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THE CAMPAIGN ONE YEAR HENCE

Bryan, and Not Governor Johnson, of Minnesota, the Logical Candidate.

A TRIBUTE TO THE NEBRASKAN

By a Former Cass County Citizen, Who is Now a Resident of Oregon, and Believes He Can Lead the Party to Victory.

The following is from the pen of our old friend, Charles W. Sherman, who was formerly editor of this paper and lived in Plattsmouth many years. Mr. Sherman has many personal friends throughout the county who are always glad to hear from this "grand old man," whose head is pretty level on the political situation at the present time. We publish the following, which is taken from the Portland (Oregon) Daily Journal because we know that it will be read by the readers of this paper with considerable interest:

To the Editor of the Journal:

The fairness with which the Journal treats all questions of public interest and importance has given it great power in the molding of public opinion, not only in Oregon, but measurably throughout the country, while the kindness of its editorial management toward critics among its readers is no less noteworthy. Its habits of tolerance toward such induces me to offer some observations respecting the nomination the Democrats should make for president next year, inasmuch as that is a subject of interest now.

I see that the Journal in a very moderate and well-guarded editorial, has joined the Watterson crusade—in favor of taking up a new man—Governor John A. Johnson of Minnesota, in place of William J. Bryan, the popular leader, and closed by venturing the opinion that "it is not improbable that under all the circumstances Johnson could poll a heavier vote than Bryan." As reasons for this view, it is hinted that there are certain antagonisms to Mr. Bryan, and his nomination would arouse opposition within certain elements of the party, and Governor Johnson's wonderful popularity in his state is pointed to. The first of these reasons I do not think is worthy of serious consideration, but the second may well be taken into account.

Norwegian Vote Elected Johnson.

Governor Johnson lives in a state which was settled very largely by Norwegians, who are, very naturally, very clannish—they stick together. Most of them came to America while the slavery question was the leading issue of the day. Having come to a "free" country they disliked slavery, and in common with the Germans and Swedish immigrants of that time they became attached to the Republican party, which was brought into being to defeat the extension of that curse to American civilization. Governor Johnson is, if I am correctly informed, a scion of one of those Norwegian families, and who came into public life as a representative of that element of the population of the state. He is unquestionably a man of strong personality and great intellectual resources, and far be it from me to disparage his powers. Of late years the Republican politicians of that state became jealous of the claims of the Norwegians in the politics of the state and tried to ignore them, which fact aroused great resentment among that element, and while that feeling was at its strongest Johnson was taken up for governor by the Democrats, and on the issues presented, was elected by an overwhelming majority, while Roosevelt carried the state by more than 100,000.

The resourceful Norwegian-American was able to carry the man of his blood and kindred with him for governor, but not on the presidential question. And he has done so, to a less extent, a second time—while on national party lines the Norwegians still vote the Republican ticket, and the probabilities point strongly to their doing so, should Johnson be the presidential nominee next

year. Not only that, but the country at large would very likely look upon him in the same light as many regard Mr. Taft today—as a substitute for the real leader of the party. And this leads me to a brief discussion of the elements of leadership possessed by Mr. Bryan to such a remarkable degree, and has enabled him to retain his place in the hearts and confidence of the "rank and file" as no public man in America has done except Washington and Lincoln.

Bryan's Life Purpose.

William J. Bryan was the son of rather ordinary parents. His father was an Illinois farmer who rose to the distinction of a county judge. He was esteemed more by his neighbors for his unquestioned honesty and integrity and for right living than for superior talents. His mother was a woman of rare good judgment and homely common sense. As a boy Mr. Bryan lived and worked on the farm as farmer boys do—going to school during the winters. He was bright and of a studious analytic turn, so that his father determined to give him a chance to secure more than a common school education. But he was a boy who early in life displayed traits far in advance of the ordinary farmer's boys—a determination to make a career for himself in public life—and this is how it came about, as I had it from his own lips:

