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Omaha Where the West is at its Best

COMPARING THE KEYNOTES.—I.

A keynote speech is necessarily an outline of what will follow, in both convention and campaign. In it should be contained an epitome of the aspirations, aims and achievements of the party for whom it is offered as a prospectus.

Therefore "Pat" Harrison had the attention of the world as he launched the democratic convention of 1924 on its way. Senator Harrison made a corking good democratic address. This is true whether or not it will stand careful examination as to its verity.

Taking up his first utterance of attack on the republican party in which he said:

"The cornerstone of the republican party is special privilege, and today its grip is more firmly tightened and its place more secure than at any time in its long history. It needs no cards to gain admittance to the White House, no passport to the congressional committee rooms."

Assuming that he refers all the way to special privilege, let us regard his utterance in the light of what Congressman Burton said at Cleveland, when he opened the republican national convention:

"Swarms of lobbyists infest every capital seeking the promotion of some special interest with callous disregard of that paramount benefit—the general welfare. Not merely by veiled threats but with brutal demands, they threaten candidates and political parties with defeat unless their demands are complied with."

"These demands are so persistent that refusal arouses opposition against the administration or political contests is the reaction against those who have responsibilities in shaping government policies, though the 'outs,' or those in opposition, would be compelled to take the same unyielding stand if they were entrusted with authority. It is easier to criticize than to construct; far easier to promise than to perform."

Who aided these special interests in the last session of congress? Was it not through a combination of the blocs and the democratic minority in both house and senate that the administration was defeated? And now Senator Harrison boasts of that achievement. If special privilege is entrenched at Washington, it is because the democrats have aided in establishing it there.

It will be interesting to follow these keynote addresses, seriatim as Senator Harrison develops the points, and this we propose to do.

"W. J. B." A FREE MORAL AGENT.

Florida democrats have discovered what a lot of others found out a long time ago—that William J. Bryan, if he enters the convention at all, will go in as a free moral agent. Mr. Bryan will be governed by instructions received at the polls to support Mr. McAdoo for president. Just how long is not disclosed. Until in the judgment of the Great Commoner it becomes expedient to turn to another and more available candidate. Baltimore in 1912 will afford a fair gauge for this.

It was on quite another point, however, that Mr. Bryan made his declaration of independence. In the caucus of Floridians an attempt was made to side-step prohibition. Mr. Bryan met this movement head on, and disposed of it most definitely. Unless, he says, the democratic platform is as clear and decided on law enforcement as is that adopted by the republicans at Cleveland, the democrats will be listed on the wet side and must take the consequences.

This portends, of course, that the expected tilt between W. J. Bryan and Bainbridge Colby will come off as scheduled. It will not be quite a repetition of the famous clash at San Francisco between Bourke Cochran and Bryan. There was a meeting of giants, for the party did not then nor does now hold the peers of this pair as orators or special pleaders. Cochran won, for he had the favor of the wets, and Bryan lost simply because the politicians were against him.

He will go into the arena at New York, his courage renewed, his hope strengthened, and will make such a plea for the dries as none other might. Colby may win, for the same reason that Cochran won four years ago. Mr. Bryan's great heart may once more go down into the grave, but he will enter the convention and emerge therefrom a free moral agent.

THIN AIR AND BASEBALL.

Not much is needed to start an argument over baseball. Just now the writers who devote their talents to the game are discussing the effect of high altitude on players. Salt Lake affords the basis for the discussion. An unusual number of base hits have recently been made out there. Ingenious reasoning is adopted to show a connection between this phenomenon and the fact that Salt Lake has an altitude of 4,200 feet above sea level. The ball, it is explained, finds less resistance in the rarified atmosphere, and consequently travels farther with no greater initial impulse.

All of which sounds plausible. It is the theory of the long distance gun fire. The projectile is hurled high into the air, far beyond the limit of ordinary resistance, and so travels a much greater distance than if it had been projected along a flatter trajectory. Yet Salt Lake is not the final answer. Denver is yet 1,000 feet higher up than the Mormon

capital. The air is proportionately thinner. We do not hear of any uncommon scores being accumulated at the Denver park, where the batted ball has less of air pressure to overcome.

