

was William E. Gladstone. Mr. Bryan is not yet old, but when his age does fall on him he will be our Grand Old Man.

On December 6 the house and senate democrats will entertain Mr. Bryan in a dinner at Washington. They will pay tribute to his services in the last campaign. On the same day the President will entertain him at luncheon. Despite all the efforts of the marplots, the friendship between Woodrow Wilson and William Jennings Bryan has never been broken. — Chattanooga News.

#### MR. BRYAN IS NOT A "HAS BEEN"

William J. Bryan was an "also ran" for President three times and yet he is not a "has been." The other day he visited in Washington, and was the guest of President Wilson at luncheon, and the same evening was the guest of honor at a banquet tendered him by distinguished citizens. He stands today in the front rank of the greatest publicists the country has produced. Wherever he goes the people delight to honor him. Through ways that were dark, and tricks that were not vain, the special interests and Wall street prevented his election as President, but they did not shake the affection of the common people for him. They did not "down" him. He was not scathed by the ridicule that was hurled upon him nor was his escutcheon soiled by calumny and misrepresentation. He was time and time again consigned to the dump heap. Epitaphs were written to mark his last resting place as a victim of his own folly. But he does not die at any man's or set of men's bidding. He remains the great Commoner, a man without office and without patronage to bestow. He is more dreaded by Wall street, special interests and by various political bosses than an "army with banners." That Mr. Bryan can maintain his mental equilibrium in the face of popular adulation and not be inflated with self conceit is an evidence of the purity of his purposes and the strength of his character.

That Mr. Bryan must be potential in future national campaigns as he has been in such campaigns for twenty years no one can deny who has studied his character and recognizes his popularity. The forces that have tried to make him a "has been" realize their failure and that it can not be done. His ability, his genius combined with his genuine popularity insure his continuance as a potential factor in the public affairs of the country.—Illinois State Register.

#### MR. BRYAN

Mr. William Jennings Bryan has been the target for many sneers and denunciations even from members of his own party during the last year, and many of us were inclined to think he had "laid down" in the recent campaign. But he comes to the front now smiling and good-natured, with Nebraska and pretty nearly all the western states in which he campaigned in his hand as an offering to democracy and progress. We got very angry with Mr. Bryan when he left Mr. Wilson's cabinet, but whatever else may be said of him, he has borne no malice, and he did his duty like a man in the battle just ended. And he did it in a section where his voice still counts. —Baltimore Sun.

#### WHY NOT GIVE BRYAN FULL CREDIT FOR THE RESULT

It is gratifying to see the press of the country, even those newspapers hitherto unfriendly to Mr. Bryan, now giving Mr. Bryan credit for good work for Mr. Wilson, if they do not admit absolutely that to the Nebraskan's foresight in making the fight in the west and ignoring the east, he made possible Wilson's victory.

The Journal takes pleasure in reprinting this kindly tribute from the Birmingham News, which paper had become so imbued with the idea of Mr. Bryan's purpose to destroy Wilson, a la Roosevelt in 1912, that it bitterly opposed any friend of the distinguished Nebraskan being sent to the St. Louis convention:

"In the great rejoicing of democrats, over the election of President Wilson, there is one thing that should not be overlooked or forgotten. That is Mr. Bryan's course in the campaign and his contribution to the result.

"It is well known that the News in the past has criticised him severely for his course in leaving the cabinet and in differing with the President on his foreign policy. But from the

day of the assemblage of the St. Louis convention, Mr. Bryan put all that behind him and came out strongly in support of the President. The editor of the News heard his splendid speech at St. Louis in favor of the democratic party and of President Wilson as its able and effective leader, and was delighted with the Commoner's attitude and spirit.

"Throughout the campaign Mr. Bryan has stood loyally by his party and by the President. He has made hundreds of speeches in the west in the interest of the ticket, and there is no doubt that his work was beneficial. The democratic majorities in Nebraska and Kansas and other western states are a distinct testimony that he did good work. His powerful voice was a great help.

"The News has always respected Mr. Bryan's ability and sincerity; it has only deplored his lack of judgment. It is a source of great satisfaction to his thousands of admirers in the south that he brushed aside his differences with the President as immaterial and that he concentrated his attention on the issues and has demonstrated his influence in the party organization and his capacity for leadership."

"Wilson will be elected without New York," said Mr. Bryan in his forecast of the election, and added that "it is no idle thing to say that the west is literally aflame with sentiment for Wilson because of the successful and honorable manner in which he has preserved the peace. Nor is it idle to say that the west regards peace as the paramount issue of this campaign, and intends to vote accordingly."

It was Bryan's judgment that the Baltimore platform should contain certain promises to the people.

Those promises were inserted in the platform. They have been fulfilled.

When Mr. Bryan was campaigning for himself he could only say what he would try to do for the plain people of the country, if they elected him president.

