

# Washington Banquet to Mr. Bryan

The following is a report of the after-dinner speeches delivered after a banquet tendered by prominent democrats of Washington, D. C., in honor of William Jennings Bryan at the Hotel Lafayette in Washington, D. C., Wednesday evening, December 6th, 1916:

Hon. Oliver P. Newman, president of the board of commissioners of the District of Columbia, acted as toastmaster, and the following gentlemen responded to toasts:

- Hon. Thomas J. Walsh, United States senator from Montana, "How It Happened."
- Hon. James D. Phelan, United States senator from California, "The Awakened West."
- Hon. Warren Worth Bailey, representative from Pennsylvania, "The Thirty Peace Treaties."
- Hon. Henry F. Hollis, United States senator from New Hampshire, "He Kept the Faith."
- Hon. Claude Kitchin, majority leader, house of representatives, "Southern Democracy."
- (Hon. James L. Slayden, member of the house of representatives from Texas, responded to the toast "Southern Democracy" in the absence of Hon. Claude Kitchin of North Carolina, who was ill at his home and unable to be present.)
- William Jennings Bryan, "Democracy's Deeds and Duty."

### BANQUET SPEECHES

District of Columbia Commissioner Oliver P. Newman, as toastmaster, opened the banquet with the following remarks:

I feel that I enjoy an unusual advantage in acting as toastmaster on this occasion because my experience as a newspaper reporter has taught me that the success of a banquet is measured in inverse ratio to the length of the toastmaster's speech. On that basis I can assure you that this dinner will be one of the most successful in history.

When I was honored with an invitation to act as toastmaster on this occasion, I wondered why I had been selected. Since then, however, I believe I have figured it out. It must have been because of my close kinship to Mr. Bryan, coupled with the fact that I was born in Lincoln and have been his friend and admirer for so many years. I am particularly proud of the kinship of which I have spoken and I am sure when I tell you what it is you will appreciate why I am proud. My father's brother's wife's brother's son married Mr. Bryan's daughter! (Laughter.)

Commissioner Newman: The first toast of the evening I find according to the program, is "How It Happened." Considering that there is a Montana connection with that toast I am curious as to whether it refers to the election, to the dinner we are giving to Mr. Bryan, to the result in Montana, or possibly to the election of a certain congresswoman in Montana! (Laughter.) However, we will let the speaker explain his interpretation of the toast. I take great pleasure in introducing Hon. Thomas J. Walsh. (Applause.)

### "HOW IT HAPPENED"

(By Hon. Thomas J. Walsh, United States Senator from Montana.)

Mr. Toastmaster, Mr. Bryan, and Fellow Democrats: Generally the duty of explaining "How It Happened" is one that ordinarily devolves, as you all have abundant occasion to know, by a long and very well established custom, upon the vanquished, and not upon the successful leader! (Laughter.) It is the other fellow whom unmerciful disaster has followed who is required to write "I regret to report," followed by such harrowing details as his ingenuity in excuses will enable him to make, or as some inexorable fate will supply him. The victor may content himself with the classic "Veni, vidi, vici," or the equally laconic "We have met the enemy, and they are ours!"

Some generous minded persons have been kind enough to intimate that the conduct of the campaign by the western headquarters of the national committee was not without things worthy of note. (Applause.) That's rather funny in view of this story. It may be known to

### LETTERS READ AT BANQUET

White House, Washington, December 5, 1916.  
My dear Mr. Commissioner:

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 to convey to him my warmest congratulations and best wishes for his continued health and happiness?

Cordially and sincerely yours,  
WOODROW WILSON.  
Hon. Oliver P. Newman, Toastmaster,  
Washington, D. C.

The Vice-President's Chamber,  
Washington, 4th Dec. 1916.

Cotter T. Bride,  
City.

Dear Sir:  
The invitation to attend the dinner in honor of Hon. W. J. Bryan has just reached me. It has arrived so late that I am unable to change other arrangements, much to my regret, as I should like to signify by my presence the debt of gratitude the party owes Mr. Bryan for his generous and incomparable campaign in its behalf.

Courteously yours,  
THOS. R. MARSHALL.  
November 29, 1916.

Cotter T. Bride, Esq.,  
131 B St. S. E.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:  
I have just received the kind invitation to attend the banquet in honor of Hon. William Jennings Bryan.

I regret to say I have another important engagement that night, but if it is at all possible to have the date changed, I will be glad to do so, and join with you and your friends in doing honor to Mr. Bryan.