Outfielders going from Omaha to Denver in olden days were accustomed to excusing blunders by saying they could not judge the flight of a fly ball because of the light air. Somehow, though, as we can testify, the fielder who is alert seldom fails to capture the ball that is hit up into the air. Observation of baseball all the way from sea level to a mile high forces the conclusion that a hit is a hit, wherever it is made. Babe Ruth makes most of his home runs in New York, where he is only a few feet above mean tidewater level. Probably the Salt Lake situation might be solved if a little better brand of pitching were shown.

OUR THANKS FOR CO-OPERATION.

The Omaha Bee wishes to acknowledge our obligation to all who have helped in making the brake test such a success. While it was something of an innovation here, it was made by far the most impressive demonstration yet recorded. No city has approached the record of Omaha for interest shown and number of brakes tested.

The real practical value is understood by those who have taken the trouble to have their brakes tested and examined. Their sincerity is shown by the fact that the majority of drivers whose brakes failed to stand the test on first examination have returned with deficiencies remedied and have gone away with the little pink sticker on their windshield, a notice to the world that their brakes are safe.

Manager Jerry Cavanagh of Detroit, who is conducting the tests, is quite enthusiastic over the response in Omaha. Commissioner Dunn and A. B. Waugh of the Automobile Trade association and the Omaha Automobile club, who have been working with Mr. Cavanagh, also express pleasure at the results. They and their assistants have found a response from local drivers and visitors as well that is extremely gratifying.

The Omaha Bee feels some pardonable pride for having made the big demonstration possible. It is something more than a demonstration. It is an effective argument for safety first in the use of the streets. As such it is of immense service to the public. We know how much is due to the effective help of others, and to them we pass the lion's share of the credit. Omaha will be safer so far as traffic is concerned because of the brake test. Other communities will gain, because visiting autoists have secured pink stickers and will spread the gospel of better brakes wherever they go. It was a big job, and well done.

MAUGHAM BEATS FATHER TIME.

Breakfast in New York and dinner in San Francisco the same day is a real feat, even if the one were rather early and the other a little late. Lieutenant Russel L. Maugham of the Air service, United States Army, accomplished it. Leaving Mitchell Field, New York, just as dawn was breaking over the Atlantic, Lieutenant Maugham drove steadily westward until he landed at Crissy Field, California, just as dusk was settling into darkness over the Pacific. He had covered 2,850 miles of distance in 21 hours and 48 minutes elapsed time. Actual flying time was 18 hours and 20 minutes, and his average speed was 156.2 miles per hour.

What good has been done by this spectacular performance? First, it has demonstrated the possibility of such flight, and may lead the way to such development as will make the experimental success of very practical service to man by shortening communication lines. The continuous flight of the air mail will start in a few days now. If its schedule can be bettered, it will be well. It proposes to travel at an average flying speed of 90 miles per hour. This is 1.5 miles per minute. Maugham made 156.2 miles per hour, or a little better than 2.6 miles per minute. Possibilities of greater speed for the air mail are apparent.

Another outstanding factor is the endurance of the Liberty motor. This is a triumph almost equivalent to that of the man. A piece of mechanism that can undergo and sustain the terrific strain that is put upon it by the demands of such flight certainly has proved the faith of its builders.

Other features of air knowledge will be worked out from Maugham's experience. It is not merely the annihilation of distance that is concerned. That had already been achieved. Experts in aerial navigation will consider and digest the points of the flight. It is not too much to expect that some very desirable advance will come from Maugham's feat. Even congress may be induced to make a sufficient appropriation for the air service of the army to enable it to put into use some of the knowledge it has gained from experiments.

This is not going to be a government of the people, for the people, by the people, until the people quit the habit of staying away from the polls on election day.

Perhaps General Dawes' assertion that he will "stick to the facts" in this campaign is the thing that arouses the ire of the opposition.

And just to think that the governor rushed off to New York and left us to be grabbed and squeezed to death by the oil octopus.

There are some doubts about the truth of the report from Paris that women's skirts are to be thinner this summer.

But just you wait until the dear women—bless 'em—begin tossing their bonnets and toques into the presidential ring.

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davie

EVOLUTION.

Each day our children upward climb
From babyland—the steps are fast;
And life is but a fleeting time
When one looks back upon the past.
And sees the cradles where recline
The sprightly little cherubim
With tiny hands, and eyes that shine,
And faces that resemble Him.

Hey! No Fair Changing the Rules in the Middle of the 7th Inning



Letters From Our Readers

All letters must be signed, but name will be withheld upon request. Communications of 200 words and less will be given preference.

Relief From the "Relievers."

