

nalistic guns for the battle of November.

But all tributes and all ovations in that great historic assembly of delegates and people pale into insignificance beside the continuing popular idolatry that followed William J. Bryan. It was not only one time, but every time; not upon special occasion, but upon all occasions, and upon the slightest provocation any suggestion of him swept the vast assembly into a storm. Every mention of his name was magical. The sight of his impressive figure was a signal for the wildest enthusiasm, and he alone was potential to still the storm which his lightest word let loose. Time and again when the democratic chairman, and the sergeant-at-arms, and the officers, and the police, were simply as leaves in the tempest of popular excitement, one lifted finger of the great Nebraskan could bring almost instant stillness to the turbulent enthusiasm which all the organized forces of the democratic convention could not control.

No man has ever seen Bryan—the real Bryan—unless he saw him at St. Louis. Those who have seen him elsewhere have seen the great but tranquil teacher, preaching in patience and biding his time. Those who saw him at St. Louis saw Bryan at his best and greatest with all the lion aroused by opposition and offense, and his marvelous eloquence winged to

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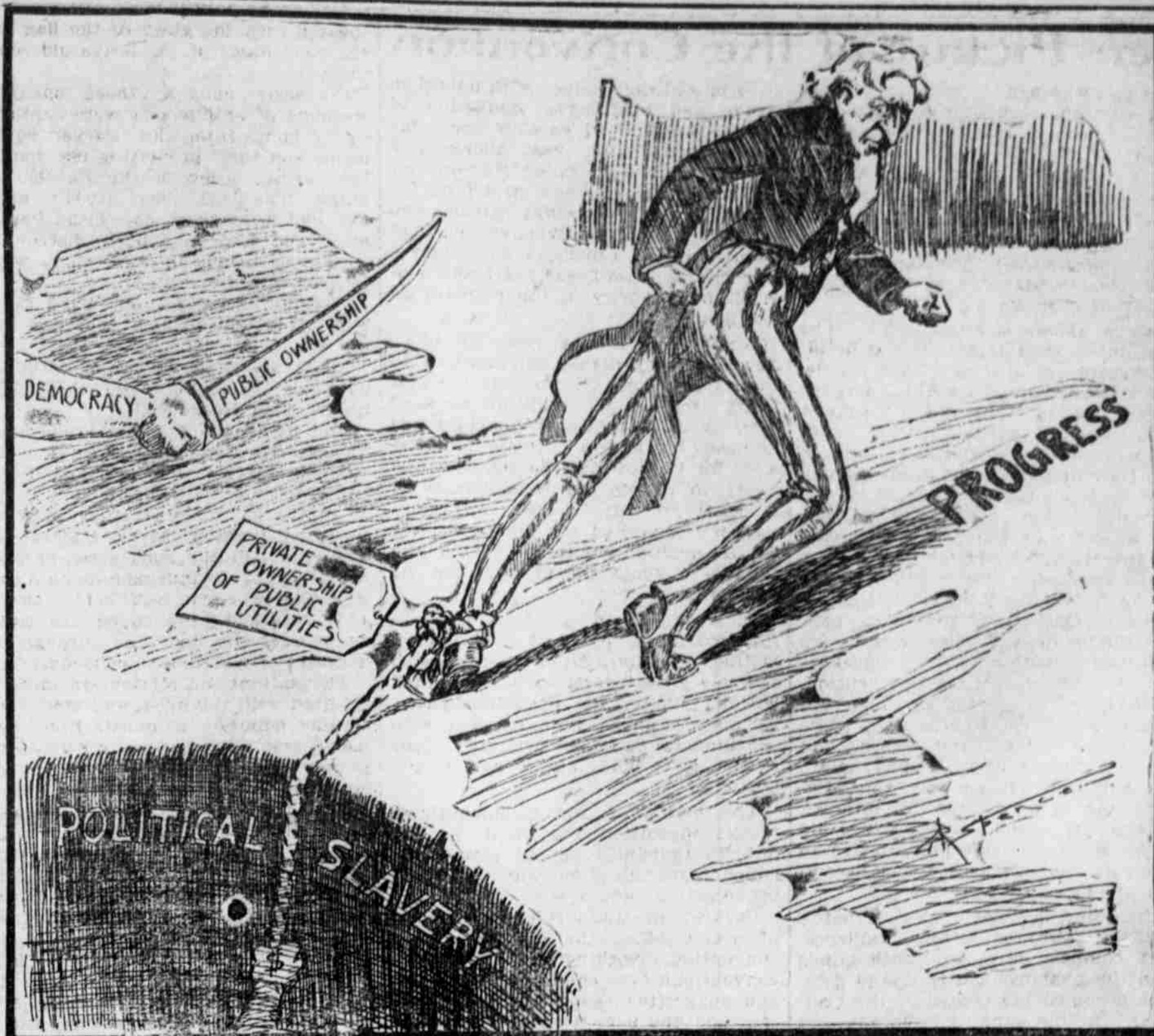
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Cut the Gordian knot!

its loftiest flight by the occasion and the emergency. And to have seen Bryan at his best was to have seen the world's best at his best.

For no man living and few men dead have ever looked upon so peerless an orator, so incomparable a master of assemblies, as Bryan at St. Louis. The delegates before him were iron, pledged, predetermined, inaccessible and immovable. But if any one thousand men could have been selected from that vast assemblage, or brought into that vast assemblage, with open minds and uninstructed wills, and given for an hour to this matchless leader of men, he could have swayed and led them as Demosthenes moved the Athenians to "March against Philip, to conquer or die."

When the student of oratory in art, or the student of popular leadership in expression, seeks in the future an illustration to make immortal on canvas or in description, he will find the ideal in the great Nebraskan, who was the unchallenged and unequalled hero of the democratic convention of 1904.

Next to Bryan, and in most things equal to him, was Bailey, of Texas. He is a really great man, poised, balanced, powerful, impressive, almost majestic in his dignity and strength. His lightest word was impressive to the convention. His dignity, his fairness, his splendid firmness and his great lucid brain left its impress wherever it touched. It was one of the disappointments of the convention that he did not speak.

John Sharp Williams lost rather than gained by the St. Louis parliament. As a presiding officer he did not measure up. He lacked dignity and impressiveness. His voice was poor. His manner did not win. He

had the poor taste and the poorer tact to assail Bryan after Bryan had fallen in line with his party. And Bryan, who could have demolished him in a speech, simply killed him by answering never a word.

Lord, how much there is to say, and how hard it is to stop when writing of this historic convention. But I must stop somewhere, and I will stop now.—John Temple Graves, in Atlanta News.

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