

in proportion as it has in its composition this ingredient of the direct action of the citizens.' It would eliminate the elective despotism which has developed to such an alarming extent the country over, and to again quote Jefferson, 'An elective despotism is not the form of government we fought for.'

"There is not an argument against the initiative and referendum which cannot with equal force be made against democracy. So let us be honest with ourselves. If we believe in an autocracy, an aristocracy or a plutocracy, let us say so. But if we still believe in a republic, a democracy—the rule of the people—to attack the means which will again restore that rule and make its continuance possible is folly."

"H. B. MAURER."

"New York, April 15."

Friendly and Unfriendly

OMAHA DAILY NEWS, INDEPENDENT

"Whatever his rank as statesman, philosopher and orator—and he has no mean rank in either of these high walks—the Nebraskan is the peer of any man the country has produced in the great quality of moral earnestness.

"He has made the fight. He has kept the faith. And no one yet has warrant to say that he has run his race."

FROM ST. LOUIS GLOBE-DEMOCRAT

"A prominent southern democrat in Washington is reported to have remarked that Mr. Bryan is the greatest democratic incubus and one of the best republican assets. A great many democrats, observing Bryan's activity in shaping things in the house, will agree with this opinion, though perhaps not inclined at the moment to say so. But is Bryan or the party itself the incubus? Three times he has been the nominee and in each of the three battles received over 700,000 more votes than were ever given any other democratic candidate. The democratic record vote before Bryan's advent was Cleveland's 5,556,918 in 1892. Bryan's lowest vote in his three battles was 6,358,123. The idea that he was an incubus in 1904 led to the nomination of Parker, who was snowed under, getting a total vote of only 5,077,911, and losing by the unexampled majority of 2,500,000.

"These figures prove that there is a democratic incubus somewhere. But is it the man who has far exceeded any other in gaining votes for the party? There is apparently a paradox in the situation, but the simple fact is that there are not enough democratic votes in the country to elect anybody to the presidency. The people decline to give the party a vote of confidence. Bryan is his party's best vote getter, and yet has been beaten three times by from 600,000 to 1,200,000. The party owes him some gratitude for his democratic high-water marks. They fell short, but he did the best he could, and much better than Parker, who was quite the equal of Harmon or Woodrow Wilson. Democrats who are gunning for their incubus in national politics should not open fire on Bryan without re-examining these figures. Here is the point: Bryan obtains more votes than any other democrat, but can't muster enough. The democratic best, therefore, falls short. Calling the best an incubus suggests that the label should be put on the party itself, and not on its strongest candidate."

FROM MARION (KANSAS) RECORD

"That man Bryan—William Jennings Bryan, is still a pretty live corpse. Thirteen hundred democrats, from all over, gathered in Lincoln, Neb., to do him honor. It was his fifty-first anniversary. A remarkable man is Bryan. What other American ever suffered three defeats and still maintained his grip on his party and the people? I verily believe he is stronger with the people today than ever before, and if he should get out and hustle for a fourth nomination, Harmon and Wilson and all the other aspirants would have to sit up and take notice. Differ from him as you may and I do, you have to admire the man. He is certainly unique. He is the only man who ever got rich, honestly, running for office. And there is too much truth in his claim that Roosevelt 'stole his clothes'—some of them. Of course he has some old cast off garments like free silver and imperialism, nobody would steal. They are out of style. But Teddy did enter Billy's wardrobe and swipe a lot of his things, and has the goods in his possession right now. No doubt about that. If be-

cause of some temporary aberration the American people should commit the awful blunder of electing a democrat president in 1912 I do wish they would make the offense as light as possible by electing Bryan."

FROM BALTIMORE SUN, DEMOCRAT

"In refusing the tempting offer to make his home in Memphis and remove The Commoner to that city Mr. Bryan shows a singular devotion to the people of Nebraska. They have been loyal to him since his first entrance into public life; he has been identified with the state from the time he began the practice of the law. Lincoln is his home; there he took the wife of his youth, there his children have been born and reared, and he has formed such strong local attachments that it would be hard for him to move to any other place. Texans have besought him to come and make his home among them, offering him their support for United States senator; Oklahoma has invited him; Tennessee offers any sum that is necessary, even up to \$2,000,000, to bring his publishing establishment to Memphis and become a citizen of that enterprising city. But Mr. Bryan, while appreciating the spirit that prompted the invitations, has refused them all.

"Mr. Bryan's hold on the affections of thousands is not difficult to explain. However much one may disagree with him as to certain policies he has advocated, his severest critic must concede that he has always advocated what seemed to him right. The cartoon which Mr. Bryan likes so well, that showing Roosevelt's 'policies,' as plumes plucked from the Nebraskan, was the work of Mr. McKee Barclay, the Sun artist, and was printed in the Sun. The original hangs in Mr. Bryan's home. Another drawing in the Sun, 'Chickens Come Home to Roost,' depicted the large number of policies Mr. Bryan has advocated in the past which are now being accepted by the progressives of both parties.