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: How long are we Americans supposed to keep up this thing of relief for the Near East? About every so often, which is very frequent, well fed and well paid solicitors come around with pitiful tales of suffering in Armenia. It seems that this has been going on for 10 or 15 years, perhaps longer. I am wondering if those people in the Near East are ever going to work to try to earn their own living. Doubtless there is much suffering over there, but that is true right here at home.

Time for Radical Change.

Grand Island, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Isn't it about time that we get wise to the way our big colleges and universities are being run, and set to work to correct things? It would seem high time that we began turning out something better than Leopolds and Loebis and husky football giants. Why not introduce

Abe Martin



Misses Fawn Lippincott and Tawney Apple are inseparable, as they both hate 'th' feller who used 'I' say, 'I hain't doin' nothin'—jest wearin' out my ole clothes?' (Copyright, 1924.)

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V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of June, 1924.
W. H. QUIVERY,
Notary Public

A Smuggling Story

This is an awful country, isn't it—what with bobbed hair, high taxes, oil scandals and the low price of eggs! Hard to make a decent living here, no chance to get along.

You hear something like this pretty often.

But is it, really, such a bad country? Our chance in America ought to be as good as the "heathen Chinese." We are already here, we know the language and the customs of the country, and are in some degree established. If the man from China is willing to pay as much as \$2,500 to get to this land of opportunity to make his fortune we ought to be able to keep even with the bill collector, at least—Farm Life.

"They are willing to pay from \$100 to \$2,500 a head to any one who will accommodate them."

It is a chance in America ought to be as good as the "heathen Chinese." We are already here, we know the language and the customs of the country, and are in some degree established. If the man from China is willing to pay as much as \$2,500 to get to this land of opportunity to make his fortune we ought to be able to keep even with the bill collector, at least—Farm Life.

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SUNNY SIDE UP

Take Comfort, nor forget That sunrise never failed us yet

HIS NAME IS LEGION.

He would whine about conditions, and he cursed the politicians, saying histories of perditions isn't hot enough to punish those who ground him in the dust.

He would stand around and holler till he wilted down his collar that the triumph of the dollar over poor and helpless humans was condition most unjust.

He had one fine line of patter, and for hours he'd loudly chatter as he told just what the matter with the country he insisted was succumbing to dry rot.

Men at head of corporations, public men in highest stations, met his wildest condemnations as a bunch of criminals crooked who should certainly be shot.

Men who win success by working 'stead of whining, knocking, shikking, he declared were always lurking in the shadows for despoiling honest fellows like he is.

Capital, he said, is rotten, merely money ill-begotten, and all rich men should be fought in desperation by the toilers who are victims of big biz.

He soap-boxed from night till morning, men of business success scoring, and by hours hurled his warning that the toilers were but wage slaves who delighted in their chains.

'Midst his many wild gyrations that he'd bring emancipation to the wage slaves of the nation, it was noticed that the speaker's hands displayed no working stainers.

While he belittled and blustered honest toilers were not flustered. They just round his soap-box clustered, grinning at his noisy ravings, for they knew his tale by rote.

'Twas not difficult to tell he likes to just raise merry hell in the hope he'll fill his belly from donations by the dumbbells when he once has got their goat.

It was a cruel joke that a local politician played upon a South Omaha lady at the race track Tuesday. He introduced a pleasant-faced gentleman as "my friend, Mr. Dennis," and the friend and the lady enjoyed a pleasant chat for several minutes.

The lady happens to be a prominent church worker, a leader in the temperance movement and prominent in club work. Then the local politician interrupted the conversation long enough to explain to the lady that perhaps she had misunderstood the name of his friend. It was Dennison, not Dennis.

Then the lady smilingly admitted that she was "agreeably surprised to learn that Mr. Dennison does not wear horns."

A Michigan delegate to the Lions' convention, hailing from Detroit, which is just across the river from Canada, had a lot of fun at the race track. He would approach a brother Lion in a mysterious manner and whisper, "How'd you like to have a little shot of cold tea?"

Of course the brother wouldn't mind it a little bit. Whereupon the Detroitier would lead the brother off to one side and slip him a bottle. It was cold tea.

When Louis Beindorff gets the Union Pacific city ticket office moved over to Sixteenth and Farnam, we expect to drop in every now and then and pass the time of day with him. We regret that time is all that Louis can pass us these days.

WILL M. MAUPIN.

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