

Mr. Bryan Campaigns Many States for Prohibition

MR. BRYAN AGAIN IN FRONT

[From the Columbus, Ohio, Monitor, Jan. 18, 1917.]

The presence of William Jennings Bryan in the city for the prohibition meetings, and the enthusiasm which he has aroused in his advocacy of the prohibition movement, is a remarkable proof of his ability to remain in the front rank of public discussion despite the prediction that he had lost his hold on public affairs and was out of the public mind. In his latest move Mr. Bryan has undoubtedly come back as a public figure, and has regained his old-time popularity with a considerable portion of the public. What this will lead to for him in the future is of course uncertain, but it is due to him, more than to any other public man, that President Wilson secured the presidential nomination at Baltimore in 1912, and that President Wilson had a widely advertised peace policy on which to run in his recent campaign for re-election. President Wilson was nominated by Mr. Bryan and he was re-elected by Mr. Bryan's peace policy, to which he was committed before Mr. Bryan left the cabinet. How far Mr. Bryan's warm advocacy of state and national prohibition will advance him in the public mind or in history, remains to be shown later on, but that he has refused to be shelved somewhere up Salt river, is undeniably true and in the main disconcerting to some people.

URGES PROHIBITION, SUFFRAGE AND NEW CONSTITUTION BEFORE INDIANA SENATE

[From the Indiana Forum, Jan. 20, 1917.]

Emphatic declarations for a constitutional convention in Indiana; for the Dorrell-McCray prohibition bill; for woman suffrage and for a state and national paper controlled by the government to truthfully educate the people of movements of reform were made by William Jennings Bryan to an audience that packed every seat and every inch of standing room in the senatorial chambers at the state capitol. Bryan was interrupted frequently by tumultuous applause and every now and then by a shout of "Amen!"

During his address to the senators which occupied two hours Bryan spared no one who is opposed to the reform measures. He excoriated Stephen B. Fleming of Ft. Wayne who, he said, as a delegate to the last national democratic convention, placed the saloons and bartenders above the women.

PARTY LEADERS CHEER BRYAN

[From the Indiana Forum, Jan. 20, 1917.]

William J. Bryan pleaded the cause of prohibition before a state wide conference of democrats in Tomlinson Hall yesterday afternoon and did not plead in vain. An audience of more than 2,000, in which were many of the leaders of the democratic party cheered him wildly when in closing his address he urged dry democrats of Indiana to go back home and organize and carry the fight for control of the party organization into the next primary. That a statewide organization of dry democrats, taking in the humblest precinct in the state will be perfected within the next few weeks is certain and there will be war to the finish against brewery control in the democratic party.

Shortly after the noon hour delegations began to assemble in Tomlinson hall and until 2:30 when Mr. Bryan appeared, little groups stood about discussing the exceptional address made by the Commoner earlier in the day. When Mr. Bryan arrived at the hall he was given an enthusiastic welcome and the conference was immediately called to order by Judge William H. Eichhorn, of Blurton. Judge Eichhorn explained the purpose of the conference as being in the interest of making the democratic party the progressive party of Indiana and the party committed to the cause of prohibition, which, the judge averred, was the sentiment of the vast majority of the state. He said that there had been an awakening of the democratic party throughout the nation and that more than any other one man the speaker of the afternoon had started the revolution. He then presented Mr. Bryan to the audience.

"It is only a little more than two months since I spoke in this city along the lines that I am to follow today," said Mr. Bryan in beginning his talk to the democrats. "When I came into this room I could not help but contrast this audience with the one I addressed two months ago. Our cause is like a snow ball, it gets bigger as it rolls along. You are more in numbers today than you were then and you will be more two months from now than you are today."

"I realize how timid some men are about discussing some of these questions for fear they will disturb the harmonious state of affairs within the party. I have passed through that experience several times. My tenure of public office was rather brief. It has been more than 20 years since I held an official position. I've never been vain enough to think that I added much to the causes I have been interested in, but I have felt that any strength I might have I borrowed from the strength of the cause with which I was identified."

BRYAN GUNS RALLY DRYS IN BIG DRIVE

[From the Indianapolis, Ind., Star, Jan. 20, 1917.]

W. J. Bryan threw down the gage of battle for prohibition, woman suffrage, constitutional reform and advanced legislation in three notable addresses in Indianapolis yesterday. His utterances marked the beginning of an organized drive which the advocates of these changes hope to accomplish in one legislative session the most ambitious and eventful program recorded in a century of Indiana history.

Invited by dry democrats and addressing himself primarily to the members of his party, Mr. Bryan was at once spokesman for a program and a counselor of party action. But his remarks were broadly inclusive of all parties. While his criticism of what he believed to be the evil phases of party management particularly in its relations to the liquor traffic was unsparring, he tried to make everything that he said essentially nonpartisan.

From one point of view, the most interesting of his addresses was that before the members of the legislature in the senate chamber in the morning, but the afternoon and evening addresses at Tomlinson hall, in which he spoke to democrats and the dry

forces, held a deep measure of political interest and possible significance. The effects of his three addresses, as they may go to determine the fate of prohibition, woman suffrage and constitutional convention measures now pending in the legislature, are problematical.