"I can make a much better argument," he said on the night he left the Kansas City auditorium with the cheers of 16,000 people ringing in his ears, "for the re-election of President Wilson than I could ever make for myself. For four campaigns I have been able to talk about promises only; but today I can point to a record greater than any administration of our generation. Deeds are so much more convincing than promises."

If it was Mr. Bryan's sublime courage and political sagacity that made the nomination of Wilson possible at Baltimore in 1912, it was his knowledge of the people, his almost unerring judgment of their will and wishes that has re-elected Woodrow Wilson in 1916.

In the October Commoner was printed Mr. Bryan's speech that he delivered throughout the west, and it is the best speech he ever wrote or made.

It is no secret that tens of thousands, probably a million or more, of that issue of The Commoner containing the speech were secured by the national democratic committee and sent broadcast over the west, perhaps practically into the home of nearly every voter in that section.

It is a most notable speech, and the Journal would suggest that the editor of the News, before pronouncing judgment upon the good political sagacity and good judgment of Mr. Bryan, should get a copy of that speech and read it.

He went out in the west making his fight not upon the republican party to which the west claimed allegiance, but the reactionaries of the party against which it had rebelled and repudiated in 1912 when it voted practically solid for Roosevelt and the progressive principles and policies he claimed to represent, and of which principles and policies he then said:

"Men and women, I would continue the fight even if I stood entirely alone. I shall continue it with a glad and proud heart, because it is made in your company.

"Win or lose, whatever the outcome, I am with you, and I am for this cause to fight to the end. We are dedicated in this great war for righteousness, and while life lasts we cannot and we will not abandon it.

"The men who believe that we will ever betray these ideals or abandon the task to which we have set ourselves do not know us and can not even guess at the faith that inspires us.

"This movement will never go back and whatever may betide in the future, of one thing the disciples of an easy opportunism may rest as-

sured. I will never abandon the principles to which we progressives have pledged ourselves, and I will never abandon the men and women who drew around me to battle for these principles."

With reference to those principles Mr. Bryan simply continued the fight where Roosevelt left off, and the people knew Bryan and had confidence in him—for Roosevelt in 1912 had only stolen Bryan's principles he had consistently advocated since 1896.

"The first question is, whether this government shall continue to be administered by those now in control or shall be turned back to the reactionaries from whom the government was taken four years ago," declared Mr. Bryan.

Of course he had other appeals, effective appeals, not the least of which was "Wilson has kept us out of war," and the promises made and fulfilled by the democratic party.

Why not give Bryan full credit for his work.

He nominated Wilson at Baltimore in 1912.

He re-elected him in 1916.

And Bryan has pointed the way to success in 1920, if the party will only follow him.

Hughes had not awakened to the new conditions that confronted the country.

He had forgotten that Roosevelt defeated his own party, getting two to one as a progressive candidate over Taft as a reactionary candidate of his party.

"He (Hughes) never once," says The Nation, in its comments upon the results of the election, "seemed to perceive that the great awakening of 1912, with the breaking up of parties which took place that year, had a message for him. He could easily have won a mighty response from the progressive west; as it is he merely baffled and chilled it."

The Nation gives Wilson the credit for "having shown himself a veritable Pathfinder, not only for his party but for the nation."

Wilson, and we say it with greatest respect and admiration for the President, but followed the path pointed out to him by his distinguished cabinet officer, a man who knows the people of the west, knows the people of the east, knows the people of the whole country, better than any public man in this country.—Montgomery (Ala.) Journal.

#### BURYING BRYAN

The business of burying Bryan has begun again by those well-intentioned folks who can not keep up with his rapid and vigorous movements to better mankind. Mr. Bryan will, however, refuse to stay buried as he has done in the past some sixteen times. He has won a signal victory in the late election. He worked for Wilson in the west and Wilson carried the west. Without Bryan's influence, Wilson would be arranging at this time to move out of the White house and the smile behind the whiskers of Mr. Hughes would be evident. Bryan worked for a dry Nebraska and it appears about as dry as the most ardent dry advocate could wish. He declined to help Hitchcock and Neville but they went in, anyway, and on this his enemies base their intentions of burying him, but more thoughtful people remember that when Nebraska went dry it put the skids under that element in Nebraska democracy that has been the most bitter toward Bryan. They may not discover it at once but their feet are more apt to find slippery places hereafter, than before. Furthermore, the atmosphere has cleared and the anti-Bryan democrats brought out into the light. Taken altogether, the business of burying Mr. Bryan is going to be just as difficult and fatiguing as heretofore.—Fairbury (Neb.) Journal.

#### WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

Do not lose sight of William J. Bryan. He is very much alive and knows exactly what he is trying to do. He may fail. He may not. In any event, he will make politics decidedly interesting in this country for the next four years.

His campaign to put the democratic party on record in favor of nation-wide prohibition, may not be so chimerical as to some it first appears. It is probable that President Wilson will keep hands-off; that he will not undertake, as Roosevelt did, to control the nomination of his successor, or the platform on which the candidate is to run. In that case, Bryan may appear as the great outstanding character in the democratic party available for leadership.

If he spends the next four years organizing