

During Bryan's stay in Springfield yesterday he made three formal addresses—one before the editorial association at the St. Nick in the afternoon at 2:30, one before the State Federation of Bryan clubs, and an audience of 1,000 men at 4:30, and the great address at the arsenal at night, which electrified the vast audience and held them in rapt attention to the magnificent discussion of the issues, his addresses being magnetically interspersed with witticisms and stories to drive home certain pertinent political points he wished especially emphasized.

The audience last night at the arsenal was a wonderful one. Its vastness was not the only striking feature. It was interested, eager, intelligent, responsive. There were men there who were pleased to greet Bryan as their leader. There were women there radiant with approval of the patriotic utterances of Bryan in defense of the boys and girls and the home as against the assaults of monopolistic wealth and plutocratic, corporate powers. It was an audience the like of which has never been surpassed in central Illinois in brilliancy as well as magnitude.

#### A GREAT DAY

Under the headline "The Great Bryan Day," the Illinois State Register prints this editorial:

"Bryan will be the next president of the United States."

This was the sentiment that prevailed in Springfield yesterday. It was "Bryan Day" in this city. Sentiment favoring the presidential candidacy of the great leader of the national democracy permeated the atmosphere. It was not merely local sentiment. This tribute to William J. Bryan was not confined to Springfield. Represented here yesterday were the people of all parts of the state. Local leaders came. Editors of "country newspapers," in which fraternity the State Register is proud to claim a place, were here. There came from many cities and counties representatives of democratic clubs formed for the purpose of crystallizing the democratic endorsement of Bryan and his policies. There were men here representing varied industrial and commercial spheres of business life. There were politicians present, yet it was not a gathering of politicians for mere politics. It was something greater and better than that. It was a great gathering of representatives of the people of the state of Illinois to endorse the man who has fought foremost in the fight for equal rights and against special privilege for over a decade as leader of the democratic party.

"Bryan will be the next president of the United States."

And why not? As was shown in the informal discussions and formal addresses yesterday, the republican party is rent asunder by selfish factional strife. It was shown that the democratic party was never more united than it is now. This was not all. Greater and better than all this, it was shown that the people have faith in the democratic leader. It was shown that his sincerity has stood the test of time. It was demonstrated that men who have studied the issues have been convinced of Bryan's devotion to principle and to the people first, last and all the time. It was shown that Bryan's policies have been moulded in conformity to the public need with utter disregard of, if not absolute antagonism to, any private interests.

W. J. Bryan was hailed yesterday not as a prince or potentate, and not as one clothed with authority, but as a patriot—an eloquent, forceful, brilliant exponent of that mighty Jeffersonian doctrine which is the essence of genuine democracy—"equal rights to all, special privileges for none."

Thus Bryan came. Thus was he received. For this heroism as a commoner and man among men, he was cheered with voluntary enthusiasm and respect as he alighted from his train yesterday morning.

For this sterling democracy and the confidence men have in Bryan, this leader of democracy was warmly greeted and loudly cheered at the St. Nicholas hotel upon his arrival there.

It was this recognition of his superior leadership that brought him such genuine greeting and earnest attention from the Illinois Democratic Editorial association and from the representatives of the democratic clubs throughout the state, both of which organizations he personally appeared before and addressed.

Then came the fitting climax at the state arsenal at night.

That state arsenal meeting was a grand public ovation in recognition of Mr. Bryan's loyalty

to principle. It was the patriotic voice of the people heard last night. Those thunderous cheers were eloquent expressions of approval, not of any party alone, not of any organization, and not of any set of men, but of the principles involved which rest so appropriately in the leadership of William Jennings Bryan.

And thus was yesterday a day long to be remembered in the history of Springfield and the state of Illinois. The day in its entirety with its great democratic events was a safe attest to the fact that Springfield and Illinois are for Bryan because Bryan is for Springfield and Illinois and fighting in the interest of the people thereof.

So is the democracy of the nation for him.

To those who did not hear Mr. Bryan's address yesterday we recommend that they read his addresses or parts thereof which appear in this issue of the State Register. A review of Bryan's presentation of issues cannot but be convincing of his sincerity, even if there be those whose political prejudices preclude the acceptance of his policies.

As for Springfield, the State Register wishes to extend congratulations to all who visited this city yesterday, and especially to Mr. Bryan, for the good done the cause of democracy in the city, state and nation by their presence here and participation in the democratic events of a great democratic day which will help to illuminate the path of Jeffersonian democracy and people's rights to the White House, where W. J. Bryan will enter as president following his triumphant election next fall.

Yesterday was indeed a glorious democratic day.



## Washington Letter

Washington, D. C., March 2.—Congress is doing little at the present moment except discussing politics. The discussion is mainly on the republican side. It is almost impossible to give an idea of the bitterness of the fight against Taft in both house and senate. Polls of these bodies are absolutely without value, but a man who talks daily with a score of members is able to determine something of their views. If congress, either at the senate or the house end of the capitol has anything to say, Secretary Taft will not be nominated. If he is nominated, he will encounter the most bitter antagonism within his party that has been known to republican politics since the days of Harrison's second nomination.

