

MR. BRYAN IN 1892

The Chicago Chronicle is responsible for the fact that a number of newspapers have printed the charge that in 1892 Mr. Bryan boited the democratic national ticket.

In the Chicago Chronicle of July 28 the following letter appeared:

Bourbon, Ill., July 25.—(To the Editor of the Chicago Chronicle.)—While not a subscriber to nor a believer in all the doctrines of William J. Bryan, as a democrat whose only political wish is for harmony and the success of democracy I object to those who live in glass houses throwing stones at Mr. Bryan or any other of the great leaders of democracy.

In a recent editorial you accuse William J. Bryan of voting for Weaver in 1892. Whether a vote for Weaver in Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas and some other western states by a man who claimed to be a democrat was a blunder and crime against democracy or was in reality proof of fealty to the democracy and Grover Cleveland is a question that a follower of Cleveland for the last six years should not attempt to discuss.

In 1892 I was a resident of Pueblo, Colo. The state democratic convention was held in Pueblo in that year. There was a split in the convention, a majority of them nominating the Weaver electors and indorsing the populist state ticket.

democratic ticket and Cleveland electors. While not originally delegate, I was a member of the second convention which nominated Cleveland electors and a democratic state ticket, and also elected Judge Thomas T. Player of Pueblo as national committeeman in place of Charles Thomas, who, as we thought, had become a populist.

The national democratic committee at that time not only refused to recognize Judge Player as the national committeeman for Colorado, but instructed the democratic state committee selected by the pronounced Cleveland convention to take down our Cleveland electors and put Weaver electors on the democratic ticket in Colorado, which the committee reluctantly did.

My authority for the statement that the national democratic committee ordered the Weaver electors put on the democratic ticket was S. H. White, chairman of the Cleveland democratic committee of Pueblo county, Colorado. His authority, as stated by him to me, was the chairman of the Cleveland democratic committee of the state of Colorado.

In view of these facts men who in 1896 voted for McKinley, the enemy of democracy, and who by their votes in 1896 and their subsequent action assisted in the enthronement of all the vices which W. F. Vilas in his great letter so justly arraigns the administration and congress for have no political or moral right to throw stones at William J. Bryan for voting for Weaver in 1892, who was then treated by Grover Cleveland and the national democratic committee as an ally.

In 1892 in Colorado I voted for the Weaver electors only for the reason that I believed then, and believe now, that Grover Cleveland wanted his supporters in that state to vote for Weaver as his ally. It was the bitterest pill I ever swallowed, but not half so bitter a one as the man who claims to be a democrat swallowed when he voted for McKinley in 1896 or 1900.

WILLIAM B. CHANDLER.

It may be added that in 1892 many democrats in Nebraska voted for the Weaver electors at the request of the democratic national committee. That request was conveyed through the then democratic governor, James E. Boyd, in a letter sent to many Nebraska democrats. The letter is as follows:

Lincoln, Neb., Oct. 17.—(Personal and confidential.)—Dear Sir: I have just returned from the east where I was honored by a consultation with the national committee and leading men of our party, with regard to the best policy to be pursued in Nebraska this fall in dealing with the electoral ticket; and they agreed with me that the wisest course would be for democrats to support the Weaver electors; the object being to take Nebraska out

of her accustomed place in the republican column.

Information has reached me that a number of independents who were formerly republicans contemplate voting for the Harrison electors. With the republican strength thus augmented it would be impossible for democrats to carry their own electors' ticket to victory. It is therefore the part of good judgment and wise action for democrats to support the Weaver electors in as large numbers as possible. For democrats to do this is no abandonment of principles; on the contrary, it is a definite step toward victory, and the ultimate triumph of Cleveland and Stephenson, and the principles they represent.

Make such use of this among your democratic friends as you can without openly causing alarm on the part of our opponents. Discuss the idea only with democrats who can be trusted.

I desire also to urge your attention to the necessity of democrats giving loyal support to the party nominees for the legislature, particularly so where there is a possibility of election. The next legislature will choose a United States senator, and it is important that Paddock's successor be not a republican and that Mr. Cleveland's administration during the next four years shall not be hampered by a senate in opposition to him. Efforts are making in other states to reduce the republican majority in the senate and Nebraska has a splendid opportunity to do her share of the good work. Cordially yours, J. E. BOYD.

These facts have been placed in the Chronicle's possession, but the persistent misrepresentations on the part of that paper and of other representatives of the reorganizers justifies this reference to the facts.

Tom Johnson.

In these days of dodging politicians and timid "statesmen," it is refreshing to see such a man as Tom Johnson come to the front. In a recent campaign speech he declared that he is a firm believer in the single tax and advocated the government ownership of railways as not only desirable in itself, but as a necessary step to the solution of the trust problem.

Johnson has the courage of his convictions and doesn't believe that it is expedient to be dishonest with the people. He never tries to conceal his political beliefs.

When democrats were talking "tariff reform," Johnson was advocating free trade, and although he was the owner of one of the largest steel mills in the country urged upon congress that it enact a free trade measure instead of the Wilson-Gorman compromise with protection.

Johnson has made Cleveland a democratic city, because the democracy for which he stands means something besides opportunism. It is based on enduring principles and principles that appeal to the people. For public problems he offers real remedies and he depends upon the merit of democratic doctrine rather than upon personalities or opposition strife to secure popular support.—Milwaukee Daily News.

"Stand Pat!"

Mark Hanna says "stand pat!" The coal trust says "stand pat!" The tariff beneficiary says "stand pat!" Every monopoly and privileged interest that is plundering the people says "stand pat!" And the voters, who hold the best hand in the deck, are expected to "lay down." Maybe they will do as they have been doing since the memory of man runneth not to the contrary and be "bluffed out," but there is a suspicion that they will call the "bluff." These are the times that give men nerve. And nerve and the high hand take the pot.—Milwaukee News.

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