

Washington Banquet to Mr. Bryan

URGES PROHIBITION AS PARTY SLOGAN

[From the Washington Evening Star, Dec. 7.]

A plea to the democratic party to make prohibition its own, to place it foremost among the reforms which the party will demand, was made by William Jennings Bryan at a banquet given in his honor at the Lafayette hotel last night.

The great Commoner was never more eloquent, his friends claim, than in his demand that the democratic party add a last big "P" to the slogan which carried it successfully through the recent election — "Peace, Progress, Prosperity and Prohibition." He addressed an assemblage of more than 250 of his admirers, including members of the cabinet, of the senate and house and other high officials of the government. His speech came to the conclusion of a series of eulogies upon Mr. Bryan, a Bryan "boom" for President in 1920 being launched by Representative Warren Worth Bailey of Pennsylvania amid loud cheers.

Mr. Bryan predicted that the present session of congress would enact legislation making the District of Columbia dry.

MR. BRYAN'S ADDRESS

Every great issue must become, sooner or later, a party issue in this country, Mr. Bryan said. He urged that the democrats seize their opportunity and beat the republicans to the prohibition issue, which, he predicted, the republicans would surely adopt if the democrats were not forehanded, since they had exhausted all other issues in the last campaign.

"I have heard it said that prohibition will divide the democratic party," said Mr. Bryan. "But I don't believe it. The lay has passed when to be a good democrat a man must be a drunkard."

Mr. Bryan urged upon the democrats a number of other important reforms, including the adoption of a constitutional amendment for nation-wide woman suffrage, a constitutional amendment for a referendum to the people on all declarations of war, except in the case of actual invasion; the abolition of the electoral college and the adoption of easier means of amending the constitution itself.

He warned against increase in the armed forces of the country on the ground that it would develop a spirit of militarism and lead to war; against the proposal of the railroads that the federal regulation of the roads be made more complete and regulation by the states done away with.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S GREETINGS

President Wilson did not attend the banquet, but he sent the following letter which was read by the toastmaster, Oliver P. Newman, president of the board of District commissioners:

"Will you not be kind enough to convey my very cordial greetings to Mr. Bryan and to those who are assembled to do him honor at the dinner on Wednesday evening? In the recent campaign no one rendered more unselfish service than Mr. Bryan, and I am happy to know that this dinner expresses the genuine admiration of all democrats for him. May I not by this means convey to him my warmest congratulations and best wishes for his continued health and happiness."

"DRY," BUT ENTHUSIASTIC

The dinner was "dry," but enthusiastic. The toasts, first of which, proposed by Commissioner Newman, was to President Wilson, were drunk in water. Senator Walsh of Montana, who was in charge of the western campaign headquarters for the democrats, responded to the toast, "How It Happened." He declared that the enlightened voters of the country, using their best judgment, were the real cause of the democratic victory. To the toast, "He Kept the Faith," Senator Hollis of New Hampshire said that William Jennings Bryan had sowed the seeds of democracy in New England which resulted last November in New Hampshire going democratic, and also was the cause for the close race made by the party in other states.

Senator Phelan of California responded to "The Awakened West." He said that Theodore Roosevelt had written a book called "The Winning of the West," but that a new chapter must be added to that history for the sake of ac-

curacy. He hailed the union of the west and the south, as exemplified in the last election.

Representative Henry L. Sladen of Texas answered to the toast, "Southern Democracy," which was slated for Majority Leader Kitchin of the house, but who was unable to attend the dinner. Mr. Sladen said that the democracy of the south never had been questioned, and suggested that when the men of the west claimed to lead in progress, at least they paid the tribute to the south of "progressing" to the ideals of democracy which have been dear to the heart of the southern states for a century.

"The Thirty Peace Treaties" was the topic assigned to Representative Bailey of Pennsylvania, who lauded Mr. Bryan's action as secretary of state in bringing about the ratification of peace treaties with many of the foreign nations.

When Mr. Bryan rose to speak he was greeted by a tremendous ovation.

BRYAN SOUNDS TOCSIN

[From the Washington Post, Dec. 7.]

Reforms to which he hopes to commit the democratic party, and to see accomplished within the next four years, were outlined last night by William Jennings Bryan at a dinner given in his honor at the Lafayette hotel by admirers among the democratic officials and members of congress.

Nation-wide prohibition was urged as most important, and other causes on his list included woman suffrage by federal amendment, election of the president by direct popular vote and changes to make the constitution more easily amendable.

In addition to his program to be advocated, Mr. Bryan gave a prominent place to two things he proposed to fight: The effort to give the federal government exclusive control over railroad regulation and "the menace of militarism," presented by proposals for universal military service.

