

I. J. DUNN'S SPEECH NOMINATING MR. BRYAN

Mr. I. J. Dunn, assistant city attorney of Omaha, who placed Mr. Bryan in nomination at Denver, spoke as follows:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Convention: Crises arise in the life of nations which endanger their institutions and, at times, imperil the advance of civilization. Every people that has left its impress upon history has faced such crises.

In most instances, where grave dangers have threatened the safety of the state, some great character, some master mind has been found, produced as it were by the conditions themselves, with capacity to direct aright the energies of the people. This was true of the ancient world; it has been true of the modern world; it is true of this republic.

We have such a crisis to meet today. The favor-seeking corporations have gradually strengthened their hold upon the government until they now menace popular institutions.

The question is, whether this government shall be restored to the control of the people and be administered in the interest of all, or whether it shall remain an instrument in the hands of the few for levying tribute upon all the rest.

In his special message to congress last winter, President Roosevelt declared, substantially, that certain wealthy men who have become enormously rich by oppressing the wage earner, defrauding the public and practicing all forms of iniquity, have banded together, and by the unlimited use of money, endeavor to secure freedom from restraint and to overthrow and discredit all who honestly administer the law.

That the methods by which these men have acquired their great fortunes can only be justified by a system of morality that would permit every form of criminality, every form of violence, corruption and fraud.

For many years, and especially during the last twelve years, these very men have been in control of the republican party; they have financed every campaign of that party for a quarter of a century.

These exploiters of the people, whom the president has so scathingly denounced, have given their enthusiastic support to the republican candidates and policies. They laid their hands upon the trust funds of insurance companies and other corporations and turned the plunder over to the republican committee. The money thus filched from the innocent and helpless, to purchase republican victory, has not been repaid.

And where do we find these men today? Where are the "swollen fortunes" of which we have heard so much? Just where we would expect to find them—supporting the republican ticket and furnishing the sinews of war for the republican committee as usual.

The platform adopted by the late convention shows what the republican party in truth represents. In framing the platform, every genuine reform which the president has advocated, was scorned and repudiated. The Wisconsin delegation asked that one or two reform planks be placed in the platform, and for its pains was denounced as democratic. The convention by a vote of eight to one refused to approve those policies which the president for four years has been urging upon his party. The mask of hypocrisy has been torn from the face of those who pretend to favor the reforms advocated by the president, and it is now apparent why the "system" admires Taft and hates the senator from Wisconsin. When compelled to choose between an appeal to the conscience of the nation in defense of its platform and

candidates, on the one hand, and the millions that the special interests may be depended upon to contribute, on the other, that convention rejected the people and continued its alliance with Mammon.

If the charges made by the president are true—and they are true—we are indeed face to face with a situation as grave as any in our history. How shall it be met? The good sense, patriotism and united action of the people alone can remedy present evils.

To wage a successful fight we must have a leader. The republican party, dominated by the seekers of special privileges, can not furnish him. Republicans who really desire reform are powerless; the efforts of the president have been futile.

The democratic party must furnish the leader which present conditions demand, and he must be a man known to be free from the influences that control the republican party. He must be a man of superior intellect, sound judgment, positive convictions and moral courage—one who will meet the forces of plutocracy with the naked sword of truth—one who knows no surrender. He must have a genius for statecraft; he must be a man of wide experience in public affairs; he must have ability to formulate policies and courage to defend them.

But above all, he must have faith in the people. He must not only believe in the right of the people to govern, but in their capacity to do so. And he must be a man whom the people know and trust.

The democratic party has many distinguished men who might be chosen as our standard bearer; but it has one man who, above all others, possesses the necessary qualifications and is eminently fitted for this leadership.

He is a man whose nomination will leave no doubt as to where our party stands on every public question. His genius for statecraft is shown by the constructive work he has done in proposing reforms, and by the ability with which he has fortified his position. But we may go farther.

A few months since, he visited the principal nations of the world. He came in contact with the leading minds of Christendom, and the world abroad recognized his greatness and paid him that tribute justly due to men of high attainments.

In the most distinguished peace convention that has assembled in recent years, he proposed a plan which, if adopted, would prove more effective than any arbitration treaty that has yet been made, and by his influence he secured its approval by the representatives of the twenty-six leading nations there assembled.

Is he thoroughly informed regarding the issues of this campaign? Read his speeches and his writings, which for nearly twenty years have been a part of the political literature of the nation. Is he sincere, brave and determined? Even his political opponents now admit that he is.

I have had a close, personal and political acquaintance with this man, whose name Nebraska presents, since he entered political life. I can testify from observation as to his political conduct before he was known to fame. He was honest, brave and unyielding then; he is honest, brave and unyielding now.

