

# Schenectady Man a Double for Bryan

**S**CHENECTADY, N. Y., May 18.—This is the man who looks so like William J. Bryan that even his own friends can't resist telling him every now and then how much he resembles the Nebraska statesman. He is Benjamin L. Hatmaker, the manager of a daily newspaper in Schenectady, and he is of about the same height and build as the peerless one, although he is four years younger.

Like Bryan, he often wears a long frock coat and a slouch hat, and then the resemblance is almost complete. Even people who have often seen Bryan are sometimes taken in by the remarkable similarity of appearance between the two men.



BENJAMIN L. HATMAKER OF SCHENECTADY, WHO IS OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR W. J. BRYAN.

began to find it out in 1896, after Bryan made his famous cross of gold and crown of thorns speech and was nominated for the presidency.

Before that Mr. Bryan was not widely known outside of Nebraska, from which state he had been sent to congress. In fact, he had reported the proceedings of the republican convention two weeks before at St. Louis for an Omaha newspaper and he went to the democratic convention at Chicago which nominated him at the head of a contesting delegation.

With the enormous spread of Bryan's pictures throughout the country that summer Mr. Hatmaker's troubles began. But he is even tempered and likes a joke, and probably no one ever enjoyed being taken for another man more than he.

Only last week he was in Albany on business and had occasion to go to the Central railroad station. Bryan was expected to visit the capital city that day, but through a hitch in his plans he did not arrive.

As soon as Mr. Hatmaker appeared in the station everybody began to look at him. A rush was made to shake hands with him and he was obliged to tell the crowd that he was not the peerless one, but just a plain business man. Even after that several men who came into the station said,

"That's him; that's Bryan," as soon as they clapped eyes upon him.

Mr. Hatmaker has frequently had crowds follow him in various other cities to which he has made business trips. When Bryan became famous and the resemblance began to attract attention, Mr. Hatmaker decided to make a record of the people who approached him to shake hands, under the impression that he was the Nebraskaan. In the last part of the summer of 1896 his record reached a total of 400 names, and then he gave up keeping it because it was too much trouble.

Somebody mistook him for Bryan saw him go into the Elliott Square building in Buffalo one day. Now, it happened that this man was an enthusiastic Bryanite, although he had never seen the peerless one in person. So he went out and got a crowd of other Bryan voters and they assembled in the main corridor to await the return of the supposed statesman from one of the upper floors.

When he stepped out of the elevator Mr. Hatmaker was greeted with a volley of cheers and the crowd pushed forward to shake his hand. Before he could explain that he was not Bryan he had been introduced to a dozen or more of the Nebraskaan's admirers. The joke seemed to be a good one, but he thought it had gone far enough and he finally managed to explain the mistake.

"Well, if you ain't Bryan you look enough like him to be his twin brother," said the man who originally spied him in the building.

Even after the explanation the crowd did not seem to be satisfied that he really was not Bryan and some of them followed him to the street. Every time Mr. Hatmaker stopped to gaze into a shop window groups of people would gather and point at him and wonder if he was the Nebraskaan.

Invariably when Mr. Hatmaker is introduced to a stranger the latter will shake hands with him and begin: "Why, how much—"

"I look like Bryan," Mr. Hatmaker will finish for him, with a twinkle in his eye. To Schenectady, of course, Mr. Hatmaker is well known among the merchants and other business men, because he has to consult them constantly about advertising affairs; but even there, where the population increases as if by magic, he is often mistaken for Bryan. On railroad trains Mr. Hatmaker always attracts a good deal of attention.

Once the conductor nudged the trainman as the Nebraskaan's double got on and said he thought the traveler was Mr. Bryan. Mr. Hatmaker sat down in the smoking compartment of a Pullman as the handiest place. Soon the trainman came through and craned his neck at the sole occupant of the compartment. Then more trainmen came and took a look, but apparently they couldn't make up their minds whether the passenger was Mr. Bryan or not.

