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gressman, Bryan has never held any office. That Clay and Webster were really statesmen, were men of high mental endowments, is still another factor of difference. Mr. Bryan is not a statesman, neither is he a man of exceptional mental equipment. His ideas as to state craft are crude and indefinite, while in mentality he is neither possessed of breadth or strong analytic power. Three several times this man has run for the presidency and as many times been defeated, and yet we meet the surprising contradiction of this man wielding an influence in shaping the destinies of his country second to no man of his time. On three great occasions his countrymen have sent him down to defeat and seemingly rejected all he stood for, and at the same time they were adopting all he stood for, and give indications of going so much farther beyond him as to leave Bryan stranded in conservatism. Truly Bryan is a living proof that the heterodoxy of today is the orthodoxy of tomorrow. In 1896, he was so rankly heterodox as to seem anarchic, but if you will notice, what he then assaulted were those great abuses which would soon press for settlement. In 1896 he mildly suggested that some of our federal courts were neither infallible or holy. At the mere mention of such a thing, most of the privileged interests had chills, and shouted "anarchist" with lusty horror. Since then the thinking element of this country has realized that the old court superstition is childish, that a court is entitled to respect only when it earns it and that one of the gravest political problems that confronts us is the usurpations of the federal courts. He was one of the first of our public men to insist that what ails this country is government-protected privilege. That is the great issue today. Another curious thing is that while his three defeats virtually eliminated him from leadership of the oldest political party in this country, it seems to have lost all its vitality with his elimination, but the political principles for which he stands not only survived, but have become more vital than ever. "Insurgency," as it is called, is only another name for "Bryanism."

Bryan claims that the republican party has stolen his thunder. This is true, for nearly every reform he has urged is bearing or will bear fruit. Even the reform of the monetary system, his demands concerning which all the protected privileges especially, are convinced were revolutionary and dangerous, must finally result in some feasible method to take the place of the present patchwork system. It was Bryan who first emphatically demanded the publication of campaign expenses before election, the leading opponent of such a plan being one Theo-

dore Roosevelt. Now the publication of campaign contributions before election has become a great republican doctrine with Theodore Roosevelt as its leading exponent. Bryan denounced in unmeasured terms government by injunction. The country elects as president the leading exponent of that vicious system, but believes as Bryan does. The Osawatomie speech of Theodore Roosevelt was nothing more than a radical restatement of the doctrines preached by Bryan; and here let me remark that you will often hear people say that while it is true that Roosevelt has really done little, he has been of great value to the country because his rantankerous talk served to arouse the people to their wrongs. What is the real truth is that the arousing was done by the talk of Bryan, who advocated all that Roosevelt has advocated and advocated it first. Notwithstanding appearances to the contrary, the influence of Bryan in shaping the destinies of the country has been far more potent than the influence of Roosevelt, armed with the presidency for two terms though the latter was.

It must be admitted that the majority of men of the present day do not realize the tremendous influence this one private citizen has wielded in shaping public opinion. A people that fanatically and insanely worships success pays little attention to what seemingly appears as failure, and yet it is one of the most luminous facts of history that the leaders of great causes have almost without exception been failures. Where, for instance, is there a more crushing "failure" than Golgotha, which in reality was but a start for the ideas that were to conquer the world? Bryan has met the common fate of reformers in that he was rejected only to have his teachings finally adopted.

Another seeming paradox is the personal popularity of Bryan. Few men have ever run for the presidency who have been able to win such popularity. Both popular and teaching doctrines his people finally accept, he is nevertheless three times refused the presidency. This popularity so obvious, is really a secondary consideration. To Bryan as a moral factor we must trace the potent influence he has wielded and still yields, despite the general belief that he is a political dead one. Bryan has been one of the most consistently and even serenely just and honest public men of recent years. He is on the level. Many of the reforms he has suggested have been vague and lacking in practicality, but back of them all have been principles that were essentially right. To this we may credit the singular influence this man has wielded in shaping the destinies of his country—to his moral power.—St. Louis Censor.

