

Governor Glenn's Speech

Governor Robert B. Glenn of North Carolina, seconded Mr. Bryan's nomination in the following speech:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Convention: North Carolina has no candidate for president on the democratic national ticket, but I arise in the name of my state to most earnestly second the nomination of that profound and progressive statesman, brilliant and persuasive orator, patriotic and law-abiding citizen, and true and humble Christian gentleman, William Jennings Bryan, of Nebraska.

From 1861 to the present time, Mr. Chairman, the section from which I come has demanded no recognition, either on the democratic or republican national ticket, but we have been content, in a quiet way, by industry and thrift, to build up our waste places and add to the material wealth and glory of our beloved nation. In evidence of this I need but state these significant facts: In 1870 we were the poorest section of the union, the actual value of all our property being only \$2,160,000,000, while ruin, want and death stared us in the face. Not so in 1908, for, Phoenix-like, we have arisen from our ashes of poverty, put on the garb of plenty, and are today worth \$19,000,000,000.

Last year, every day the majestic sun ran its course from east to west the south added \$7,300,000 to the wealth of our nation, while Great Britain, with all its agencies, could only produce \$7,000,000 per week. In 1907 we raised 12,000,000 bales of cotton and manufactured 2,750,000 bales, while 9,347,000 spindles made sweet music to the industrial ear. We furnish one-third of all the standing timber in the nation, 75 per cent of all the tobacco, and 80 per cent of all the cotton made in the world, all the rice made in this country, all sugar made from cane, and 99 per cent of all peanuts. During the last five years the value of the south's cotton crop has exceeded the total output of the world's gold and silver by \$395,000,000 and the rattle of looms and hum of spindles would not be heard today in our borders were it not for the cotton of our southland.

Not only as producers and manufacturers of every kind of product have we added to the material growth of the nation, but, truly believing that the welfare of the people and the upbuilding of the country would be best preserved by the promotion of the fundamental principles of pure democracy, our section has ever stood for the political doctrines enunciated by Thomas Jefferson and practiced by Andrew Jackson. Coming, then, not as paupers, but co-workers and builders, as the section that has stood, and ever will stand, for the eternal truths of democracy, while requesting no place on the ticket, we ask—aye, demand—that the man whom we nominate shall be broad enough to love every locality, brave enough to protect the rights of every creature, and national enough, when he comes to his own as president, to give each section its just part in administering the affairs of our government; and we urge as such a man the name of Mr. Bryan; for, sir, he has broken bread with us in our homes, mingled with our people in social converse, charmed our assemblies by his eloquence and patriotism, camped with our boys as a soldier in the Cuban war, and sympathized with us in our sufferings at Galveston, New Orleans and Charleston.

But I hear some say it will never

do to nominate Mr. Bryan for he is narrow in his views, socialistic in his principles, contracted in his ideas of statesmanship, and has twice been defeated for the presidency and, therefore, can not, as our leader, command the votes of the people and lead us to victory in November. Let us faithfully analyze these charges, and, if true, let us demand a new champion of our rights; but if false, let us rally still more determinedly under his standard, and compel a recognition of his policies.

Mr. Bryan stands for the widest, broadest, most progressive and soundest principles of Jeffersonian democracy; so democracy must be shallow, else Bryan is intensely profound. If to be narrow is to stand for "a government of the people, by the people, and for the people," giving "equal rights to all and special privileges to none," then Mr. Bryan is narrow, for he believes in protecting the poorest, humblest creature, whether the natural or artificial man, as well as the strongest and most powerful, allowing the mighty and proud the full enjoyment of all their rights; but, like the Master, who will not suffer even a sparrow to fall to the ground unless He listeth, he will not permit God's poor to be needlessly trampled upon by the heel of greed and avarice.

If it is socialism to believe in the revision of the tariff, so as to let the burdens of taxation fall less heavily on the necessities and more on the luxuries of life, placing on the free list articles entering into competition with articles controlled by trusts, then Mr. Bryan is a socialist, for he stands for a reduction that tends to restore the tariff to a revenue basis, with a just discrimination in favor of infant industries over articles produced by protected monopolies.

If it is socialism to seek to destroy all trusts, to prevent the rich from crushing out all competition by the weak, and allowing no individual or corporation, by combination, to control or monopolize the entire business in any one commodity, then Mr. Bryan is a socialist; for with no uncertain voice, in the name of democracy, he has demanded that, while every business shall be amply protected and encouraged in the enjoyment of all its privileges, it must and shall not lay the weight of its finger on any smaller concern or individual to either destroy or lessen its producing power, else it, too, shall be controlled, even though it be necessary to blot out its existence.