Thanking you for your very kind invitation and hoping I may be able to accept it, I am,  
Very truly yours,  
VANCE C. McCORMICK.

most of you that I first made the race for the senate in my state in the year 1910 against Senator Carter, the then retiring member. The state was supposed to be, and quite accurately, republican at that time, the candidate for congress having been elected by about five thousand. We succeeded, however, in electing a democratic legislature by a majority of seven, and my friends fondly hoped that I might be elected, but they succeeded in getting a very distinguished old gentleman to get into the race against me, and the result was a dead-lock for sixty-days, resulting in the election of another gentleman. However, one of the members of the upper house was elected after quite a strenuous campaign in his county, and being a friend of mine for quite a good many years came to me, very generously, and told me that he was going to vote ultimately for me, but he said he was under some obligations to this other old gentleman, and he was going to vote for him once or twice, and then for me. He was quite equal to his words. He has voted for the other man once or twice, and made a great speech for him. He told the legislators what a fine man he was; he described him as an empire builder, a man of large affairs in the business world, and so on, and so on. After he had voted for him once or twice or three times, he started in

and made an equally eloquent speech for me, describing me likewise as an extremely fine man, a student of public affairs, a lawyer known from one end of the country to the other, etc., and then he wound up his exhortation by saying, "As a politician, however, Walsh is a dismal failure!" (Laughter.)

Now, as a lawyer, I never felt that verdicts could be won by bamboozling the jury, rather than by talking sense to them, and by attempting to guide their reason, and I have been so good a democrat as to believe that whenever any cause, righteous in character, is submitted to the judgment—the enlightened judgment—of the people, in the great majority of cases, it will be resolved in accordance with the essential principles of justice. (Applause.)

I never doubted for a moment that the administration of President Wilson (prolonged applause started by Mr. Bryan), and the record of his democratic associates, had justly earned the enthusiastic endorsement of the American people; that there was a dormant sentiment of approval of them, and that if we could only translate that dormant sentiment into action and make it vocal at the polls, there was no doubt that we should win. And with that task before us, the first, I might say, the factor most transcendent in importance, was the distinguished guest of honor who sits with us tonight! (Cheers and applause.) Never before,—I tell you upon the testimony of capable, competent, and discerning judges,—never before did he deliver such splendid, such convincing speeches, nor was he ever listened to by larger or more enthusiastic audiences. (Cheers and applause.) One who was there told me only today that his progress through the state of North Dakota was a triumphal march, and I entertain no doubt but that state voted right because of the appeals that he made to its electorate. (Applause.)

In any analysis of the result, over which we have such abundant cause to rejoice, with a view to determine the forces through which it was attained, no small significance must be given to the vote of the women in the states in which they are permitted to cast their ballots. (Applause.) It is no mere coincidence that in ten of the twelve states in which women have been enfranchised, the electoral vote will be cast for Wilson and Marshall. (Applause.)

That suggests another story: When that celebrated "Wall Street Special" (Laughter and applause) passed through my home at Helena, the governor of our state, who very happily was re-elected by a flattering vote, was in the eastern part of the state, engaged in carrying on a very spirited campaign. He was unable, unfortunately, to greet the ladies as they came to that city, and he was unable to attend their meetings. In the course of his addresses in the eastern part of the state, he told the people there something like this,—that it was not in the plan under which the train was proceeding on its journey westward to stop at Helena at all, but that the maids whom the ladies had taken along to take care of the poodle dogs insisted that the dogs needed exercise (laughter); so they stopped at Helena! (Laughter and applause.) And that while the maids were exercising the dogs upon the station platform, the ladies went uptown and proceeded to enlighten the good women upon their duties as citizens and their obligations as electors. Now, the governor continued,—I do not vouch for the truth of this story (laughter); I tell it as it was told to me—but this he added: "I do assert that the dogs needed the exercise more than the women did the enlightenment!" (Laughter and applause.)

Now my friends, notwithstanding these things, no one can doubt that the overwhelming consideration which addressed itself to the good people of the Golden West to whom is due much of this great victory, a citizenry that is typically American, an electorate that in point of intelligence, discrimination, discernment and independence is not surpassed in any quarter of this Union (applause,—was the fact that the defeat of Mr. Wilson meant the restoration of invisible government and the substitution of that system of which Mark Hanna is the exemplar, and which he perfected; that was the one paramount and overwhelming consideration. (Prolonged applause.)

The Toastmaster, Commissioner Newman: If there will be anything as interesting as the story