

speaking. Some practicable basis of agreement concerning them will no doubt be found and action taken upon them.

"Inasmuch as this is, gentlemen, probably the last occasion I shall have to address the Sixty-fourth congress, I hope that you will permit me to say with what genuine pleasure and satisfaction I have co-operated with you in the many measures of constructive policy with which you have enriched the legislative annals of the country. It has been a privilege to labor in such company. I take the liberty of congratulating you upon the completion of a record of rare serviceableness and distinction."

NATION DRY BEFORE NEXT U. S. ELECTION

[Interview by Mr. Bryan in Chicago Examiner, November 20, 1916.]

William Jennings Bryan outlined to the Examiner last night his plans for leading the charge against liquor interests throughout the country during the next four years. He came here from Indiana, where he opened his fight, and today will address the Dry Chicago Federation at the Hotel Sherman.

The Nebraskan said:

"The national parties can not afford to take the side of the saloon. To do so is to invite defeat. It is the big moral issue of the country. And the democratic party now stands released from any obligation it may have been under to the wet interests, because these interests threw their influence to the republican ticket in the election this fall.

"This is more than purely a local fight and contemplates other states than Indiana, where I consulted first with dry democrats. I am ready to encourage a dry organization in every state where the regular democratic organization is not already committed to state and national prohibition.

"The start has been made in Indiana. My conference with party leaders had to do with putting the democratic party there on the side of prohibition. A committee was appointed for that purpose. The democratic dry element there will support everything looking to the abolition of the saloon and will favor a constitutional amendment, and also statutory prohibition.

"Twenty-three states are dry now, and it is possible that six more will be added within the next few months. The liquor forces in the western states are in a particularly bad fix. The democrats don't owe them anything because the wet cities went against our party, and because they didn't elect a republican for President the republicans don't owe them anything."

Turning to the recent election, Mr. Bryan said: "For more than a generation it has been assumed that no party could win a presidential election without the electoral vote of New York. That supposed fact has given it an influence in national politics out of proportion to its population.

"The vote of the women in the west is surprising and pleasing. The large increase in the number of votes cast in Arizona and similar states this year is due to the active participation of women in the elections."

Mr. Bryan indicated that he proposed to devote time to organizing the dry forces of the democratic party in each of the forty-eight states in his new battle.

The head of one of the great brewing companies of St. Louis that has poured millions into the laps of its owners declares that the liquor-makers of the country must unite in support of saloons that are strictly law-abiding; that they must close when the law says, sell only to whom the law permits and abolish treating. The old couplet having to do with the devil and the character of monk finds many modern illustrations.

The extreme unpopularity of the President's Mexican policy may be gauged from the fact that California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, the four states bordering upon Mexico, all gave Mr. Wilson their electoral votes. As they were most directly affected by that policy, their endorsement of the President's course is significant.

The price of steel rails went up five dollars a ton immediately following the re-election of President Wilson. Prosperity seems determined to dig itself in so deep that it will take years of republican rule to get it out.

Election Postscript

[By Simeon Strunsky, in New York Evening Post Magazine.]

Measuring back twenty years from November, 1916, who, would one say, are the public men that have most completely imposed themselves on the history of the period? By that I do not necessarily mean the most outstanding figures of the time, but the most persistent figures. To qualify for a place a man who is alive and a force in 1916 must have already been playing his part in 1896. This stipulation excludes Asquith and Grey, who were not twenty years ago what they are today. It excludes Clemenceau, who is not today what he was twenty years ago. It excludes Sun Yat-Sen, whom the future may accept as the most significant world figure of our time. It excludes Woodrow Wilson by the very wide margin of fourteen years, 1896-1910; and it excludes Theodore Roosevelt by some five years. It was not till 1901 or 1902 that the Roosevelt we know took on his full shape. I exclude Francis Joseph and Nicholas II because I do not regard them as primal forces in themselves. Thus narrowed down, the question should be an easy one for any man with an encyclopedia. But I will spare him the trouble.

The only two men who answer to my definition are the Kaiser and William J. Bryan. It was in 1896 that the Kaiser emerged in his compound role of builder of the German navy and interpreter of the Divine will. In 1896 Bryan was nominated at Chicago. Through the intervening twenty years the two men have been a persistent force. Today Europe and America bear testimony to their labors.

Is New York provincial? The west has always hurled this charge across the Hudson and slap into the Metropolitan tower. We may be sure that the west will not lose the habit now that New England and the Atlantic plain and the north west territory walk in chains behind the chariot of trans-Mississippi. Is the charge justified? I used to say no; I hesitate now; and the cause is Mr. Bryan. In the long weeks of the presidential campaign, if you were to judge from the New York press, Mr. Bryan did not exist. My own impression was that he was either in Japan or in Bermuda. Upon inquiry I discovered that he was campaigning for Wilson out west. I beg pardon. Once Mr. Bryan did flit across the New York newspaper horizon. It was ascertained that in touring the west for Mr. Wilson the former leader of the democracy was paying his own expenses. That was a fact of such vital importance that public recognition could no longer be denied him. He got his notice on the front page and went into eclipse again.

