

CHOOSING A SENATOR

The Kearney Hub says: "Referring to the Oregon law the Omaha World-Herald inquires, 'What does the Kearney Hub believe?' To be frank, it believes that the so-called Oregon law is a fraud and a fake and intended merely to give the democrats a leverage in a republican state. It is unnatural and unsound to the core. Moreover, the law in this state is simply a piece of democratic partisan legislation."

The World-Herald commends its Kearney contemporary for its frankness and compliments it on its courage—for it must take considerable courage, in an intelligent and progressive state like Nebraska, to oppose giving the people a direct voice in the election of United States senators. The subject is both interesting and important, and we are prone to pursue the inquiry further.

Will the Kearney Hub tell us why it regards the Oregon law as "a fake and a fraud?" Will it tell us why it regards the law as "unnatural and unsound?"

The law simply authorizes legislative candidates to declare that, if elected, they will abide by the will of the people, as expressed at the polls, when they come to elect a senator. It does not require them to make any such declaration. It does not require them to make any declaration at all. But it permits those to do so who wish to do it.

What is there wrong about that? What is there "unnatural and unsound" about it?

Nebraska has declared for a constitutional amendment providing for the election of senators by popular vote. Suppose such an amendment were now in effect. The people would then elect whomever they chose for senator and whatever legislators they chose, and their votes on senator and legislators would in no manner conflict. They might elect a republican senator on national issues, and a democratic legislature on state issues, or vice versa. No one would be compelled to vote for a candidate for the legislature to whom he was opposed in order to vote for a candidate for senator whom he favored.

The Oregon plan, if generally adopted by legislative candidates, would work in precisely the same way. And if only partially adopted, it would be at least a step in the direction of the popular election of senators.

Does the Kearney Hub think it unwise to let the people elect the senator? Does it think it unfair? Does it think the people are not to be trusted in this important work? Or is it afraid of the verdict of the people? Is it anxious, perhaps, that Nebraska should be represented in the senate by someone who does not represent the people, and to whom a majority of the people are opposed?

We will lay down two propositions for the consideration of the Kearney Hub, and of all other enemies of the Oregon plan:

1—The Oregon plan would tend to insure the election of the democratic candidate for senator if the democratic candidate got the most votes at the polls, and of the republican candidate if the republican candidate got the most votes.

2—The candidate who gets the most votes ought to be elected.

To those propositions we invite the attention of the Kearney Hub, or any other champion of Senator Burkett who is opposing the Oregon plan.—Omaha World-Herald.

MR. BRYAN IN LIVERPOOL

Mr. W. J. Bryan, whose speech at the Philharmonic hall last night, brought the British conference of the Y. M. C. A. movement to a brilliant climax, recalled by his personality and eloquence his great compatriot,

Henry Ward Beecher, who came to the same hall over forty years ago to plead the cause of the north. The gospel of the two men was the same—the gospel of altruism—but what a difference in the welcome. Mr. Beecher was howled down and silenced by self-interested cotton merchants who thought their business to be dependent on slave labor. Mr. Bryan had a reception worthy of a great ambassador of moral and religious idealism.

In his delightful self-revelation last evening Mr. Bryan proved a disappointment and a surprise—a disappointment as a master of pure eloquence, and a surprise—a very agreeable surprise—as a man of deep moral and religious convictions. The massive head, smooth intellectual face, and thin masterful lips spoke of power and self-confidence; the kindly eye of benevolent and humor, and appearances were not falsified. In his ninety minutes' address he displayed abundantly all these qualities and many more. What was missing was a justification from the English point of view of the designation of silver-tongued orator."

The voice was deep and resonant, and the periods rich and easy-flowing; but one found no trace of the silvery tones and majestic phrasing of Gladstone, little of the compelling beauty of Bright, and none of the whirlwind equestrianism of the typical American "spell-binder." It was strong, masterful, delightful, and captivating speaking in a clear, untiring voice, not unlike that of Mr. John Redmond, and with a diction borrowed from the well of pure English, defied only, if at all, by a pronounced American accent and an American proneness to the vivisection of long words.

But if there was no silver in the voice there was much refined gold in the matter, and it is here that the pleasant surprise came in. One does not associate moral enthusiasm and religious fervor with American politics, and one remembered that Mr. Bryan had thrice waded knee-deep in the miry intrigues of a presidential election. His magnificent championship of the Y. M. C. A. movement as a maker of men, physical, mental, and moral, his acknowledgment of his own obligation to it, his glorification of the moral element, his quarrel with Buckle for excluding it from his definition of civilization, and his masterly reply to scientific athelms—all this coming from the lips, and evidently from the heart, of an American political leader was indeed a surprising revelation. It was like hearing of the kaiser turning Quaker, or Roosevelt becoming a local preacher.

Not the least delightful part of the speech was its humor, and the most pointed of his humorous shafts was the remark that nowadays an ideal is the only thing of value that can cross a national boundary line without going through a custom house. When a leader of a great party speaks like this and boasts, too, with all the pride of a jingo, that the sun never sets on American philanthropy, one feels there is yet hope for the great republic.—From the Liverpool Daily Post of June 10.

TOO SOON

An eminent speaker at the Congregationalist meeting in the First Congregational church, East Orange, was telling the other day of a westerner's opinion of the east.

"This man," said the speaker, "was a prominent churchman and had occasion to visit New York, where he remained for a few days. In writing of his experiences to his wife in the west he had this to say: 'New York is a great city, but I do wish I had come here before I was converted.'"—Newark Star.

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