"When about 14 years of age I was plowing one day in one of my father's fields. The sun was warm, and as the plow handles jerked my arms back and forth, the sweat ran from my forehead down over my face, and I got to reflecting on the fearful struggle which the great mass of people were compelled to make against poverty and wretchedness; that the rich people had favors shown through the laws, while the poor had none; and I then and there made up my mind that if I lived to man's estate I would enter public life and do all that I could to equalize the burdens of life, to elevate the plane of the common man, the man between the plow handles, the blacksmith at the forge, the carpenter at his bench, the mechanic and the day laborer, the men who do the work of the world, and as much as possible relieve them from the almost hopeless grind to which they were then subjected in their struggle for life."

This statement substantially he made to me the evening before he was to make his speech in congress, March 16, 1892. "And that resolve then made," he continued, "is the reason why I am here in congress today, and why I have prepared my speech for free wool."

An Unequaled Leader.

Who, I would ask, among our public men, has begun life with a higher purpose or a nobler ambition?—to elevate the condition of the common man? And in the years since I have known him, since two years before he was nominated by the Democrats of his district for congress, that boyhood's inspiration seems to me to have been the guiding star of his every public act. It was that profound thought which followed him through his years of schooling, his adoption of the law as a further means of preparation, and his study of elocution as a means of reaching the hearts and confidence of the people—that has given him an impassioned eloquence of speech unapproached among the men of his time, and made him a peerless debater on the stump. It has, too, kept him from making such mistakes in his public utterances as Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, Lewis Cass and James G. Blaine made at critical times in their careers, which barred them from the acme of their ambition—the door of the presidency. And, I think it more than possible, that he had that boyhood de-

termination in mind when he uttered that startling peroration in his great Chicago convention speech in 1896: "You shall not press down upon the brow of labor a crown of thorns; you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold!"

Since his first entrance into the halls of congress, Mr. Bryan has moved rapidly forward as a forceful, constructive statesman, not by means usual with machine politicians, but by sheer strength of character and ability; with an enthusiasm for correct principles that is all-pervading, a courage undaunted by temporary failure, an honesty unassailed, a heartiness that is magnetic and which meets a ready response among the people, a geniality which draws all men to him as a genuine friend of mankind, and with a statesmanship broad and deep, which makes for the purification of the affairs of public life and for the uplifting and bettering of the conditions of life throughout his country and the world. His keen perceptions of the needs of the nation has enabled him to formulate platforms of principles so apt and profound as not only to command their adoption by his party, but has forced their adoption by strong men of other parties—and even by a president elected by the party opposed to him, who has found them to be the chief elements of his popularity.

Unwise to Put Forward Another.

It is the part of wisdom, in view of these things, to suggest or counsel such a man—a model and exemplar of the statesmanship of his time—to stand aside for the nomination of one who, at best, is but little known by the masses of men throughout the country, who has taken no part in shaping the policies of his party, or in the struggle which has brought that party up to its present high standard of political and moral ethics? No matter what Mr. Bryan may think of such advice, but it is fair and honest with the people? Should they not have something to say regarding such a reactionary proposition? Have the masses, who have found in Mr. Bryan as perfect a leader as the country has found in 50 years, nothing to say in this matter?

The Journal well says that Mr. Bryan is "undoubtedly the first choice of a great majority of the rank and file" of his party. How can it, then, be the part of political wisdom, or, indeed, of moral ethics, to ignore that fact, to go out after a "will-o'-the-wisp" in search for someone who, possibly, has no "antagonisms" within his party? It strikes me that the wisdom and force of character which have made Mr. Bryan a leader of his party also force upon him a responsibility which he has no right to evade, and which cannot be minimized with safety or propriety. The result of a presidential election is always a matter of doubt—in advance. This is well illustrated by the \$6,000,000 raised by Mr. Hanna's "hurry-up call" 10 days before the election in '96, but for the use of which, it is believed that Bryan would have been elected. Four years ago Bryan's opponents in the party thought to bury him forever when they obtained a mastery of the St. Louis convention—but the result was he came out of the struggle stronger than ever. An eastern man was nominated—against his judgment—"for the sake of success," as was said at the time, and the country knows the result.

