

Mr. Bryan in Indiana

Editor The Commoner: There was held at Plymouth, Indiana, Monday, July 9th, a great food conservation meeting. It was attended by more than 20,000 people, coming from all parts of northern Indiana. The meeting was under the supervision and direction of Prof. G. I. Christie of the extension department of Purdue university. Mr. Christie is also the Indiana food director. The arrangements of the meeting were in charge of the following Plymouth citizens: John R. Jones, chairman of the committee; Mrs. Samuel Boys, secretary; L. G. Harley, Dr. Walter K. Schlosser, Samuel Schlosser, Samuel Tomlinson, Alpha Ball, U. S. Lennert, Clay W. Metsker and Samuel Boys. The success of the meeting would warrant that this committee was ably assisted by the entire citizenship of Plymouth.

The speakers of the occasion were the Hon. W. J. Bryan, who spoke on food conservation, under the direction of Secretary Houston, Gov.

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James P. Goodrich and Prof. G. I. Christie.

The meeting was called to order at 2 o'clock by the chairman, John R. Jones, author of the Indiana direct primary law, who presented Governor Goodrich as the permanent chairman of the meeting. In presenting the governor, Mr. Jones said in part that Governor Goodrich had made a wonderful record as the chief executive of Indiana, pointing to the fact that he had signed a constitutional prohibition bill, a statewide prohibition bill and a limited woman's suffrage bill. He also called attention to the fight the governor was making in the interest of all the people for lower coal prices.

Governor Goodrich paid a high compliment to John R. Jones, and said that he was largely responsible for the enactment of a statewide primary law, which enabled the people to select their candidates for office without interference by the political boss. He also paid a splendid compliment to James H. McGill, of Valparaiso, who he said had been leading the fight in the democratic party for a cleaner democracy.

Governor Goodrich devoted his remarks to the demands that were being made upon the country for foods, owing to the war, and congratulated the people on their splendid activities in producing foodstuffs. He said the men and women on the Indiana farms were rendering as large a service in the interest of the United States and their allies in finishing the war, as our soldiers were rendering on the battle front. He also pledged the people that in case the federal government did not curb the extravagant coal prices, that the state of Indiana would use all the power it could command in giving the people relief. The governor's address was received with enthusiastic applause.

When the governor presented Prof. G. I. Christie, of Purdue university, who is the Indiana food director, to the audience, it was clearly demonstrated by the splendid reception given Mr. Christie, that the governor had made no mistake in making him the food director for Indiana. Prof. G. I. Christie in organizing extension work in the state and sending out some three hundred representatives or more to assist in every way possible, has made for himself and the state a very enviable reputation. His address was practical, logical and splendidly appreciated. He said that his department had called upon the farmers of Indiana, in the early spring, for a genuine co-operation and they had responded splendidly. They had increased their acreage very materially over previous years and now the necessary thing to do was to care for the foodstuffs that were now ready for conservation and those that would continue to ripen throughout the season. His touching appeal for the starving women and children on the blood-soaked fields of Europe touched a responsive chord in the breasts of all his hearers.

Professor Christie expressed his appreciation to his co-workers at Plymouth for making this great meeting possible.

Governor Goodrich, in presenting the great Commoner, said that the good things were always saved until the last, and that no introduction was necessary. He expressed his appreciation for the great honor accorded the state by Mr. Bryan's coming to join in this great meeting.

The acres of people that greeted the great Commoner with their genuine applause was certainly inspiring. Mr. Bryan congratulated Governor Goodrich in the highest terms for the

things accomplished in the first six months of his administration. He said it was one of the most remarkable records in political history, and pledged the governor, regardless of what the governor might have said about him in years gone by, and the number of times that the governor had voted against him, that he gladly forgave him for it all.

The first part of Mr. Bryan's address dealt with the food conditions and the instructions that had been given him by Mr. Houston, secretary of agriculture. He told of the wonderful crops throughout our country, and also explained the absolute need of their conservation. His great audience gave the closest attention to his address on food conservations, but when he touched on the liquor traffic, they showed a splendid approval. His argument against the saloon and for the protection of the home went direct to the hearts of his hearers, and his appeal for woman's suffrage was splendidly received. He also called the people's attention to the things that are confronting them in their coming constitutional convention and suggested that the people would be wise if they selected their delegates without political domination. He closed his address by making a strong appeal for the initiative and referendum. He said if he were permitted to write a single paragraph into Indiana's new constitution, he would write the paragraph that would make the constitution easily amended. He said the initiative and referendum make this provision and called attention to the fact that twenty-two states had adopted the initiative and referendum, and no state had ever attempted to strike it from its constitution.

The writer enjoyed the broad smile that passed over the countenance of James H. McGill, who had recently been made chairman of the Indiana Initiative and Referendum league, when Mr. Bryan was presenting his reasons for the adoption of the initiative and referendum for Indiana. Mr. McGill has been one of the Commoner's close personal friends for more than twenty years, and while he has agreed with Mr. Bryan on every issue that he has presented to the country, there is no issue that appeals to McGill so thoroughly as the initiative and the referendum. McGill's friends are circulating petitions throughout the state for him to become a candidate for constitutional convention delegate at large, and his fight will be made upon the initiative and the referendum, prohibition, woman suffrage, workmen's compensation, taxation and other great questions that will come before the convention.

At the close of Mr. Bryan's address, Governor Goodrich presented Congressman Henry A. Barnhart, of the 13th congressional district, who presented to the county that had sent the largest automobile delegation, a magnificent flag. Congressman Barnhart's constituency greeted him enthusiastically, and after taking a few wallops in his masterly way at John Barleycorn and his partner Gambrinus, presented the flag to the Laporte county delegation.

It was a banner day for the city of Plymouth and Marshall county, and while the great Commoner has always been a favorite at Plymouth, the warmth and cordiality that was extended him by the citizenship of Plymouth showed that the people's friendship for him is in no way diminishing. Northern Indiana will certainly long remember the food conservation meeting held at Plymouth, and all those present are grateful to Governor Goodrich, W. J. Bryan and Prof. G. I. Christie and

the committee for making the meeting possible.

The writer was privileged to accompany Governor Goodrich, Mr. Bryan and Professor Christie to Winona, where there was a great evening meeting held and he was much impressed on the way over by a statement made by L. G. Harley, of Plymouth, in which he said that the greatest heritage that he expected to leave his sons was that they could call Mr. Bryan as their father's personal friend.

Mr. Bryan was given the subject of "Prevention of Crime" at Winona and his address indicated that he was as familiar with the subject as he is with all the great subjects which he discusses. He devoted the greater portion of his remarks to the cause of crime, showing that the American saloon was the breeding place of crime. The great Commoner never loses an opportunity to deliver a blow against booze, and he takes apparent pleasure in calling to the attention of his Indiana audiences the acts of a Fort Wayne brewer, both in the last democratic state convention held at Indianapolis, and in the democratic national convention in St. Louis, where this brewer insulted the womanhood of the nation by signing a minority report on the woman's suffrage question.

Mr. Bryan's popularity in Indiana is best evidenced by the number of addresses that he will deliver to chautauqua audiences. He speaks in every section of the state, between now and September 1st. The people of Indiana still regard him as their idol, notwithstanding the opinion of some of our so-called democratic leaders.

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