Now you may have your own guess as to which of twenty things it was that elected Wilson; but if you said Bryan, it would be as safe as any one of the twenty. It may not have been Bryan the campaigner. It was more likely the Bryan idea. When you speak of the last election as a victory of the country over the city, it is odd to overlook the man who in 1896 told the convention which nominated him that cities might come and go and man be none the worse, but that if you destroy the farms, grass will grow in the streets of your cities. After twenty years I still find it a thrilling bit of rhetoric. When you speak of the election as a triumph of the plain people over Wall street, it is strange to overlook the man who first drew the antithesis, and Roosevelt took it from him, and Woodrow Wilson took it partly from Roosevelt and partly from Bryan. When you speak of the election as a triumph of west over east, it is strange to overlook the man who first led the embattled west against us and came very near winning. When you speak of the election as a condemnation of war, it would be very strange indeed to overlook the man who talked universal peace long before the war in Europe.

And if he did it on the Chautauqua platform and for \$500 a lecture, it hardly matters. Simply as a successful showman, as a man who discovered what the public wants, Mr. Bryan would have proved his title to one of the highest gifts of the statesman. It is my personal belief that Mr. Bryan did not write the "Prince of Peace" for money. I do not believe that he would have written the "Divine Mission of the Sword" for

a little more money. He is to be considered rather as a very fortunate man who made a comfortable living out of preaching an important doctrine in which he believed sincerely and in which his audiences believed. As to the performing dogs and the Tyrolean yodlers with whom Mr. Bryan was brought into contact, I refuse altogether to worry. The juxtaposition pleases me. There was a bear garden next to the Globe theatre in Southwark, and I have no doubt the fine gentlemen of the time enjoyed Hamlet and the bears equally. It is also probable that Socrates and Alcibiades interrupted their table-talk about the soul when the Lydian dancing girls and the Indian snake-charmers came in.

A detailed appraisal of Bryan's career is not what I am interested in; though a thorough study would probably give the remarkable result of a man who was usually right in principle and wrong in the manner and the specific application. It would also show a man who was defeated in every battle he fought and who won the campaign, if his entire career be viewed as a single campaign. What no one can question, however, is that it has been a full and continuous career. In twenty years he has been himself nominated three times for the presidency; he has permitted one other nomination—Parkers; he has forced one other nomination—Wilson's at Baltimore—in one of the most dramatic episodes of our political history; he has done his share in bringing to fruition Wilson's second nomination. Incidentally we may contrast Bryan's loyalty to Wilson with another public man's behavior under the pull of ambition. This other man shall here be nameless.

Now, in speaking of the two Williams, Hohenzollern and Bryan, I began with nothing else in mind than the irrefutable facts of chronology. But as I draw near the end of my page it occurs to me how strangely the life ideas of the two men have been brought into contact. In 1896 William of Hohenzollern, aged 36, began his crusade for God, autocracy, and a big navy, and William J. Bryan, aged 36, made himself leader of an ethico-social crusade. What we may roughly call the Hohenzollern idea is now in conflict with the Bryan idea, and it looks as if William of Nebraska will win out. Many people are now saying that mankind shall no longer be crucified on an Iron Cross.

WELCOME TO MR. BRYAN

Raleigh is glad to give welcome to William J. Bryan today, for he is a man held in high esteem and in great admiration in this city. Coming on a visit to his daughter whose home is in Raleigh the opportunity has been given to have a luncheon in his honor, this under the direction of the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce.

Republicans, as well as democrats, can well do honor to Mr. Bryan, for while he is a democrat who has rendered high service to his party, yet all Americans have had his service in his fights against the interests in behalf of the people. He is a democrat deserving the appreciation of men of all parties.

In the recent presidential campaign Mr. Bryan proved a tower of strength to the democratic party. He toured the west and his speeches in behalf of the re-election of President Wilson were of such power as to add to the democratic vote. His course—and he did only what his friends knew he would do—has been such as to confound his critics, who were never so happy as when picturing Bryan taking leave of President Wilson with "God Bless you" on his lips and a knife behind his back. The papers of the country which indulged in that sort of thing are due Mr. Bryan an apology.

Mr. Bryan has visited Raleigh a number of times, and on those occasions he has added to the number of his personal friends. These are glad that today they have opportunity of doing him honor, their tribute to be to the man who has done service in behalf of the masses of the people. And they are glad also that in this city there resides a daughter of Mr. Bryan, for that means that he is to make other visits here. The welcome given today will be a welcome which comes from men who know that he is a man whom it is an honor to honor.—Raleigh (S. C.) News and Observer.