Watterson Hostile to Bryan.

That same influence is still at work only in another direction. Mr. Watterson, the great Louisville journalist, whose accomplishments are as brilliant as they are varied, has never liked Mr. Bryan very well since he won the nomination in 1896 and became the accepted leader of the Kentucky Democrats—over his own head. Watterson is the chief sponsor of the Johnson movement, and it is worth observing that, however brilliant are his accomplishments, past history clearly shows that his political prescience is not to be relied upon. In the Chicago convention of 1892 he strongly inveighed against the nomination of Cleveland, and loudly prophesied defeat. He was a bad prophet. In 1894, under the leadership of Mr. Cleveland, at that time backed by Mr. Watterson, the party was worse beaten in the congressional election for a generation. It was from that "slough of despond" that Mr. Bryan, in 1896 lifted it, and came so near carrying the country. Perhaps Mr. Watterson would again like to wrest the party leadership from its acknowledged head to place it upon his own brow, under the insidious plea that possibly, "under all circumstances," somebody else "could poll a heavier vote than Bryan."

I, for one, do not share in such a mis-giving spirit. To me such action has the appearance of cowardice, and "God hates a coward." Mr. Bryan stands for the exaltation of politics and for the elimination of all the evils and giant wrongs which afflict our body politic.

He has brought the party up to his standard. "Would you have him relinquish that standard in the face of the enemy? But, aside from the reactionary feature, it is safe to say that the result of such a movement would be problematic, to say the least. We know how the "safe and sane" movement of four years ago terminated. Shall the same experiment be tried again? I hope not. The party should put its real leader in the forefront of its battle line and thus meet the foe.

Rank and File Demand Bryan

Mr. Bryan has very many elements of strength which no substitute could possess. One of the chiefest of these is the confidence of "the rank and file" who have to furnish the votes. They know just where he stands on every public question—and he has never betrayed their confidence; and not that alone, but he has stood as a wall of adamant as the defender of the people's rights and interests always. The exploiters of privilege, the railroad looters, the tariff robbers, organized greed, the trusts and the exploiters of every form of graft are the only enemies he has made in his battle for the public good. A plea for him to stand aside is like asking a favorite general who has led his well disciplined army up to an enemy's entrenchments—where the men are all ready for the charge—giving over the command to an untried leader, whom "the rank and file" did not know. In all probability it would result in utter rout. It is bad policy to change leaders in front of the enemy, as it is to "change horses in crossing a stream." Mr. Bryan and he alone can keep the ranks of the Democracy closed and in the coming battle lead to a well-deserved victory. So it seems to yours truly,
CHARLES W. SHERMAN.
Dairy, Or., Oct. 11, 1907.

A Pioneer Citizen Injured.

A special from Ashland, under date of November 7, says: "Charles S. Wortman, one of our well-known farmers, while driving to his home from town was jarred from his seat and thrown to the ground, falling on his head and shoulders and sustaining a serious shaking up. As Mr. Wortman is well advanced in years he is in a serious condition." The Journal regrets to learn of the injury received by our old friend, and we trust that he will recover as soon as possible. Mr. Wortman has lived in Cass county for many years, and his friends in and around Plattsmouth where he first settled in 1856, will regret to learn of his misfortune.

Organizing Against Horsethieves.

A special from Fremont says that "Sheriff Bauman is arranging with other sheriffs and constables and peace officers to hold a meeting here in the near future to consider the adoption of some scheme to prevent horse stealing which is greatly on the increase in this part of the state. There appears to be a regularly organized gang with 'stations' in every county for the purpose of running off horses. The date has not been fixed." The season is ripe for horsethieves, and a perfect organization of officials in this direction may be the means of securing these pests before they get fairly started in the way of plying their depredations.

