

Charles W. Bryan as Mayor of Lincoln

be employed, we insist that equal pay for equal work shall prevail without regard to sex.

Finally, in order to safeguard all the interests of the wage-earners organized labor should have representation on all agencies determining and administering policies for national defense. It is particularly important that organized labor should have representatives on all boards authorized to control publicity during war times. The workers have suffered much injustice in war times by limitations upon their right to speak freely and to secure publicity for their just grievances.

Organized labor has earned the right to make these demands. It is the agency that, in all countries, stands for human rights and is the defender of the welfare and interests of the masses of the people. It is an agency that has international recognition which is not seeking to rob, exploit or corrupt foreign governments but instead seeks to maintain human rights and interests the world over, nor does it have to dispel suspicion nor prove its motives either at home or abroad.

The present war discloses the struggle between the institutions of democracy and those of autocracy. As a nation we should profit from the experiences of other nations. Democracy can not be established by patches upon an autocratic system. The foundations of civilized intercourse between individuals must be organized upon principles of democracy and scientific principles of human welfare. Then a national structure can be perfected in harmony with humanitarian idealism—a structure that will stand the tests of the necessities of peace or war.

We, the officers of the National and International Trade Unions of America in national conference assembled in the capital of our nation, hereby pledge ourselves in peace or in war, in stress or in storm, to stand unreservedly by the standards of liberty and the safety and preservation of the institutions and ideals of our republic.

In this solemn hour of our nation's life, it is our earnest hope that our republic may be safeguarded in its unswerving desire for peace; that our people may be spared the horrors and the burdens of war; that they may have the opportunity to cultivate and develop the arts of peace, human brotherhood and a higher civilization.

But, despite all our endeavors and hopes, should our country be drawn into the maelstrom of the European conflict, we, with these ideals of liberty and justice herein declared, as the indispensable basis for national policies, offer our services to our country in every field of activity to defend, safeguard and preserve the republic of the United States of America against its enemies whomsoever they may be, and we call upon our fellow workers and fellow citizens in the holy name of Labor, Justice, Freedom and Humanity to devotedly and patriotically give like service.

SPEECH OF WELCOME

[Speech of welcome, by Mayor A. C. Oullahan, of Stockton, California, upon the occasion of the luncheon in honor of William Jennings Bryan, given by the Rotary club of that city, on May 9th, 1917.]

It is one of the functions of my office to welcome strangers to our gates, but I am out of a job on that score today, for I see no stranger here. We all know Bryan. We speak of him in familiar terms, as we speak of the man next door. He belongs to Stockton, because he belongs to every community in the nation. He is one of the greatest figures in our contemporary history. And the history that will be written in another day will tell how some men differed from him, and how some men agreed with him, but how all men honored and respected him, because he battled always for some noble ideal and some lofty principle. He pretends to be a man of peace, but we know he is the greatest single-handed fighter of his day and generation. We are proud to have in our midst that statesman and patriot who is rich in all those graces and attainments which make a man a man.

In the name of the city of Stockton, Mr. Bryan, in the name of her people who hold you in affectionate esteem, I bid you a sincere and hearty welcome.

Below will be found two reports prepared and filed with the city council of Lincoln, Nebraska, during the two years that Mr. Charles W. Bryan was mayor. Lincoln is under the commission form of government. Mr. Bryan was elected on a platform that demanded the reduction in the rates for public utilities' service, in favor of adopting legislation to enable the city of Lincoln to compete with other cities in growth and development and to enforce the law against the evildoers of the city.

Although a majority of the commissioners elected were supported by elements that were unfriendly to Mr. Bryan's candidacy, and although for awhile after he took up his duties as mayor the majority of the commission endeavored to prevent him from carrying out his progressive program, yet he gradually overcame the opposition, and during the last year of his term, the majority of the council supported practically all the measures which he initiated.

Mr. Bryan's term as mayor ended May 7, 1917. Practically the entire platform program outlined by him when he announced his candidacy for mayor was carried out during his term, together with a large number of other measures and reorganizations that could not be foreseen before entering upon his official duties. Mr. Bryan's progressive, business administration met with such general approval of the public that no representative citizen was found to stand as a candidate for mayor at this spring's election until Mr. Bryan announced, a short time before time for the primary, that he would not stand as a candidate for re-election because he could not make a further sacrifice of time and nerve force to continue in the position.

After Mr. Bryan's announcement that he could not serve again as mayor, Mr. J. E. Miller, one of Lincoln's most prominent business men, was drafted to stand as a candidate for mayor and was elected and has now entered upon his duties.