Honesty is inherent in him. He was an honest lawyer before he entered politics. He was honest in his political methods before his statesmanship was recognized by the nation; and he has been honest throughout his political career.

His convictions have been his political creed. He has impressed

these convictions upon others, not by dictation, but by arguments addressed to the judgment and the conscience.

Believing in the ultimate triumph of the right, he has never examined questions from the standpoint of expediency. He has never inquired whether a political principle was popular; it has been sufficient for him to believe that it was right.

He has been a consistent champion of the reserved rights of the states. He favored the election of senators by direct vote before the house of representatives ever acted favorably upon the subject. He championed tariff reform when the west was the hot-bed of protection.

He favored an income tax before the income tax law was written. He attacked the trusts when republican leaders were denying that any trusts existed. He advocated railroad regulation before the crusade against rebates and discrimination began.

He has always been the friend of labor, and was among the first to urge conciliation between labor and capital. He began to oppose government by injunction more than a decade ago. He announced his opposition to imperialism before any other man of prominence had expressed himself on the subject, and without waiting to see whether it would be popular.

When a Wall Street panic burst upon us a few months ago, he promptly proposed as a remedy, the guarantee of bank deposits, and so popular has this plan become that it is today a national issue and supported by the masses of the people. He has long advocated legislation which will secure publicity as to campaign contributions.

He believes in peace—in universal Christian peace. He believes the destiny of nations should be determined not by wars, but by applying the principles of justice and humanity.

Though these principles have met with uncompromising opposition from the special interests, he has remained true to the cause of the people. With clear vision and with unflinching trust, seeing and knowing the truth, he has never lost faith in its final victory.

Through years of unparalleled political warfare his loyalty to his ideals and to his fellow men has been abundantly shown. His refusal to surrender his convictions, though subjected to abuse, denunciation and vindictive opposition such as few public men in all history have been compelled to withstand, is ample proof of his superb courage.

His career proves that successful leadership is determined by the success or failure of great principles rather than by election to high office.

We have met to plan the campaign and to commission the commander under whom the masses will enlist. We are not here in response to the voice of expediency; neither political bosses nor corporate masters sent us here. We are here at the summons of the rank and file of that political organization which is the special defender of the rights of the common people.

We are here representing all that is best in the traditions of our party; we feel again the spirit that animated the democracy in the days of Jefferson and Jackson.

The voters have spoken, and we assemble to give expression of their will. Their voice for the third time calls Nebraska's favorite son to be the standard bearer of his party in this gigantic contest.

Since time began no grander tribute was ever paid to any man by a free people. He is recognized today

as the most representative citizen of the nation, the peer of any living man.

Friends and foes have learned that he was shaped in that heroic mold in which the world's great patriots, statesmen and leaders have been cast.

First nominated when ten years younger than any other presidential candidate ever chosen by a prominent party; living in a state five hundred miles farther west than that in which any president has ever lived, he has grown in the affections of the people as the years have passed.

Speaking and writing freely on all subjects, his heart has had no secrets and his friends have increased in numbers and in confidence.

Without an organization to urge his claims; without a campaign fund to circulate literature in his behalf; without patronage to bribe a single voter; without a predatory corporation to coerce its employes into his support; without a subsidized newspaper to influence the public mind; he has won a signal victory at the primaries and has become the free choice of the militant democracy of the nation.

Forming in one unbroken phalanx, extending from Massachusetts to California, and from Michigan to the everglades, the yeomanry of the party have volunteered their services to make him the party candidate; and they will not lay down their arms until they have made him the nation's chief executive.

Nebraska's democracy which saw in him, when a young man, the signs of promise, places in nomination as the standard bearer of our party the man who, in the thrilling days of '96 and 1900, bore the battle-scarred banner of democracy with fame as unsullied and fidelity as spotless as the crusaders of old. Nebraska presents his name because Nebraska claims his dwelling place, and proudly enrolls him among her citizens; but his home is in the hearts of the people.

I obey the command of my state and the mandate of the democracy of the nation, when I offer the name of America's great commoner, Nebraska's gifted and incomparable son, William Jennings Bryan.

IN A DIFFERENT WAY

Now they say Taft intends to enforce the Roosevelt policies, but in a different manner. That is, he will use smokeless powder and the new style of noiseless gun. This involves confession, of course, that all the panic and business depression was caused by the explosive methods of the owner of the republican party. But then what policies are to be enforced by Taft, should he win? Such laws as democrats demanded from 1896 down and helped republicans enact, which constitute the only tangible policies, must be enforced by Taft because his oath of office would require it, though a man of his adjusting disposition might try to suspend some statutes unduly oppressing contributors. He can not enforce those marvelous Roosevelt policies which congress would not permit to be enacted into law. The more you study the subject the less you find in the Roosevelt policy chatter.—Pittsburg Post.

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