied:

"I have been asked many times the question as to whether my plans for the future included office holding. I have answered the question so many times I feel the public will tire of repetition. I hope they will understand that the statement is made only when I am asked the question.

"I have stated time and again that the plans for the rest of my life include activity in politics as well as the discussion of educational, ethical and religious subjects. My plans, however, do not contemplate the holding of any office. I enjoy the freedom of private life, which enables me to deal with approaching questions as well as with pending problems. I have said everything that one can say about the future except to give a pledge never to be a candidate for public office. I see no reason for giving a pledge or making any promise. No friend has asked for a pledge, and no one, who is unfriendly, is entitled to a promise.

Opposed to Tariff Barons and War Munition Preparers

"It is sufficient for political opponents to know that my opposition to predatory interests and all they stand

for is just as strong as ever. I shall continue to exert what influence I have for the protection of the public from exploitation—whether that exploitation is attempted by the tariff barons, the trust magnates, the money power, or this new bunch of exploiters, the manufacturers of munitions of war and the preparers of preparedness, who are endeavoring to commit this country to a policy as dangerous to its peace as it will be expensive to its taxpayers.

"I am counting on about twenty years yet of political activity, during which time I propose to keep in touch with the progressive democracy of the entire nation."

The former secretary left no ground for doubt that he intended to keep up his lecturing tours and to keep in touch with the people by this means as well as through correspondence and through his newspaper, The Commoner.

Does Not Believe Taxpayers Favor Jingo "Preparedness"

"The trips which I make into different parts of the country usually combine public speeches and lectures. The lectures enable me to make public speeches without expense to the community which I visit. Today with my address at Chase City, Blackstone and Richmond, I conclude a trip through eleven states—North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas and Tennessee."

Asked what he found the sentiment in the south on the subject of preparedness for war, Mr. Bryan appeared visibly pleased when he gave his views.

"As far as I could learn," he said, "the scare which the jingoes have tried to work up has not extended to the taxpayers, who are expected to furnish the funds. There will be very earnest resistance to the attempt now being made to win the democratic party to support of those specially interested in the building of battle-ships and the manufacture of arms and ammunition.

"There are two reasons for this resistance. The first is based on the fact that the democratic party represents the producers of wealth in general, not the producers of things covered by army and navy contracts.

Preparedness Issue May Wreck Party

"The second is a partisan one. The democrats realize that the republicans can outbid them in the expenditure of money because republican leaders are interested in finding an excuse for raising the tariff. If the democrats help to scare the country into a fit of preparedness, the republicans will be able to offer a bigger scare than we can and promise bigger preparedness. The attempt to adopt the policy of preparedness will, therefore, prove our political undoing."

On the political outlook for the democratic party, Mr. Bryan said:

"If we make the fight on economic questions, I see no reason to doubt the party's success. Our chances are improved by the tariff, currency and anti-trust measures. I believe the country approves of the President's policy in keeping out of war with Mexico and in maintaining neutrality as to the war in Europe, but questions are likely to arise and attention may be directed from domestic to international affairs, so the war adds an element of uncertainty. A great deal, of course, depends upon what the republican party does, whether it remains united or divided. A division improves democratic chances."

Asked regarding the generally ac-

cepted report that President Wilson would be a candidate for re-election and the probability that he would receive the nomination without opposition, Mr. Bryan said that he deemed it unwise to discuss the President's connection with the next campaign until he does himself.

"He knows best when he desires to present his own attitude on the subject," the President's late premier added.

"Both prohibition and woman suffrage have grown rapidly," Mr. Bryan said, "and I have no doubt they will become national issues—I mean they will be taken up by the leading parties in their national platforms. I do not think they will be national issues next year. I hope they will not be.

"I favor both prohibition and woman suffrage and am helping both causes in various states. I do not think it wise to deal with either issue in the democratic national platform next year.

Time for Prohibition and Suffrage Not Yet Ripe

"There is no reason to believe the amendments would be ratified now if submitted and submission at this time would jeopardize the economic reforms our party is securing without bringing either. As soon as enough states have indorsed prohibition and woman suffrage to make it probable that national amendments will be ratified, then they are likely to be submitted. Whenever a state goes for either, its senators and representatives in congress are apt to vote for submission, as see votes in congress in recent years."

On the subject of the much-discussed proposal made to him by the Association of Foreign Language Newspapers that he go to Europe in the interests of peace, Mr. Bryan asserted that he had told the committee which called upon him that his speaking engagements would keep him busy until November 1. He had taken the matter under advisement, he added, and had not reached a decision. He saw no reason to hurry, he said.

BOSSSES RALLY AGAINST WOMEN AT THE POLLS

The combined machines of the regular republican and democratic parties augmented by the efforts of the antis, defeated the women of New Jersey in their efforts to obtain the vote.

New Jersey bosses forgot their political differences and joined in a common cause—that of bringing about the defeat of the suffrage amendment to the New Jersey constitution. Party lines were obliterated and the republican and democratic machines hitched up into a bipartisan steam roller which was expected to flatten the suffrage vote into a pancake.

"Davy" Baird, the republican boss of South Jersey, and "Jim" Nugent, the democratic boss of North Jersey, were the chief pushers of the steam roller when the suffrage fight began. As the contest grew warmer, however, and the chances of the suffragists increased other bosses and near bosses, who had maintained a discreet silence, were forced to beatir themselves, so that when the polls opened every political boss in New Jersey, regardless of his political affiliation, was lined up against the amendment.

At first the opposition was of a quiet nature, but as soon as the confidence of the machine men began to wear off word was sent to the "boys" to get busy and bring out the vote just as though it were an election for president. It wasn't long before such counties as Camden, Passiac, Middlesex, Essex and even parts of Hudson, saw political workers at the polls urging and cajoling the intending voter to cast his ballot against the amendment.

The political machines, of course had the active assistance of the brewers and liquor dealers. Some people said the brewers had the active assistance of the politicians. Anyway, there wasn't a harder working crowd against the suffrage amendment than the State Liquor Dealers' association.—The New York Tribune.

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