And in a Temperance Town

The spectacle of two young men on our streets Saturday afternoon so drunk that the sidewalk was almost too narrow, and able to stand for the reason that they went arm in arm and braced each other to keep from falling down, was not very edifying. They had been to Berlin. One of these young men has been the cause of getting more young people into the habit of drink than any open saloon would in a year's time. If he would buy his four full quarts and drink it the harm would be minimized, but to hunt up four or five boys to invest in it, and then all get drunk, is where the devil in human form accomplishes his dastardly work.—Weeping Water Republican.

Doubly Complimented

Otoe and Cass counties did the right thing and elected our friend H. D. Travis district judge. Judge Travis defeated an exceptionally good man in Jesse L. Root, for which he is to be doubly complimented. The one redeeming feature about the voters of these two counties, they don't wear any brass collar and the party whip has no terrors.—Lincoln Herald.

Change in Business.

Floyd Kuhney, who has been working at Green River, Wyoming, for some time, and who returned some time since, will go to Nehawka to take charge of the barber shop which his father, John P. Kuhney, has been operating during the fall, and Mr. Kuhney will come to Plattsmouth and go in with H. H. Kuhney.

THE DWINDLING PENSION ROLL

**The Veterans of the Civil War
Answering the Last Roll
Call in Vast Numbers**

The new report of the Commissioner of Pensions shows that the shrinkage in the army of pensioners that began to be evident two years ago was no passing fluctuation, but a permanent process. The number of pensioners reached its maximum on January 31, 1905, when there were 1,004,196 names on the roll. In May of that year the figures dropped below a million, and have never reached that point since. On June 30, 1905, there were 998,441, on June 30, 1906, 985,971, and on June 30, 1907, 967,371—nearly 40,000 less than the maximum—and this although a service pension law, opening the rolls to everybody who had served for ninety days in the Union Army, had been passed in February.

But while the number of pensioners is decreasing, that often predicted time when the cost of the pension system shall begin to decline is not yet in sight. With fewer names on the list than at any time within the past fourteen years the annual value of the roll is higher than ever before. It amounted to \$140,850,880.60 on June 30, 1907, an increase of \$4,613,131.60 over the preceding year, and it is still growing. This is because the service-pension act of February 6, 1907, increased the rates of a great number of persons already drawing pensions under previous laws. One of the beneficiaries of this act has reached the mature age of 108 years.

Although the last veterans of the Revolution and of the War of 1812 disappeared from the roll some time ago, those wars are still represented. The last widow of a Revolutionary veteran died on November 11, 1906, but three daughters of men who fought for American independence were still drawing pensions when the report closed. There were also left 558 widows of veterans of the War of 1812.

From the beginning until June 30, 1907, we paid in pensions \$3,598,015,723. The cost of running the system amounted to over \$110,000,000 more. The Civil War alone has cost in pensions \$3,389,135,449.54, which is more than it cost to maintain the armies in the field. The little military parades with Spain and in the Philippines have already called for \$18,909,512.43, and the outlays under those heads are steadily increasing. They amounted last year to \$3471,157.27, which is three times as much as they cost in 1901, when the wars for which they are paid were already over.

Two More Smallpox Cases

Mrs. Peter Clarence and Mrs. Ed. Leach are the latest victims of the disease, and they are reported to be getting along very well. They are the last of those who are supposed to have been exposed to the disease when it first appeared here, and as the "allotted time" for new cases had expired we are reasonably certain that these two will be the last ones. Mrs. Clarence and Mrs. Leach have been living to themselves in a house in the north part of town ever since it was thought they had been exposed to smallpox, and they assert positively that they had not been off the premises since, hence, in justice to them we will state that the parties who reported seeing them away from the house after dark were probably in error as to identification.—Union Ledger.

Former Burlington President Dead

A special from Boston under date of November 8, says: "Chas. A. Perkins, formerly president of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad and one of the leading railroad authorities, died at his home in Westwood a suburb, late tonight. Mr. Perkins had been suffering from Bright's disease for several years, but was not confined to his house until recently." The Perkins House in this city was named in honor of the deceased during his incumbency as president of the Burlington system.