The reports below contain a brief summary of some of the things that were accomplished under Mayor Bryan's initiative. These reports are official reports made by Mayor Bryan to the city council and approved unanimously by that body and spread upon the records of the city. Immediately following the reports are short editorials from the two most representative newspapers of Lincoln (both republican) commenting on Mr. Bryan's work as mayor.

FIRST YEAR'S ADMINISTRATION

The mayor's report to the council covering the first year of his administration was as follows:

Reduction of the price of gas from \$1.20 to \$1 per thousand, saving to the people of Lincoln \$56,000 per year.

Suit won in federal district court to compel gas company to return to gas consumers about \$450,000 illegally collected by gas company in overcharges. Case now appealed by gas company to United States supreme court with every prospect of final decision in favor of the city.

People voted \$50,000 of park bonds and extension of Antelope park from J street to O street. Purchase of needed property partly completed.

People voted garbage disposal bonds to the amount of \$50,000 and now plans under way for establishing a garbage plant to improve sanitary conditions in the city.

Established free legal aid department in interest of those unable to employ attorneys. One hundred and thirty-nine cases settled from September 1, 1915, to March 1, 1916.

Established free municipal employment bureau to assist the unemployed in finding work.

Arrangement of city work so as to give employment to labor at a time of year when there was the least demand for labor by private employers.

Enforcement of weights and measures ordinances as a protection to the public against short weights in coal and all other commodities.

Giving Lincoln people an opportunity to purchase as an investment over the city treasurer's counter, paving bonds issued by this municipality.

Consolidation of the offices of health officer

and city physician under one head, so as to insure prompt medical attention to people financially unable to employ a physician.

Extension by express companies of free delivery zone to include practically the entire city.

Successfully resisted a raise in street car fares to school children, thereby saving about three thousand dollars annually to street car patrons.

Vested pardon power in hands of the mayor to prevent abuse of pardon power.

Sidewalk inspector placed under supervision of city engineer to promote efficiency.

Payment by city of premium on city treasurer's bond during time city treasurer draws no salary.

Employment of visiting nurse by city for benefit of needy.

Purchase of additional automobile for police department to enable it to answer two emergency calls at one time.

Reorganization of police department and bringing police of city and county into harmony so as to give better protection to the public.

City budget made up after an exchange of estimates between commissioners and after discussion and consideration of the relative merits of the items in each commissioner's estimate.

Enforcement of the milk ordinance to protect public health.

Put into effect double fire shift and added thirteen new men to the fire department.

Require appointments of firemen to be confirmed by council, and also require a physical examination of new firemen when employed, to protect city's interest in firemen's pension fund.

Took fire department out of politics.

Built offices in old council chamber at Tenth and Q streets for health department to give department more room, to segregate the three public safety departments, to protect the public health and to promote efficiency of department.

Built new woman's ward in city jail as a humanitarian necessity.

CHARLES W. BRYAN, Mayor.

The above report was submitted by the mayor and officially approved by the Lincoln council March 13, 1916.

REPORT FOR PAST YEAR

Mayor Bryan's report, covering the second year of his administration and submitted to the council April 30, 1917, is as follows:

To the members of the City Council:

On March 13, 1916, I submitted to the council a report of the progress made in the way of legislation and departmental work of the city covering the period from May 1, 1915, to March 1, 1916. Believing that a full report of the activities of the city administration should be regularly made to the city council and should become a matter of record, I submit herewith a report of progress made from March 1, 1916, to May 1, 1917. As reports by the appointive officers covering their respective activities were filed at the first of the year, covering the preceding twelve months, this report covers the measures, administration work, resolutions, etc., that were carried out either by the mayor, thru his initiative or in response to his recommendations.

ANTELOPE PARK EXTENSION

During the past year, about thirty-five lots, tracts, or parcels of park land lying between J street and O street have been purchased for the purpose of extending Antelope park from J street to O street. A new channel for Antelope creek has been cut from M street to J street. The five loops of the old channel through the city park tract have been filled. Fifteen houses have been sold, moved off the tract, where 10,000 yards of dirt have been secured and used in filling cellar holes, and raising the park tract to prevent overflow of water. Boulevards on either side of the new Antelope channel have been graded, crowned, and cindered from J street to O street, the rubbish and trash cleaned out, trees trimmed and ground put in condition for seeding and planting. Shrubbery and trees to the amount of several hundred dollars have been purchased for the park extension tract and are now being set out. Grass seed has been pur-