There are many curious stories concerning the politics of Taft. A man high in the councils of the senatorial combination told me today that he had absolute information that a somewhat celebrated private detective agency in Washington was employed by the secretary of war to gather up information concerning senators and representatives who had not bowed their heads before his candidacy in order that a big stick might be brandished against them if they did not give allegiance to Mr. Taft. The assertion is not wholly without some plausibility. Here in Washington it is a matter of notoriety that the methods of coercion first adopted by the president are now being employed by the Taft boomers. I have in my possession the name of the detective agency employed by him for this purpose, and should any question be raised as to the accuracy of this charge that name can be made public.

The very men who charged Taft with unwarrantable methods in pressing his campaign refused to attack Roosevelt, although none of them to whom I have talked has been a Roosevelt man. As a senator said to me today: "I don't think Roosevelt would be a party to the Taft private detective plan. He might adopt almost any device to press his own cause, or to advance some cause in which he is vitally interested. Yet I do not believe that for Taft alone he would adopt such methods."

What the senator said seems to suggest that the cause of Taft is not one in which Mr. Roosevelt is vitally interested, and indeed from other public men I learn that the general feeling is that the president has used Taft as a stalking horse and is now about ready to discard him. One of the men closest to Speaker Cannon said to me in the house cloakroom only a few hours ago that in his belief Mr. Roosevelt was not merely playing for a stampede of the convention to him, but that Taft was a party to the plan. Perhaps the loyalty of my informant to Speaker Cannon may have affected his judg-

ment. But only a few moments afterwards at the other end of the capitol, a man who enjoys the confidences of more United States senators than possibly any other one man, reiterated the same statement and said that the senatorial combine expected the stampede, was prepared to resist it and believed absolutely that Roosevelt was planning to have it occur.

It was noted that two weeks ago Secretary Taft was decrying any possibility of war. Last Saturday he made a speech in which he reversed his former position, and said that there were grave dangers of international complications, and that a strong man was needed in the White House to meet them. That sounds very Rooseveltian. Today in the United States senate there are at least three men openly for Roosevelt, while some of the men supposed to be close to Roosevelt and who have been posing as Taft men, have deserted Taft. Even the long serving Lodge of Massachusetts has given up Taft as a bad job, but he will never give up Roosevelt, and suspicious people think that he did not desert Taft without a hint from the White House. What is to be done at the Chicago convention is very far from present determination. It is a fair guess, however, that whatever may happen there, it will not be the nomination of William H. Taft for the presidency.

The call upon the national bank depositories by Secretary Cortelyou for twenty-five per cent of all public moneys deposited with them created a little discussion in Washington today, and has awakened some apprehension in other financial centers. Compliance with that call, and of course it will be complied with, means that thirty-five million dollars now in the banks must be put in the treasury vaults. In the banks it serves to swell their reserve and enables them to lend money which otherwise they would have to hold. Its withdrawal therefore might seem to threaten a contraction of all loans and to increase the monetary stringency from which the country has for some months been suffering. But in conversation today with a former comptroller of the currency and a former assistant secretary of the treasury, neither one of whom has at the present time any material interest in politics, I was assured that the time was very propitious for the recall to the treasury of these deposits. They both insisted that the banks at the present moment were overflowing with money, and that there had been no time within the last year when they could better afford to give back to the treasury the money which had been deposited with them. It seemed curious to me for it has been only a little time since banks were not merely refusing to loan money, but were declining to pay back the money of their depositors loaned to them. And indeed so far as the average business man is concerned, I am sure that he finds the same disinclination on the part of the banks to extend credits. However that may be, the financial authorities at Washington now claim that there is plenty of money in the banks of the country, and that the one obstacle to the revival of business is the disinclination of business men of all kinds to take advantage of this situation and branch out with new enterprises. In brief they insist that it is not the inability of banks to furnish money, but the timidity of business men, that is leading to the continuance of the present business stagnation.

At the same time this seems to be a curious point of view to be taken following so sharply on the heels of the days of cashier's checks and clearing house certificates. If the banks have all the money they need, why the Aldrich demand for an emergency currency? If the people and not the bankers are timorous, why is it that the bitter cry against hard times, decreased employment and business stagnation comes from the people and not the bankers?

Oklahoma, which has adopted a constitution that well might be envied by any state in the union, has sent to the United States senate two senators who have already made their impression upon that body. I have said something in this correspondence before concerning Senator Gore. Tuesday last Senator Robert L. Owen made his first speech in the senate. Senator Owen is a man of striking personality and of statesmanlike dignity and poise. Picturesque writers say much about the Indian blood in his veins, but they forget to note that he is a graduate of a high class American university, a student of German universities and a man of wide travel and culture. His speech was comprehensive and convincing. All that can be done in this brief correspondence is to note a few of the points he raised. For example:

The bill fails to provide any plan of in-

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