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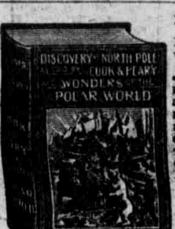


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at least one great newspaper calling itself democratic, with the honesty and fairness to give Mr. Bryan full credit for having declared war on those democrats in congress who violated the democratic national platform to stand with the republican party and the steel trust and Standard Oil in the special session of congress. That newspaper is the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Its attitude is the more noticeable because of its loneliness.

There are, scattered through the country, a good many newspapers which, while they have not been consistently democratic, have at least been consistently democratic on the tariff question. With commendable vigor they held up the hands of Grover Cleveland when he stood squarely for democratic principles as applied to the tariff, and they applauded him unstintedly when he denounced the cowarcice and dishonor of recreant party servants who, then as now, betrayed their party to serve privilege and plutocracy. Bryan is doing today what Cleveland did then. With characteristic fearlessness he has invaded the homes of faithless democratic senators and mercilessly criticised them from the public platform. He has defled protectionism in the democratic party and fights it exactly as he fights republican protectionism. He is defending the party platform and the very citadel of the democratic faith.

Where are the democratic newspapers that fought under the banner of Cleveland? They have raised stertorous cries for these many years for a "campaign on the tariff." That campaign is at their doors. It is now a campaign to determine whether there shall be, in fact, two protectionist parties in the United States. But these eager newspaper champions of democratic tariff ideas are grown, of a sudden, strangely quiet, where they are not, indeed, openly sneering and scornful.

Are they against everything Bryan is for and for everything Bryan is devotion of principle? Or are they enough to compel the conservative against? Is this the extent of their only the enemies of a privileged plu- party to take up his ideas and put tocracy at points and at times when it is not assailed and in no danger, rushing always to its defense whereever an assault is made, clamoring the while for an assault at some other place?

If these newspapers, newspapers like the New York Times, the World, the Evening Post, were honest and in earnest during the years they wailed and gnashed their teeth in the name of "a tariff for revenue" and for "free raw materials" why are they now so strangely silent?

Do they prefer to get under the banner of protection, at last, though a Bailey holds it aloft, rather than continue the fight against it now that Bryan is leading the fight?

They have bemoaned the alleged fact that Bryan was leading the demmoning its membership to rally about the very sanctuary of the ancient faith; now that he is fighting for a great democratic principle as they themselves have defined and championed it, they become suddenly interested in the north pole, aviation, and the Hudson river. What has come over the spirit of their dreams? -Omaha World-Herald.

#### MR. BRYAN'S OPPORTUNITY

of William J. Bryan must credit him strongest ties in the world-the ties with good work in calling into ac- of wealth? count the democratic senators who If Mr. Bryan had not run, would

for democratic congressmen who will support democratic principles and stand unflinchingly for democratic policies in legislation is right. His criticism of the democratic senators who stood with Aldrich against their party pledges is just.

Unfortunately, Mr. Bryan is handicapped by his own support of undemocratic vagaries and of measures which do not stand the test of principle. But he is sound in his stand against plutocracy and privilege. That fight is grounded on fundamental principle. If democrats do not separate themselves from republicans on this issue, the line of demarkation is wiped out and there is no real difference between the parties. If the democratic leaders and representatives who betray their own party on this fundamental principle are not eliminated or rebuked, the party's usefulness is at an end. Public confidence in it is destroyed and its opportunity for service ceases.

Mr. Bryan can not use his great powers as a tribute to better advantage than by rallying democrats for the fight against privilege. This is the best work that can be done for the party and the people. It requires both courage and capacity and Mr. Bryan lacks neither .- St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

IF MR. BRYAN HAD NOT RUN Mr. Bryan may not be a candidate for the presidency next term, but it would be a good thing for the country if he were. Those who fancy that Mr. Bryan had no effect in shaping the destinies of the country since 1896 are rather unobservant students of history. The fact is that every one of the reforms which have been attempted by the republican party was due to the agitation which was

started by Mr. Bryan. An almost precisely similar state of affairs prevailed in England during the latter part of the nineteenth century when Mr. Gladstone was in the ascendant. Gladstone was in favor of certain reforms which he

forced upon the liberal party against its will. And having won over the liberals to his side he was strong them through.

Time and again Gladstone was defeated at the polls, very much the same as Mr. Bryan has been defeated. Time and again the conservatives who defeated him were compelled to adopt his policies and put them through.

If Mr. Bryan had not run what would have been the character of the republican platforms since that of 1896 which was, as everybody knows, a platform dictated by rich men?

If Mr. Bryan had not run, would Mr. Roosevelt have created his whole machinery of talk that has made him famous, with it. "predatory millionaires," "criminal rich" and the like?

If Mr. Bryan had not run, where had been the prosecutions by the national government of the gigantic ocratic party "away from democratic combinations of capital? Would the principles." Now that he is sumdragged into court and put in the criminal's dock like common thieves? Would the Standard Oil company have been fined that \$29,000,000? Would the republican party suddenly have discovered that there are something like 20,000,000 workingmen in this country who have the right to be classified as human beings?

If Mr. Bryan had not run, would the tariff question be in the state it now is-a state which threatened to disrupt the republican party, bound The most uncompromising critic together, as that party is, by the

violated the democratic platform to not the money power have completed support privilege, in order to obtain its conquest of the country long ago, tariff favors for their states, or to instead of, as now, being compelled stand in with the republican machine to do it by all sorts of subterfuges, in congress. Mr. Bryan's demand which are even now ceasing to be