

hear an address by Hon. W. J. Bryan. A full house and packed galleries gave the speaker a warm reception when he entered with the reception committee. Mr. Miller, of Marshall, had the honor of presenting the distinguished visitor and made a brief but happy speech of introduction. Mr. Bryan entered with Senator Adams and was followed by Governor Hooper and Senator-elect Luke Lea, with the reception committee next. The applause was quickly swelled to cheers. Senator Adams called the audience to order and presented Mr. Miller of Marshall, who, in turn, introduced Mr. Bryan.

Mr. Bryan opened with a brief discussion of the important part Tennessee has played in the nation's history. He said that it was an honor to address the citizens and lawmakers of this great state.

Mr. Bryan discussed the responsibility of the representatives of the people. He presented the two theories of government—aristocratic and democratic. He said that the democratic sentiment was the dominant one in this country, and was greater than party. He discussed at some length these two ideas of government. He said that one party was always found trying to do what the people wanted, while the other was obstructing the general good. These two sentiments, he said, were found in society as well as politics. The aristocrat believed in building from the top and the democrat from

the bottom. He said the democratic plan of government was spreading throughout the world.

Embezzlement of power he characterized as a greater crime than embezzlement of money, and said there ought to be a means of punishing it. He said a representative should be conscientious, but that his conscience should not be dormant during a campaign and active after, when he wanted to escape doing the will of his people; if his conscience would not let him do what his people wants, he should resign.

Mr. Bryan said the representative should be in perfect attune with his constituency, so as to carry out their wishes perfectly.

Mr. Bryan discussed the growth in good ideas during the past saying that at no time had progress been greater than in the last twenty years. He spoke of the contest sixteen years ago in congress over the income tax and in this connection paid a tribute to Hon. Benton McMillin. He also referred to Col. Enloe in the same connection. He told of the fight before the courts and the subsequent agitation of the subject.

Another reform which had grown, he said, was the election of senators by the people. He discussed the subject step by step to the present time, indications now pointing for the first time in eighteen years to a favorable action by congress on this amendment. He argued strongly the need of this change as one of the most important before the country.

The next question discussed was railroad regulation. He discussed in detail the growth of this sentiment with the railroad lobby. Now he says the corporations understand that none of them are too high to be thoroughly regulated.

Contributions to campaign funds by corporations were discussed up to now, when the law prohibits it and requires publicity of campaign expenses.

Mr. Bryan referred humorously to Tennessee politics, saying that it was a good time to change the election laws if they needed it; that things seemed so mixed that if they could get together the result ought to be satisfactory; that with a republican governor and a legislature that he hadn't been able to classify, any election laws agreed upon should be good.

"Election laws," said Mr. Bryan, "can't be built on a sound basis until the people say who shall constitute the election boards."

Mr. Bryan also discussed the joint fight of the democrats and insurgent republicans in congress on the rules. He said the rules committee should be selected by congress and not by the speaker. He touched the tariff question, but briefly, and commended democrats for supporting President Taft on his Canadian reciprocity scheme.

Mr. Bryan spoke strongly on the initiative and referendum as a needed reform. He spoke of this as one of the greatest of reforms. In this connection he discussed at length the frequent falls from high ideals by legislators.

"The initiative and referendum," he said, "strengthens the representative and protects the people while it strips the lobbyist of his power." The speaker also advocated the recall, but gave it less attention than the other features.

Another question discussed was the bank guarantee.

"Four states have passed such laws," said Mr. Bryan, "and the others ought to do so."

Mr. Bryan stated that banks were not secure in this country and there was no excuse for it. Laws should be passed to insure a depositor so that when he deposited his money he would certainly draw it out at his pleasure. The speaker insisted that the general public should not be re-

quired to take their chances with the rascality of bank officials.

At the conclusion of his speech practically all members of the legislature personally met Mr. Bryan. He went from the capitol to the Hermitage hotel.

**A CORDIAL WELCOME**

In an editorial the Banner says: Hon. William Jennings Bryan was given a cordial welcome in Nashville, where he is always received with heartiness and enthusiasm, not only because he has attained eminence in the field of American politics, in which he has been and still is a remarkably forceful and influential factor, but also because, aside from all political considerations, he is a distinguished American with world-wide fame, who is esteemed for his high personal character, moral worth and purity of life. Mr. Bryan has had an extraordinary public career and, despite the vicissitudes of his political life, has maintained himself in a prominence which gives proof of his abilities and tireless energies, and with a reputation which makes his reception popular wherever he goes. It goes without the saying that he will not lack of every attention and courtesy possible during his visit to our city.

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