The news that the peerless one was aboard soon spread through the train and many passengers were eager to see him. Some just glanced in as they passed, but others stopped to shake hands.

To each Mr. Hatmaker had to explain that he was not the boy orator of the Platte, or even remotely connected with him. As a matter of fact he takes but an ordinary citizen's interest in national politics, and he voted against Bryan both times he ran for president.

"I don't mind the mistakes people make in taking me for Bryan," said Mr. Hatmaker to a friend the other day, just after a man had stepped up and earnestly scanned his face. "but it must be a queer sensation to be really famous."

**Austria's Emperor.**  
Despite his seventy-six years, the Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria is enjoying wonderfully good health and has gone through the trying winter entirely free from coughs and colds, says the Pall Mall Gazette. His doctors take the utmost care of him, and not once this year has his majesty been seen out of doors on foot. This is the more remarkable, as he is fond of taking early morning walks in the park at Schonbrunn. He knows every inch of the place and is quick to note the slightest changes in woods or gardens, and was betide the official who has cut down old trees or made any other alterations or improvements without his previous knowledge and approval. But this season the emperor's favorite crocuses and snowdrops in sheltered spots in the woods have bloomed and died without his having once seen them. But in the affairs of state his majesty is as keen and laborious as ever. He is at his desk before 8 o'clock every morning, and frequently drives to the Hofburg in Vienna before 8 o'clock. He has been holding general audiences once or twice a week without any interruption, despite the fact that these are most trying affairs, requiring him to stand the whole time. These audiences not infrequently last two hours.

**Taft as a Newspaper Man.**  
Like Chief Justice Fuller, Secretary Wilson and other men high in the public service and confidence, Secretary Taft began his career as a newspaper man. The first money earned by him after graduating from Yale was as court reporter on a Cincinnati paper, the old Commercial Gazette, then edited by Murat Halstead. Mr. Taft started at \$8 a week, reports the Washington Herald, and when he quit had worked up to "twenty per cent." At the time he was engaged he was studying law at night under his father's direction. Necessity did not drive him to the work, as his father was a man of ample fortune, but the secretary chose it because it was the readiest entrance to active employment that brought him daily in contact with lawyers and court proceedings. Had he not been at so early an age started on a judicial career by the favor of Senator Foraker, who, as governor, made him judge of the superior court, it is said that Mr. Taft might have joined the staff of his brother, Charles P. Taft, publisher of the Cincinnati Times-Star, and thus have devoted himself seriously to journalism. The secretary likes to discuss newspaper work with reporters. He uses the shop terms with a familiarity denoting his former experience in the business, and understands how to outline a "story" for the "boys" better than any member of the administration, barring only the men in the White House.

## A Bunch of Short Stories

**Death Checks a Robber.**  
TAKE anything you want, but please don't make any noise. My baby is dead downstairs and my wife is dying. If she knew this it would kill her."

With his arms held high above his head, looking into the muzzle of a murderous revolver held by a burglar, W. W. Walling, one of the leading citizens of Bellevue, Pa., made this plea shortly before daylight Monday morning. He had come on the burglar while carrying some medicine for his sick wife.

The burglar made him repeat about the dead baby and the sick wife, then taking some gold watches and money from his pocket, he backed down the stairs, saying: "I'm sorry of you, old man, and I can't take your story!"

**Dream Comes True.**  
Separated by hundreds of miles, Charles Ghaut, the 16-year-old son of Hamlet Ghaut of Burlington, N. J., dreamed last Monday that his brother, Fred, who is out west, had met with an accident.

The lad had only been in bed a few minutes when he awoke with a start and rushed downstairs. "There is something the matter with Fred," he cried. "I just saw him lying in bed, all bandaged up. Of course, I know he isn't here, but it seemed as if he was right beside me."

