

the democrats enjoyed what they heard. They heard Mr. Taft say that if this reciprocity agreement was not indorsed, that it meant the death knell of the protective system, and they heard Mr. Dalzell of Pennsylvania reason that if this was adopted that it meant the death knell of protection, and then for the first time the democrats felt that they were in a position to laugh no matter what happened.

"My friends, both of these men were right. It does not matter what they do to reciprocity, it is the death blow to protection, and we democrats are in a position that we have never been in before on the tariff. If this reciprocity agreement is defeated, what does it mean? It means that the republican party is not willing to have any breach made in the tariff wall and that means that every man who revolts against it in the republican party must look for help in the democratic party and not the republican. But suppose you pass a reciprocity agreement ratifying it, then what? It means that you began to make breaches in the wall, and the moment you begin you start the people back of it in a fight among themselves, and already we see the results of this fight.

"When they asked me if I favored reciprocity, I said yes. They said why, what good does it do? I said it does not matter whether it does much good or not. It is a beginning and a beginning is half the battle. Let them start, I am so anxious to have something done that I don't insist that the beginning shall be made in this particular place or that one. The trouble is that a great many men who talk tariff reduction have been a little like the fellow who subscribed for every church that was proposed in the town and fought the location in hopes of preventing the building of the church.

"So we have had some people talking about tariff reduction and they talked about something here and if they could not get it here they didn't want it anywhere else. I want the tariff reduction so bad that you can start any where without my saying halt. The difficulty is when a man has his heart on protecting somebody he is not in a position to help reduce the tariff any where.

"If you will pardon a story that I heard twenty-three years ago and that I have been telling ever since and I may have told it at this banquet table a half dozen times for all I know: A man went into a clothing store and when the merchant was not looking he picked up a coat and ran off with it. As he ran away the merchant halloed 'Stop,' but he didn't stop; then the policeman called him to stop, but he didn't stop, and then the policeman pulled out his revolver, when the merchant became excited and grabbed the policeman and said, 'If you do shoot, shoot him in the pants, the coat belongs to me.'

"What chance have you of shooting a thief if you are afraid to shoot for fear you will hit some garment of yours that he has on? That is the difficulty today with the advocates of protection, and so while they want protection, still they want any tariff reform that they can get that does not interfere with protection. The trouble is that they have their hearts set on protecting something and they are afraid of reducing the tariff on one thing for fear it will result in reducing it on the things that are dear to their heart. But today, my friends, you will find most of the people interested in tariff reduction and a great majority of the people are not afraid to shoot at this tariff thief who has nothing on that belongs to them, and you can't scare them by telling them that they are going to be hurt, for they have been hurt so bad with the tariff that they are not afraid of being hurt by some of it being taken off. The most of them have come to the same conclusion as the man who does his sleeping on the floor when you tell him he is going to fall off the bed. He says, 'You can't scare me.' So most of the people, the farmers especially, are not afraid of having a little tariff taken off. One reason that I favor reciprocity is that whether it pulls the tariff wall down or not, it does pull the wool off of the farmers' eyes that the republican party has put on them.

Mr. Bryan declared that the success of the democratic party in the last election and in senatorial elections by legislatures this winter far exceeded his fondest hopes. He enumerated the governors elected by democrats in republican states last fall.

It was in this connection that he paid tribute to Governor Woodrow Wilson, which made the latter's friends who are booming him for president, sit up and take notice.

"Governor Wilson in New Jersey has already given us some indication of what he believes in," said Mr. Bryan, "and he has been battling

there from the time he came into office up to the present time for the things that are democratic. When the legislature met he began to send out messages asking them to carry out democratic ideas. He asked for an election law and a primary law and he put behind those demands the strength of his strong personality. He sent a message asking for the indorsement of the income tax or ratification of the income tax, and when one house indorsed it and the other rejected it, he sent a second message to the senate and appealed to them to reverse their decision and indorse it and give the federal government power to collect the income tax. I speak of these as some of the things that have been done and in some of the states where we were not expecting to win such victories."

He was unstinted in his praise of Speaker Champ Clark of the house. He said that he had known him for eighteen years and had watched his growth from a lawyer in a small community to a leader in the house of representatives, to a position now which is second in power and importance only to the presidency itself. In selecting Champ Clark for their speaker, the democrats of the house made no mistake, he declared.

"Champ Clark deserves a place in history because he had it in his power to take the speakership with all the power that Cannon had," said Mr. Bryan, "but he preferred to take a democratic speakership with less power, rather than a republican speakership with more power."

He characterized the free list bill prepared by the democrats in congress as a democratic move to give the farmers a chance, that it cannot be said that the Canadian agreement puts cattle on the free list and leaves a tariff on meat, and similar provisions with which fault is found.

"So we prepared the farmers' free list and we put 100 articles upon it and what were they?" said Mr. Bryan. "We put flour on the free list so he could not say he had free wheat and a tax on flour. We put meat on the free list so he could not say free cattle, but a tax on meat. We put boots and shoes and harness and saddles and leather, agricultural implements, and barbed wire and cotton bagging and cotton ties and 100 things that the farmers used on the free list, and if you go to Washington now you will see the republicans sweating blood to know what they are going to do now."