If it is to be contracted to believe in state's rights in its widest sense, giving the state government absolute control of all its own affairs and forbidding federal interference, only allowing such authority to be exercised in cases where state courts can give no adequate relief, then Mr. Bryan has a contracted mind, for he advocates a state controlling its own affairs, free from federal court injunctions and habeas corpus, only granting the right of a centralized court power in cases where no remedy can be offered by the state, as in the matter of the prevention of monopoly, the regulation of interstate commerce and the preservation of interstate resources. And, as declared by Mr. Bryan, there is no twilight zone between the state and nation in which exploiting interest can take refuge from both, for where one ends the other begins. Mr. Bryan is broad enough to advocate these great truths and brave enough to see that every violation of law shall be prosecuted; catholic enough to embrace in his creed every condition and type of man and, filled with the Christian spirit, to proclaim brotherly love, as

taught by his Master, the Prince of Peace.

The democratic party stands today for the protection of all the individual rights of every class of people, and for the upbuilding of the nation's power by recognizing the masses, instead of classes, and elevating the man created by God over the dollar produced by man. It favors a just income tax, to the end that wealth derived from interest on bonds, stocks, and other securities and property not now taxed shall bear its just proportion of the nation's burdens, as well as an inheritance tax, to reach swollen and, alas! often ill-acquired fortunes. We stand for exact justice between capital and labor, and favor every legitimate means for the adjustment of all disputes between employers and employes, to the end that the property of capital shall not be destroyed, and that those who toil with their hands shall not suffer unjustly from the exactions of the rich, thus causing all classes to dwell together in brotherly love, and the country not to be shocked and convulsed by strikes and strife. We, likewise, in the interest of fair elections and to prevent corruption, demand that the utmost publicity be required from all candidates and the committees, showing the amount of the funds received, and how used, and the sources from which they were obtained.

Today, in no uncertain language, I arraign and denounce the republican party for its hypocrisy and false assertion, as set forth in its national platform at Chicago. In blatant assertion it assails the democratic party as the party of adversity, and praises itself as the party of prosperity, when all reading, thinking men remember the fact that the panic of 1893, with which today they taunt us, commenced under Harrison's administration, and was brought about by laws of a republican congress and transmitted to us before Mr. Cleveland took charge of affairs or a single congress had assembled under his administration; while all know that the panic of 1907—the worst in ages, with the republicans' boasted tariff and financial laws in full force and effect—happened at a time when the executive, legislative and judicial departments were all under the absolute control of the republican party, and that breaking and dissolving banks, assigning business interests, stringency in the money market, employes out of jobs, and empty dinner pails give the lie to its cry of prosperity and prove it utterly unfit to control public affairs.

I arraign it for falsely declaring that it stands for higher wages when, by the panic produced under its methods, thousands and tens of thousands of honest toilers have been deprived of work by the shutting down of mills, the taking off of trains for want of freight to haul, and the closing of mines for the lack of money to operate. And as we listen to the cry for "Bread!" from hungry children, and see the look of desolation and desperation on the faces of strong men out of employment, with wives and little ones dependent on them and, begging for help, we can but denounce a party which, in honeyed language in its platform, boastfully cries out "Prosperity and high wages!" but, in practice, gives to the hungry a stone instead of bread and a serpent instead of fish.

I denounce the assertions of the republican party when it declares it stands for "law and order," equal rights to all, and no special privileges to rich or poor; when its protective policy has produced monopoly, built up the rich at the expense of the poor, and, by injunctions and other writs in its courts, shielded trusts, while denying to the laborer even the sacred right of a trial by jury. I defy any honest man to deny these

two charges—that we are today under the control and domination of trusts, created under republican laws, and that no relief has been attempted against this wrong, until the president himself was compelled to cry out, saying, in a special message to congress, that the laws favoring trusts and monopolies are so unjust in their robberies that they would justify every form of criminality on the part of labor unions and every kind of violence and fraud, from murder and bribery to ballot-box stuffing.

I arraign the republican party for its utter inconsistency in declaring for the preservation of our forests and the deepening of our waterways, when it is well known, though petitioned by conventions, asked by the governors' conference at the White House, and demanded by public necessity for the preservation of our national resources, with a majority of over one hundred in the house of representatives, it yet remained deaf to our entreaties and silent to our demands, and let Speaker Cannon wantonly throttle the voice of a free people.

I pass over with contempt, as unworthy of a great party and a brave people, its slurs and thrusts at the south, and its attempt to gain votes by raising the cry of sectionalism; for, standing here, the son of a confederate soldier who died for a cause he believed just and right, and making no apology for the acts of my father, I deny as absolutely false the charge that the south is disloyal or untrue to the union, but assert that it yields to no action in love for our glorious flag and devotion to the nation's truest interest; and we are brave and generous enough to return to our enemies love for hate, and kindness for abuse.

I likewise hold up before the gaze of a just people the miserable subterfuge the republicans placed in their platform as a remedy against

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