His mother had almost forgotten the incident when a letter dated Walla Walla, Wash., April 21, was handed her. It reads: "Dear Mother: Was struck by train in Pasco this morning and am in St. Mary's hospital. Am not hurt seriously, but legs are paralyzed, having been struck in the back. Fred."

**Extremes Hit.**  
Miss Lucia Allen of Waycross, Ga., 19 years old, and weighing 135 pounds, recently became the bride of W. T. Brinson, 49 years old, and weighing 285 pounds. This is Brinson's second matrimonial venture, his first wife having died about a year ago.

Brinson is a wealthy turpentine operator and a member of the Order of Elks. He is said to be the heaviest member of the order in the world.

**Gay Tunes at His Funeral.**  
By express direction of W. P. G. Schneider of Evansville, Ind., an old soldier, a band played "Hot Time in the Old Town

**Dr. Lyon's PERFECT Tooth Powder**  
Cleanses and beautifies the teeth and purifies the breath. Used by people of refinement for over a quarter of a century. Convenient for tourists. PREPARED BY J. H. Lyon, D.D.S.

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**Special Comb Book Case and Desk, 14.25**  
Exactly like illustration. Large oak French beveled mirror, nicely carved top, large size book case with adjustable shelves and convenient desk. Made throughout of solid oak. This is the most remarkable, as he is fond of taking early morning walks in the park at Schonbrunn. He knows every inch of the place and is quick to note the slightest changes in woods or gardens, and was betide the official who has cut down old trees or made any other alterations or improvements without his previous knowledge and approval. But this season the emperor's favorite crocuses and snowdrops in sheltered spots in the woods have bloomed and died without his having once seen them. But in the affairs of state his majesty is as keen and laborious as ever. He is at his desk before 8 o'clock every morning, and frequently drives to the Hofburg in Vienna before 8 o'clock. He has been holding general audiences once or twice a week without any interruption, despite the fact that these are most trying affairs, requiring him to stand the whole time. These audiences not infrequently last two hours.

**Go-Cart Special, 6.85**  
Complete with ruffled parasol. Body is made of selected rattan, closely woven. Has new sloper adjustment and steel wheels with large rubber tires. Heavily enameled gears and improved foot brake.

**Hartman's Imp. Monarch Brussels Rugs, 10-6x8-3, at 12.75**  
These rugs have no better worn, are of highest character—rugs of most durable quality. They are made of worsted, aniline dyed, strictly high grade. They are not "printed" rugs, but are woven rugs. They are not made of printed carpets, such as many rugs that are being advertised in Omaha. Easy terms given.

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Ingrain Carpet, 75c yard, reduced to 57c  
Brussels Carpet, 92c Yd., reduced to 65c  
Velvet Carpet, \$1.10 Yd., reduced to 85c  
Axminster Carpet, \$1.75 Yd., reduced to \$1.15  
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Linoleum, 75c Yard, reduced to 65c  
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**Sewing Machine 18.75**  
Fully guaranteed, five drawers, solid oak case complete, with full set of attachments and accessories, new drop head style, easy running. Sold on easy terms.

**Refrigerator, Special Sale Price 6.75**  
See cut. It is strongly constructed, of great durability, and most economical. It is lined with galvanized iron, has metal shelves, patent drip cup and other improved features.

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22 Great Stores Throughout the U. S.

**In Birdville**  
Mr. Lark is the "Chappie" of Birdville. He's conceited proud and witty. He primps all day. To make Birdies say "They think he's very pretty."

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**Complete Bed Outfit, 10.75 Special**  
This bed combination consists of elegant iron bed, splendid springs and a most excellent mattress. The bed is of above elegant design and is worth as much as we now ask for the entire combination. The springs are of superior character. The mattress has soft top, extra heavy ticking and taped edges. This is a marvelous value at the price and are on sale all week.

**Solid Oak China Cabinet 15.75**  
Handsome bent end design, set with very heavy double strength glass and adjustable shelves. Extra well made throughout and neatly ornamented with carvings. Fancy French level mirror on top.

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