Audiences Are Interested

Of one fact, however, there can be no doubt. He had intense and earnest audiences at all three meetings. The significant thing about his two-hour address in the legislature was the heartiness and spontaneity of applause. It ignored party lines. Governor Goodrich, who escorted the distinguished democrat to the platform and sat behind him throughout his address, applauded frequently. Dry republicans, it was noted, were just as vigorous in their demonstrations of approval as if the speaker had been a man of their own political faith.

It did not escape the notice of observant politicians, either, that Mr. Bryan spared no words in dealing with opponents of the dry movement in his own party in Indiana. He left no doubt of the fact in his forenoon and afternoon speeches that he regards Stephen B. Fleming of Fort Wayne, prominent in democrat councils in the state, as an obstacle to party betterment. It was suggested that the presence of Mr. Fleming in Indianapolis since the legislature convened and his activity on behalf of a wet program had been brought forcibly to Mr. Bryan's attention by dry democrats and that the Nebraskan made a studied effort to rebuke Mr. Fleming and minimize his influence. It was intimated also that Mr. Bryan was actuated in his references to the Fort Wayne man by his desire to help dry democrats in Indiana obtain the upper hand so that if he becomes presidential candidate in 1920 he can count on an unbroken support from this state.

Indorses Economy Plan

How much lasting value attaches to Mr. Bryan's efforts in Indianapolis, in their relation to dry legislation and other signal reforms, depends largely, of course, upon the campaign that followers of his program adopt after his departure. Temporarily, at least, it is assured that his addresses will have the effect of strengthening doubtful members of the legislature. At the same time his appearance here at a very vital moment will cause the opponents of prohibitory legislation to redouble their activities.

There was a broad political bearing, too, in Mr. Bryan's remarks on economy in his forenoon address. His tone at the outset was distinctly conciliatory. He didn't even mention Governor Goodrich by name, but there was no mistaking the fact that he knew about democratic action in the senate to block the governor's economy plans and that he was against such a course. He spoke positively in favor of carrying out pledges of economy, irrespective of party lines.

Tomlinson Hall Packed

Tomlinson hall was packed when Bryan appeared there for the night meeting. Among those on the platform with the Commoner were Senators McCray and Dorrell, who introduced the dry bill in the senate. The Rev. C. H. Winders, pastor of the Downey Avenue Christian church, pronounced the invocation. Before

the speaking a collection was taken to assist in the dry work.

Fred Landis of Logansport, chairman of the meeting, pronounced a fiery sentence for the liquor interests when he spoke of the hopes of the Indiana Dry federation. The wholesale brewer is calling the distiller "poisoner," he said; the distiller is calling the brewer "outlaw," and both of them are calling the saloon keep "law-breaker," and they are all telling the truth.

ILLINOIS DRY FIGHT

[By Arthur W. Crawford, in Chicago Herald.]

Springfield, Ill., Jan. 23. — Two great audiences, which packed the state arsenal this afternoon and tonight heard William Jennings Bryan plead the cause of prohibition.

In the afternoon Mr. Bryan talked "as a democrat to democrats," in advocacy of his proposal that prohibition be included as an issue in the next national platform of the party.

Dry members of the legislature, including republicans as well as democrats, marched into the hall in a body and occupied front seats.

During the morning the Anti-Saloon league's state-wide prohibition bill was introduced in the senate by Senator Wood and in the house by Representative T. E. Lyon. Other dry measures also were thrown into the hopper in celebration of Mr. Bryan's appearance in the city.

Night Talk to Citizens

At tonight's meeting Mr. Bryan spoke against the liquor traffic "as a citizen to citizens." It was under the direction of the local committee which is seeking to drive saloons out of Springfield at the April election.

Between the afternoon and night meetings Mr. Bryan was entertained at a dinner at the St. Nicholas hotel by democratic members of the legislature, including a few wets as well as dries.

In a talk at the dinner Mr. Bryan alluded jokingly to the possibility that he might again be a presidential candidate. The toastmaster in introducing him had said he hoped to be able to vote for him as the democratic presidential candidate on a prohibition platform in 1920.

Mr. Bryan in responding said he had refrained from denying that he would be a candidate because, in the first place, it was nobody's business, and, in the second place, because if it gave anybody any pleasure to anticipate the possibility of his running a fourth time he felt he should not interfere with it.

It was a gala day for the dries. Special trains were run from seven Illinois cities, particularly for the afternoon meeting of democrats. A delegation of 100 came from Chicago. Three bands were in the parade which escorted Mr. Bryan from the railroad station to the arsenal for the afternoon meeting.

About 7,000 persons were in attendance in the afternoon and at night the crowd was swelled to nearly 10,000. Mr. Bryan's sledge-hammer blows at the saloon evoked frequent and vociferous applause.

"The democratic party is more free to take up the liquor question than it has been for years," said Mr. Bryan, in his afternoon address. "In the last campaign no political boss who stands for the liquor traffic turned in any sheaves when the harvest came. The great wet cities were against us. We don't owe them anything. We carried seventeen out of the twenty-three dry states."

"This question is here; you can't escape it. The child is born and