

The Commoner.

Jackson Day Banquet at Washington

The Jackson Day banquet, held at Washington on the evening of January 8th, was largely attended.

Mr. Bryan's speech will be printed in full in a later issue of *The Commoner*.

Following are extracts from the Associated Press report:

Washington, Jan. 8.—Democratic leaders of the country, at the Jackson day dinner here tonight, urged their followers to stop fighting each other and assail the common enemy, the republican party, with a united front. Governor Woodrow Wilson of New Jersey, Speaker Champ Clark, William J. Bryan, William Randolph Hearst, Joseph W. Folk and other democratic chieftains who have differed in the past joined in an unanimous plea for harmony in 1912 and predicted that political victory would follow.

It was a tumultuous dinner, in which prospective candidates for the presidential nomination shared the honors of the occasion. Governor Wilson, who spoke earnestly on the issues of the day, was given a tremendous ovation. When he said it was the duty of the democrats in consideration of the trust problem "to pit the heads that we see and see that our shallales are of good hickory," the banqueters almost raised the roof.

When William Randolph Hearst declared he would use every "source and resource" in his power to bring about a democratic victory and characterized Theodore Roosevelt as a "harlequin of politics," there was another explosive outburst.

When Champ Clark, the speaker of the house, called attention to the harmonious action of the democratic majority in the lower house of congress and the results they had accomplished and set it up as an example for the party to follow, the climax of the democratic optimism of the occasion was reached.

Mr. Bryan, who followed many other speakers, predicted a revolution of political action at the polls in November and appealed without any suggestion as to who should be the standard bearer, for a united democracy. He was given an ovation that rivaled those of his campaigns for the presidency.

No party dissension, no sectional prejudice as to where the coming convention should be held, no partiality as to the nominee for president marked the Jackson day banquet at the Raleigh hotel, attended by nearly a thousand leading democrats from all sections of the country.

Harmony brooded over the banquet board, around which were seated delegates to the national democratic committee meeting, who only three hours before were involved in bitter controversy.

After the band had played "America," "Yankee Doodle" and "Dixie," and other patriotic tunes and the photographer from an overhead balcony had shouted: "Look pleasant, please," the array of democratic leaders facing the lens from the toastmaster's table, aroused tumultuous cheers from the assemblage.

Senator O'Gorman of New York, the toastmaster had at his right Champ Clark of Missouri, speaker of the house, one of Missouri's aspirants for the presidential nomination. To the right of Mr. Clark was Alton B. Parker of New York, defeated candidate for the democracy in 1904. Beside Mr. Parker sat Senator John W. Kern of Indiana, former candidate for vice president, who appeared as the champion of Governor Thomas R. Marshall the Hoosier aspirant for the highest honor of the coming democratic convention.

To the left of the toastmaster sat Norman E. Mack, chairman of the democratic national committee, and at his left was Mr. Bryan. Between Mr. Bryan and Governor Woodrow Wilson of New Jersey, who also seeks the presidential nomination, sat Senator Newlands of Nevada.

At Governor Wilson's left was Joseph W. Folk, who received the indorsement of his state committee for presidential honors. Next was Senator Pomerene of Ohio, who appeared as the representative of Governor Harmon.

First of the distinguished guests to enter the banquet hall was Speaker Clark, who was roundly cheered. Governor Wilson appeared a few minutes later and received a rousing welcome. Mr. Bryan's entrance was signalized by loud cheers, and he bowed smilingly to the throng of banqueters as he passed down the aisle to the toastmaster's table, shaking hands with his fellow democrats. Mr. Bryan and

Speaker Clark exchanged cordial greetings, but it was noticeable throughout the room that the Nebraskan was anxious to confer with Governor Wilson, whom he joined as soon as he had concluded a short talk with the speaker. Governor Wilson and Mr. Bryan talked for several minutes. Former Governor Folk was the last of the presidential possibilities to enter the banquet hall. Though he passed Speaker Clark's chair there was no sign of recognition from either of Missouri's distinguished sons. Mr. Folk, however, engaged Mr. Bryan in earnest conversation.

The dinner over, the program of toasts was inaugurated with the address of welcome from Edwin A. Newman, chairman of the district committee, who was followed by Senator O'Gorman, the toastmaster.

"The country is looking hopefully to the democratic party for relief from the manifold ills that afflict it," said Senator O'Gorman, "and a great triumph awaits us, a great opportunity for patriotic service and public usefulness is before us, if we but keep our ranks unbroken and adhere to the teachings of the man we honor here tonight."

Representative James T. Lloyd, chairman of the democratic congressional committee, presented a glowing prospect for the party's success in the coming campaign, and Alton B. Parker discussed briefly "some conditions of success." Mr. Parker saw a bright future for the party, but sounded a note of warning.

William Randolph Hearst, another of the orators of the occasion delayed by the storm, arrived late at the feast. Mr. Hearst reached the banquet hall just before the speaking began and was ushered to a seat at the speaker's table beside Senator Johnson of Maine. He was greeted with the same enthusiasm that attended the entrance of the other honored guests of the evening.

The democrats lingered long at the feast before the flood of oratory predicting the revolution of party control of the country's affairs began. During the festivities a demonstration was given Henry Gassaway Davis, veteran West Virginian, former senator and candidate for the vice presidency in 1904. Mr. Davis was cheered for several minutes when he was escorted to the toastmaster's table.