Will Go to Bottomless Pit.

"There will be hundreds of thousands of religious people who will go to the bottomless pit." Thus spoke Rev. R. A. Torrey in a meeting held in Chicago Halloween. As a basis for his remarks he said that "the worst man there is, is the one who pretends to be religious and gains your confidence so he may rob you." This statement is true as Holy Writ. The principles of christianity are right, but they are so often prevented that people lose sight of them in the mad rush for worldly gain.

FAMILY OF ROOSEVELT VELT PROPORTION

Fourteen Grown Children and All Living in Mills County, Iowa.

The Glenwood Tribune is responsible for the following:

"Harry Smith, for two years past a resident east of Glenwood in Center township, certainly belongs to a family of Rooseveltian proportions. He is one of fourteen children. The most of his brothers and sisters live in and around Emerson. The children are evenly divided as to sex, seven girls and seven boys.

"A remarkable thing is that there has never been a death in the family; the parents and all the children are living. The youngest child is 35 and the oldest 56. All the children with the exception of one son are married. One daughter, however, is a widow.

The parents of this remarkable family are Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Smith, living about a mile northeast of Emerson. They are both about 80 years of age. Their health has always been good until of late. The father is quite poorly and suffers from paralysis. Mrs. Smith had the misfortune to fall last spring and break her hip bone; this has never healed. In addition to the fourteen children, there are thirty-two grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

"This would make the direct descendants of Mr. and Mrs. Smith 54. The family are preparing for a grand reunion about Christmas time. Including the two generations of sons-in-law and daughters-in-law there will be a strictly family gathering of about seventy people. There are not many such families as this in the United States. It is probably the most remarkable family in Iowa, all things considered."

THE LATE CHARLES E. PERKINS

Funeral of Deceased Yesterday at 2 p. m.—Body to Be Cremated

A special from Westwood, Massachusetts, in speaking of the funeral of the late Charles E. Perkins, former president of the Burlington system says: "The funeral services of the late Charles E. Perkins, former president of the Burlington railroad, were held today at his home. The Burlington was represented at the funeral by George C. Harris and the Northern Pacific by Howard Elliott. Every Massachusetts railroad was represented, as was also the American Bell Telephone company, in which Mr. Perkins was a director. The body was cremated at Forest Hill, Boston, and the ashes were interred at Milton cemetery."

The Lincoln Journal says in reference to the tribute paid the deceased. "Wherever they happened to be at 2 p. m. yesterday Burlington trains stopped and remained standing until 2:05 p. m. For five minutes every wheel, telegraph instrument, typewriter or other piece of mechanism employed in the operation of a railroad, was stilled. For that long the Burlington ceased to be a carrier of people and commodities. A great system was paying its tribute to a dead railroad president who had done much to make it great. At that hour in faraway Massachusetts, the funeral of Charles E. Perkins was being held."

All departments of the Burlington in this city ceased operation for five minutes.

County Attorney Makes Address.

At the rooms of the Young Men's Bible class at the Methodist church last evening, were gathered the members of the class, and by special invitation, the members of the Young Men's Bible classes of the Presbyterian and Christian churches, to listen to an address delivered by the teacher of the former class, C. A. Rawls. The subject being "A Modern Battle." The subject was handled as the speaker well knows how to handle the subject.

This is the opening address of the season, and is an innovation which was originated by the teacher of this class, E. H. Wescott, which was productive of so much good during the last winter. We admire the sentiment which prompts Mr. Wescott in his efforts to furnish high grade entertainment and instruction for the members of the class which it is his earnest efforts to guide to a better and higher life. These lectures and addresses will continue during the winter, and we trust be productive of great good.

Impure blood runs you down—makes you an easy victim for organic diseases. Burdock Blood Bitters purifies the blood, cures the cause, builds you up.