SENATOR LAFOLLETTE GIVES PRESIDENT TAFT WARNING

A special dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald, a republican paper, under date of Washington, December 6, follows:

Senator LaFollette of Wisconsin, practically has refused to meet and talk with President Taft at the White House, having replied to an invitation extended through Secretary Norton by sending a brief letter to the president himself. While other insurgent senators latterly not on the White House visiting list have accepted the proffered olive branch to the extent of responding to requests that they call on the president to discuss judicial appointments and other matters, the Wisconsin senator cannot see his way to resuming even the very formal personal relations that were severed a year and a half ago.

Under date of December 3, it was learned tonight, Secretary Norton wrote a letter to Senator LaFollette telling him the president would like to see him for a discussion of judicial appointments. Instead of going to the White House or seeking an appointment for a conference, Senator LaFollette wrote a letter which he addressed to the president personally.

This letter and the facts bearing on it were given out tonight as the result of a statement that the president a month ago wrote a very cordial letter to the senator, asking him to visit the White House upon his arrival in Washington for the winter's session of congress. Senator LaFollette says he received no such letter and that he has had no communication from the president in eighteen months.

The letter which the senator wrote to the president was as follows:

"December 5, 1910.—Dear Mr. President: I have a letter from your secretary, Mr. Norton, stating that you would like to discuss with me certain judicial appointments.

"The one suggestion I would offer is that, in view of present conditions, only such men should

be selected as will be certain to construe the constitution and the law with due regard to the interest of the people, eliminating from consideration those whose legislative or judicial record show them biased toward special interests or whose legal connections would tend to prejudice their minds in favor of such interests.

"I may properly add that I shall support your administration whenever I can do so consistently and I shall oppose your recommendations only when I find it necessary so to do in accordance with my convictions of public duty. Respectfully yours,

"ROBERT M. LAFOLLETTE."

"Hon. W. H. Taft, the White House."

Thus the harmony movement, which was designed to embrace everybody, irrespective of previous condition, has received a sudden, although not entirely surprising, jolt. It is not certain at this writing whether the visiting relations temporarily resumed by others among Mr. LaFollette's insurgent colleagues will be continued very long.

Friends of the senator say there evidently was a desire somewhere to place him in a wrong light with respect to the White House situation. There are likely to be some further interesting developments on one side or the other, or both.

Naturally the possible effect of Senator LaFollette's attitude on the confirmation of the president's nominations to fill the supreme court vacancies comes up for consideration. Added to the announced determination of other senators to scrutinize appointments carefully, is the very plain warning of the Wisconsin senator that he may be expected to precipitate one of his personally conducted fights or filibusters if there be any nominee with a procorporation or special interest record.

PROGRESSIVE

Referring to President Taft's message, the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal says: "One or two exceptions aside, we cannot see how the message can be viewed as anything but progressive." The Journal is a leader among "progressive republicans" in the northwest. If this is a sample of what the people may expect in the event the party is captured by "progressive republicans," then surely it will be a case of "out of the frying-pan into the fire." When will reformers among the republican editors learn that we cannot secure progressive measures from standpat statesmen, any more than we can pluck figs from thistles? Will these republican reformers never learn that a statesman who has so thoroughly pleased the special interests as Mr. Taft has done cannot be depended upon to give the people relief from the impositions which the special interests put upon them?

THE WINDOW WISHERS

The little window wishers, with their tender eyes of blue,
 Standing there before the toy shops, don't they touch the heart of you?
 Don't you almost shiver with them, as their tattered clothes you see,
 The ragged little urchins, with the patches on each knee?
 Can you see them longing, yearning in sweet childhood's wistful way
 And forget them in your planning for a merry Christmas day?

Oh, the little window wishers, baby hearts and baby eyes,
 With their trusting faith in Santa gazing there in glad surprise
 At the dollies and the soldiers and the Teddy bears, believing
 That they will not be forgotten. Can you see them without grieving?
 Can you think of them on Christmas when the merry morning starts
 Disillusioned, waking up to empty stockings—broken hearts?

Oh, the little window wishers, looking longingly today
 At the wonders in the toy shops in sweet childhood's wistful way,
 Dreaming dreams of Christmas stockings filled with candles and with toys;
 Just as full of faith and fancy as your own girls and your boys.
 When you see their big eyes glisten as these splendid things they view,
 Can you rush by and forget them, don't they touch the heart of you?

—Detroit Free Press.