Norman E. Mack, chairman of the national committee kindled a fiery outburst at the beginning of the speaking program when he said:

"I think it is time we democrats stopped fighting one another and began an unanimous attack on the common enemy. The country is ready to turn its affairs over to the democratic party if we behave ourselves."

Governor Woodrow Wilson was cheered for several minutes when he arose to speak. The governor of New Jersey discussed the tariff and other issues before the country, but his reference to the currency question awakened the greatest interest.

William Randolph Hearst, who was given a rousing reception, expressed his faith in the principles of democracy and said his only desire was to lend his best efforts "to help true democrats control the party in the interest of true democracy."

"This coming election," said he, "and many elections to follow, will be decided by the independent, progressive voters of this country and this great body of intelligent citizens will realize that they can find the best expression of their ideals in a democratic party which has conscience and the courage to be truly democratic. Assuredly these progressive citizens will not follow Mr. Taft in the republican party, for Mr. Taft is either opposed to their ideas or else indifferent to them, or else incapable of comprehending them."

"Positively these progressives will not be able to support Mr. La Follette in the republican party, for Mr. La Follette belongs to the democratic party and will never be nominated for president by the republican party."

"Surely these genuine progressives will not fall in behind Mr. Roosevelt, who, when president, sacrificed every progressive principle for his own advantage and on every occasion has betrayed the interests of the people."

"To support Roosevelt would make the whole progressive movement ridiculous."

"The man is a very harlequin of politics, capering forward and backward and sidewise over every conflicting quarter of the political stage, masked as to his real opinion and intention, attired in the tinsel patchwork of opposing principles, carrying not a big stick, but a slap

stick with which to make much noise and do no service, appearing unexpectedly through every trap door of opportunism and disappearing acrobatically through every open window of time-serving expediency."

"With Roosevelt as harlequin and Root as Columbine, with Rockefeller as clown and Morgan likewise, the whole progressive movement would become a roaring Christmas pantomime scene, where prosperity would again dissolve into panic and where Morgan and Rockefeller revealed enthroned in Wall street, would once more save the country in order to divide it satisfactorily between themselves."

Judge Alton B. Parker, who preceded Governor Wilson, was the first speaker to make direct reference by name to former President Roosevelt. He called the assault on the trusts "a cheat and nasty fraud."

"The statement of Roosevelt that the trust law was impotent was untrue, and you lawyers know it," he said. "I charge now and when the opportunity is presented and I am asked for facts and figures I will prove it, that all his tirade against the law, the courts and the states was to attract attention away from the truth and that every bit of the responsibility for the conditions of today rests upon the republican party."

BRYAN IS LAST SPEAKER

Mr. Bryan, who came last on the program spoke on the subject, "The Passing Plutocracy."

Nothing that he said awoke so much applause as his poetic peroration quoted from Byron. This is what Mr. Bryan quoted:

"The dead have been awakened—shall I sleep? The world's at war with tyrants—shall I crouch? The harvest's ripe, and I pause to reap."

When Mr. Bryan had spoken these lines the banquet hall cheered with a deafening din. Here and there above the noisy tumult could be heard mingled cries of "Yes, stay asleep," and "You are still a live one." Mr. Bryan continued his quotation when the tumult had subsided and concluded with this:

"I slumber not—the thorn is in my couch; Each day a trumpet soundeth in my ear; Its echo in my heart."

In referring to political affairs Mr. Bryan characterized the movement for popular election of senators as the greatest national reform of the generation, and urged elimination of the partisan issue that has been injected into the controversy, asserting that neither of the great parties could hope to win a constitutional victory unaided.

He indorsed the direct primary and advocated its application to national elections in every state in the union.

Speaking of the future of congress, Mr. Bryan made a plea for the immediate declaration of the nation's purpose in the Philippine question, adhering to the democratic platform promise of independence.

In speaking of the approaching campaign as one giving promise of victory to the democratic party, Mr. Bryan warned his hearers "that at this time when the whole country is alive with progressive sentiment, it will be criminal folly for our party to falter in its onward march, or to show cowardice in the fact of the powerful enemy which is drawn up in battle before us."

"As much as we may be interested in the tariff question," he continued, "we must not ignore the menace of the trusts. The democratic party must meet immediately and boldly the issue presented by the supreme court in the Standard Oil and Tobacco decisions. The people will not trust a party that lacks the courage to challenge every public foe."

Mr. Bryan, emphasizing his prediction of democratic success as the early morning crept upon the banquet scene reiterated his determination not to be a candidate for the presidency.

"I have been unfortunate," he said, "in having been regarded by some as necessary to a democratic presidential campaign, and I have been accused of being over-ambitious for the presidency."

"No friend of mine need be told that I am so much more interested in the things for which we are struggling than I am in office, that I shall give more valiant service to he who bears the standard of our party than I ever could render to myself."

Urging that the constitutional amendment providing for popular election of United States senators now in conference be rid of partisan consideration, Mr. Bryan said:

"I appeal to the democrats of the house of representatives to show more interest in rescuing the senate from the control of corporations than in a desire for partisan success."