

A REPLY TO JOSEPH G. CANNON

The following Associated Press dispatch explains itself:

Olney, Ill., Sept. 10.—Giving a detailed statement of the amount of property owned by him, which he placed at \$150,000 at the outside, William J. Bryan, democratic candidate for president, in a speech here today declared as false the accusation of Speaker Joseph G. Cannon, made yesterday at Springfield, Ill., that he was worth a million dollars and called upon the speaker to be as frank in making known to the world the amount of his own earthly possessions. In the course of his remarks Speaker Cannon is credited with saying that Mr. Bryan has accumulated a million dollars selling wind and ink to the public.

The democratic candidate referred to Speaker Cannon as the third man in influence in the government, "if not even above the vice president, in his power to influence legislation," and said that it was only fair that the speaker should apply to himself the same rule that he applied to me and take the public into his confidence."

Of Mr. Cannon Mr. Bryan said:

"Mr. Cannon, in his speech before the republican state convention yesterday, has this to say of me: 'How about Bryan, a man of theories, a man who has a breaking out of the mouth; a man who agreed with the populists only a dozen years ago—that no man could honestly earn a million dollars and that when any man had that he was a plutocrat. But a man dominating the democratic party and the greatest advertising agent on earth through his papers; through his books and through his lectures, is, I am informed, worth more than \$1,000,000.'

"A little later in his speech he drops the qualifying phrase and says, as if upon his own knowledge: 'There stands the democratic candidate, a successful chautauqua lecturer, who has made a million dollars selling wind and ink to the public.'

"Many exaggerated statements have been made in regard to my earthly possessions, but this is the first time the statement has been made by any man of political standing or responsibility. I think I am justified, therefore, in speaking of this subject which might otherwise be considered too personal a matter for public discussion. I was worth about \$3,000 when I was elected to congress. I served four years and by careful economy I saved between \$3,000 and \$4,000, or about \$1,000 a year, so that when I went out of congress in the spring of 1895, I was worth about \$6,000 or \$7,000. During the period that elapsed between the end of my congressional terms and my nomination for the presidency (about a year and four months) I was engaged in speaking and in lecturing and added but a small sum to my savings. After the election in 1896, my earning power as a lecturer was largely enhanced by the prominence which the campaign had given me. My book—'The First Battle'—brought me \$17,000 and I gave an equal amount of the profits to the various committees that had carried on the campaign of 1896. My lectures have been profitable and my writings have paid me well, but no one attends the lectures unless he wants to do so and no one buys what I write unless he is interested in reading it.

"More than half of my time since 1896 has been given to gratuitous work and yet I have been able to support myself and accumulate property which I would estimate at about \$125,000, but as one can never accurately say what property is worth until he sells it, I will fix \$150,000 as the outside limit, the maximum of my wealth and I am willing to leave the public to determine whether

that is more than I ought to have earned, or whether I have earned it honestly.

"And now, having answered the criticism of Mr. Cannon and shown that his accusation is false, I think I am justified in asking him to be as frank with the public as I have been.

"He began holding office in 1861, when I was a year old, and during the last forty-seven years he has held office more than forty years of the time, and about thirty-five years of that time he has been a member of congress and has been drawing a salary that the members of congress thought so inadequate that the salary has recently been increased. He ought to tell us whether he has made any money lecturing or writing—that is, by selling 'wind and ink,' to choose his own choice language. He has been greatly hampered in the accumulation of money by the strict attention to public duties, and yet he is reputed to be wealthy. If he will tell us just how much he is worth we can then guess how much he might have been worth had he been free to devote his talents to money making. Being the third man in influence in our government, coming next to the vice president if not even above the vice president in his power to influence legislation, is it not fair that he should apply to himself the same rule that he applies to me and take the public into his confidence? Let him tell us how much he is worth and how he made it. Let him tell us what he has been selling, to whom he sold it, and how much he got for it. If he thinks that the wealth of a presidential candidate and the course of such a candidate's income shall be known, will he deny that the speaker's wealth and his source of income should be known?"

Mr. Bryan charged that Speaker Cannon, with the support of James S. Sherman, the republican vice presidential candidate, had strangled legislation in the house in spite of the recommendations of the president.

"I presume," said Mr. Bryan, "that if the republicans succeed and Mr. Cannon is elected, he will again be speaker, and Mr. Cannon represents what is known as the 'stand pat' idea in politics. He represents the theory that all is well and that nothing needs to be changed, and he has many people who agree with him, but the principal agreement that he finds is, among those who have their hand in other people's pockets and do not want to be disturbed."

Every predatory corporation, he declared, was crying for Cannon's success.

"Every man who is feasting on privilege," he said, "every man who is fattening on governmental favoritism is anxious that he shall be elected in this district and that the republican party shall carry the next campaign. It is natural that these people should vote for him; he is for them, and they are only showing an expected gratitude when they favor his re-election to the house and the speakership. It is entirely natural that these people should be opposed to a democratic victory, for the democratic party is in favor of the doctrine of 'equal rights to all and special privileges to none.'

"Mr. Cannon does not represent the reforms for which Mr. Roosevelt has contended. We do not mean to say that Mr. Roosevelt has contended for enough reforms, nor that he has gone as far as he ought to have gone in the reform for which he has stood. But we can say that the speaker of the house has been opposed to him when the president has stood for reform and that the speaker of the house has thwarted him whenever possible in making any progress toward reform."

THIS IS THE STORY

The most notable and important feature of the opening of the republican national campaign at Youngstown, Ohio, Saturday, was not the speech of Governor Hughes, nor yet that of Senator Beveridge. It was the part the steel trust took in this formal launching of the Taft campaign in Mr. Taft's own state.

The Associated Press dispatches briefly indicated what happened in this paragraph of its report:

"Along the rust-red waters of the Mahoning river today the great mills of the Carnegie works of the United States Steel corporation, the Republic Iron and Steel company, and the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company were quiet, for a three-day holiday had been declared, including Sunday and Labor Day. Youngstown is a steel town, and the brawn and muscle of her chief industry formed the body of the parade which preceded the discharge of the heavy political ordnance."

The extended special report which the Cin-

cinnati Enquirer gives of the big meeting throws more light on this highly interesting feature. We quote from the Enquirer of Sunday, September 6:

"The commanding feature of the day was the parade which preceded the speaking in Wick park. There were a few over 12,000 men in line. Of these more than 10,000 came from the steel mills. Supplied with uniforms at the expense of the companies, the toilers presented a striking appearance as they marched past the reviewing stand. Because of the opening a shutdown of the mills was ordered till next Monday and the occasion made a holiday. But few of these workers attended the meeting in Wick park. This was easily seen by the lack of uniforms in the crowd. Probably not over one-tenth of the turnout came to hear the speeches. They found other attractions that the holiday furnished, and were content to let others listen.

"There were thousands of Hungarians, Roumanians and other Slav people in this division. Each man wore a khaki suit and carried a cane

or flag furnished by his employers. They were divided into brigades and were organized on military lines, having regimental and brigade officers.

"One of the unusual incidents occurred when the parade halted at the Elks' club. Someone called for a cheer for Taft. Out of the uniformed ranks in response came a roaring shout for Bryan and the column moved on."

This is the story. It carries its own argument, and requires very little comment by way of elucidation.—Omaha World-Herald.

The manager of the republican press bureau gleefully reprints a letter from a labor leader who advises the members of his brotherhood to think well before voting. The workingman who thinks well is lost to the republican party this year.

Of course Mr. Dupont of the powder trust thinks this criticism of his leadership is merely a puff of smoke.