"For a number of reforms that have been instituted and will be adopted Mr. Bryan paved the way. The fearlessness with which he gave frank utterance to what he believed at times resulted in arraying strong interests against him, but he is never so valiant as when fighting against great odds and defending his principles against all comers. Though he may fail of his ambition to attain the presidency, Mr. Bryan has succeeded in winning the respect of his opponents and the warm admiration of thousands of those who supported him in three campaigns and who are still devoted to him. On his last visit to Baltimore Mr. Bryan was greeted by a vast crowd that testified to the following he has in Maryland. Though seventeen years ago he was bitterly assailed as a 'radical,' many of the policies he then advocated are now ranked as merely 'progressive' and in a few years to come will be almost conservative. His sincerity and devotion to his principles are admitted, and there is a general disposition among fair-minded men of all parties to give him due credit for the reforms he advocated long before Mr. Roosevelt and the progressive republicans took them up.

"If Mr. Bryan should attend the democratic national convention next year—which we hope and believe will be held in Baltimore—he will receive a warm Maryland welcome. Maryland is not advocating any one candidate for the presidency over another, but presents a fair field with no favor, and hopes to see the best man win. For the man upon whom all elements of the democratic party can agree is likely to be the nominee of the Baltimore convention, and also to be the next president of the United States."

FROM UNIONTOWN (PENNSYLVANIA) GENIUS OF LIBERTY

"A great battle, therefore, is on, and that struggle will determine whether the democratic party will remain democratic or become plutocratic. If the interests can by misrepresentation or in any other way foist upon the democratic party a candidate that meets their approval then the democratic party will become plutocratic—it will bow to the rule of the dollar and with that dollar hope to buy the man. It is the duty of the democratic masses to follow loyally the lead of the champions of the people's rights that victory may be on the side of the people and not of the plutocrats; that democracy may triumph over plutocracy; that man may be above the dollar. In this struggle Mr. Bryan is the great commander on the side of the people, so against him first and always the heaviest guns of the people's enemies will be trained because they fear him most. But he will

not be the only one they will oppose. Champ Clark, Ollie James, Senators Owen and Gore, Governors Marshall and Shafroth, Woodrow Wilson, Joseph W. Folk, Governor Foss, of Massachusetts, and a host of others, will come in for their full share of misrepresentation and abuse. Whom the interests fear most they abuse most and their opposition to any man should be sufficient stimulus for the people to favor him. Find whom Wall Street and special privilege want and then select some other man. By following that advice victory will be on the side of the people, but remember eternal vigilance in this case is the price of liberty."

FROM BOISE (IDAHO) CAPITOL-NEWS

"A stronger contrast in real, lasting ability of two men could scarcely be found in national life than that between Theodore Roosevelt and William Jennings Bryan.

"Bryan became a national figure before Roosevelt did, but he has suffered eclipse after eclipse by defeat which ordinarily means the permanent and absolute retirement of most men.

"Roosevelt, after he became a national figure, rose rapidly to the highest position in the nation and to the highest position in the hearts and confidences of the people. His career was meteoric in swiftness and in brilliance.

"Bryan has had to contend against greater odds than ever. Bryan contended with for national attention and national popularity.

"In the first instance he was opposed by the combined money power of the world in which opposition Roosevelt was one of the most active agencies so far as his then modest opportunities afforded him opportunity.

"Roosevelt succeeded where Bryan had failed, yet Bryan is a success where Roosevelt is a failure.

"Roosevelt was elevated to the position of power which Bryan has vainly sought, yet Bryan possesses a power which Roosevelt never felt.

"Roosevelt, though twice president of the United States, though attaining a place in the hearts of the people scarcely secondary at one time to that occupied by the Father of his country or by Lincoln, has lost his position, much of his power and influence and popular sentiment would not tolerate longer such close companion reference to Washington and Lincoln in such a connection.

"Bryan has grown every year as the country and the people have come to know him, while Roosevelt is losing ground, never more rapidly than now.

"Bryan is the most powerful single political agent in the government today, while Roosevelt's influence is second to that of very many men who might be mentioned.

"With every opportunity at hand Roosevelt has lost; confidence in him is shaken; belief in his good judgment no longer exists as formerly, and his utterances are heard with increasing question by all men of all parties.

"Bryan hampered by defeat has grown in the confidence of the people; his words are listened to by thousands who never before suspected they would ever see the day when they would seek to hear his views, and now his judgment on matters of public policy is questioned only with caution except among the few still blinded by the bitter prejudice of a few years ago.

"Democracy can never become a conservative party, but strange as it may seem, Bryan is one of the conservative men of the nation—far more conservative in all matters than Roosevelt, the man who condemned him for his lack of conservatism.

"There are reasons to believe that Bryan may again be made the standard bearer of his party in the next campaign; not because Bryan seeks it or desires it, but because there will come a demand for it, and because he will be found by his partisan followers the most satisfactory man to name for the candidacy;—because he will be a democratic conservative candidate.

"Roosevelt, as a republican possibility, was never so far removed from consideration as now, if indications can be read aright. Taft, La Follette—almost any other republican would be accepted in preference.

"This is about the attitude of two prominent men in this nation in their relation to the people. One represents that of a man who, given every opportunity and gaining every point, has been unable to live up to what the people made him. The other represents a man from whom has been taken the opportunity to do or to show what he is, discredited by defeat and maligned by enemies, yet who in spite of it all, is today