ASKS REFERENDUM ON WAR

Mr. Bryan departed from the prepared text of his speech to advocate a referendum on proposed declarations of war.

"The experience through which Europe is passing," he said, "suggests the adoption of a constitutional amendment providing for a referendum on any declaration of war except when the country is actually invaded. This will not only be a safeguard to us, but will be an example to the nations of Europe, where the right to declare war is vested in the executive instead of with the legislative body as here."

Speeches lauding Mr. Bryan and particularly his work for the party during the campaign just won were made by many of the diners, and a letter was read from President Wilson, with whom the former secretary and Mrs. Bryan had lunched during the day.

BRYAN LIFTS VEIL ON FUTURE EVENTS

[From the Washington Times, December 7.]

William Jennings Bryan, for twenty years a powerful and magnetic figure in the ranks and the forefront of the democratic party, was the guest of honor last night at a banquet that set political Washington talking today.

If Mr. Bryan has lost any of his hold upon the popular imagination of any of his prestige as a leader in political things, there was no surface indication of it last night.

Democrats of every shade of opinion gathered in honor of the Nebraskan. It was a banquet such as one might have expected in the heyday of Bryan's dramatic rise to the leadership of a great party in the nineties.

Members of the cabinet, senators, congressmen, officials, and just plain democrats who admire Bryan despite his defeats, and because he has consistently moved ahead on the straight

roadway of conviction, applauded the former secretary of state and acclaimed his utterances as prophetic.

Mr. Bryan told the banqueters, who gathered at the Hotel Lafayette, that one of the chief reforms ahead of this nation is national prohibition. He advocated that the democratic party espouse prohibition as a party issue. The highlights of his address were appeals for:

- National prohibition.
- Woman suffrage by federal amendment.
- Election of the President by direct vote of the people.
- Changes that will make the constitution easier to amend.

INTERVIEWS OF BANQUETERS

[From the Baltimore News, Dec. 7.]

That the peace propaganda preached by William Jennings Bryan in the west did more for the re-election of President Wilson than any other element in the campaign is the opinion of City Solicitor S. S. Field, the original Bryan man in Maryland. Mr. Field attended the banquet given the Commoner in Washington Wednesday night.

The head of the city's law department was highly pleased with the complimentary remarks made about Mr. Bryan by Wednesday night's speakers, and he declared the Commoner's speech was an inspiration and a gem of oratory.

Said Mr. Field:

"Senator Walsh of Montana, who was one of the speakers at the banquet last spring when President Wilson opened his campaign for re-election and who was in charge of the western campaign headquarters at Chicago during the presidential campaign, gave the chief credit for the President's re-election to Bryan's campaigning. He referred particularly to North Dakota, saying that Bryan's campaign there for the President was a triumphal procession and he had not the slightest doubt that Wilson's getting the electoral votes of that state was due to Mr. Bryan.

"Senator Phelan of California gave Mr. Bryan the chief credit for carrying that state for the President. He said that when during a campaign he (Senator Phelan) went to a meeting over which he was to preside in San Francisco the doors of the building were closed and that to his demand for admission a policeman's voice from inside said that if he opened the doors the people would fall out. Mr. Bryan was the principal speaker.

"Senator Hollis of New Hampshire was equally eulogistic, and the letters from the President and Vice-President and from Vance McCormick, national democratic chairman, united in ascribing the result in the west in a large measure to Mr. Bryan.

"It seems to me very clear that President Wilson owes his second term, just as he owed his original nomination at the Baltimore convention, to Mr. Bryan, and that Mr. Bryan's determined stand for peace emphasized by his resignation from the cabinet, gave him an additional influence with the peace-loving people of the west and gained the additional western electoral votes which were necessary for democratic victory."

NEW ISSUES SUGGESTED

[From the Washington Star, Dec. 7.]

A recent announcement made in New York by Mr. Bryan about his future activities was, it seems, misconstrued. He has not put all of his eggs into one basket. He is strong for prohibition, but strong also for other things. He enumerated them last night at the dinner eaten in honor. He has his eyes on, and is still opposed to, militarism. He wants women to have the vote. He entertains some very positive views about railroad regulation and legislation. He considers the electoral college "clumsy," and wants some provision made for a direct expression of the people in the election of a president. And he suggests easier means for amending the constitution.

But greater than any or all of these is the issue of prohibition, as Mr. Bryan reads the times, and he expects it to provoke "the fiercest contest." He will not be disappointed. Driving John Barleycorn out of American politics is a large order; and the time he allows for it—four