"I say to you that the farmers' free list is the best strategical movement that has been made in twenty-five years. It was made possible by the reciprocity agreement. But for that agreement we could not force that bill through with the arguments we can now make. When the reciprocity agreement was in the house the republicans tried to embarrass the democrats by putting an amendment in and putting things on the free list. The democrats said: 'Don't be in a hurry; we have another bill coming that will give you all the free list you want, just be patient.' I wish I could be down there. I would like to be in the gallery. I would like to hear those speeches when that bill comes from the house and goes through the senate. Who will dare oppose it? Let these men who have been standing as champions for the farmer come out and tell the farmer why they refused to give him this free list. Let them explain to him what sacredness there is about protection that compels them as their representative to deny them their chance to get their goods in competition with the world."

#### ABOUT "DESTRUCTION"

The Houston (Texas) Post, says: "If Mr. Bryan and his followers like Owen, Gore, Stone and Jeff Davis want to destroy the democratic party, they are on the right line. Let them continue to proclaim populist doctrines as the progressive faith and in time, no doubt, they will see the party rent in twain."

The men who insist that the democratic party shall be true to its name are not bent upon destroying the party. They are engaged in the effort to prevent the democratic party from being wrecked upon the same rock that brought disaster to the republican party. It is an insult to democrats to say that the proposition that democratic senators and representatives as well as the party itself shall be free from the control of special interests is "populistic doctrine."

The Post would probably be satisfied with a thing labeled "populistic doctrine" if it permitted corporation control of the party and its representatives.

#### BEFORE THE Y. M. C. A.

Mr. Bryan laid the cornerstone of the new Y. M. C. A. building at Des Moines, Ia. The following report of the proceedings is taken from the Des Moines Register and Leader:

Before an immense crowd, which blockaded traffic in every direction in the vicinity of Fourth and Chestnut streets, William J. Bryan spread into place the trowel of mortar which completed the formal laying of the corner stone of the new Y. M. C. A. building.

In a brilliant speech, which preceded the final ceremony, Mr. Bryan praised the aims of the association and commended the work which it has performed in the past, predicting for it an even more successful future.

Despite the cold, raw wind which swept the streets, a great crowd had gathered to witness the ceremonies before Mr. Bryan was escorted upon the temporary platform erected for the occasion. The air was so cold that Mr. Bryan delivered his address without removing his hat or overcoat.

The services were simple in every respect. President J. G. Olmstead of the Y. M. C. A., as master of ceremonies, introduced Henry Wallace, who offered prayer, following which Mr. Bryan was presented and delivered his address, which with the ceremonies incident to the corner stone laying and a song by the glee club completed the program.

Mr. Bryan reviewed the early history of the association, its humble beginning in Great Britain two-thirds of a century ago, and commented on its wonderful growth. In connection with bringing the idea here from England he said:

"It is one of the good things which we have borrowed and I am glad that it is one of the things we can import without the formality of going through the customs house. Good ideas do not have to wait for a reciprocity agreement before we can utilize them."

He pointed out that the Y. M. C. A. now has invested in buildings \$65,000,000 with an annual expenditure for the support of the work of \$8,000,000 which he stated was four times the amount expended by the two great political parties in the last national election.

"These elections only occur once in four years," he said, "so by multiplying by four we get the immortal ratio of 16 to 1 both from a financial standpoint and the benefits accruing to the country at large."

He took up the name of the association, transposed the order of words and discussed them in successive order.

"Men," he said, "are called upon to face temptation more often than women and it is a matter of record that they are less able to withstand it. A trip through any of our penitentiaries will establish that fact beyond question."

"Youth is the period when man most needs strength against temptation. It is then that character is formed and the tendencies which will probably remain with him throughout life are fixed. That is the time when the association can reach out a helping hand and guide his steps aright."

"The value of human life is inconceivable. We have no means of telling what the boy will amount to when matured or what he will be worth to his country. It is far more pitiful a tragedy when a young man is permitted to go astray and waste his life than when a man goes down to death in an heroic endeavor."

"No institution pays so large dividends as the Y. M. C. A. It is cheaper to save a man than to punish him and it costs less to keep him from going astray than to keep watch on him afterward."

He laid great stress upon Christianity and the religious impulses which are back of the institution and declared that without those influences an organization of that character would never have been effected.

"It is the interest in the hearts of men and their lives which leads them to recognize their responsibility to the Creator and the working of the Divine plan."

"The institution has been one of the greatest in raising the standard of life, one of the greatest instruments for the uplifting of men and the advancement of civilization."

William J. Bryan was the guest of honor at the Brotherhood banquet held at the First Methodist church in the evening. He was introduced by Former Mayor A. J. Mathis as the "greatest living American" and made a brief speech in which he characterized the formation of the brotherhood and its widespread influence as one of the hopeful signs of the times.

"In its various phases," he said, "local, national and interdenominational, it will have a