

# Mr. Bryan in North Carolina

Editorial in the Raleigh News and Observer: That was a magnificent audience that greeted Mr. Bryan in the auditorium last night. It seemed that all the city was there—the men and women, youths and maidens, and ambitious boys, who wished to hear the Nebraskan, and there were many who had come from a distance to hear him.

Mr. Bryan was in fine shape. He never looked better or spoke with more ease. The listener in the remotest corner of the building could hear him easily. He was the master of the great assemblage from the first words, well modulated, until he closed with an eloquent consecration of his powers to the service of his country that evoked spontaneous and enthusiastic applause.

Governor Aycock's introduction was almost as good as Bryan's oration, and he received an ovation hearty and sincere when he was presented by Mayor Johnson. There was nothing fulsome in his introduction. It was in excellent taste—and whetted the appetite for the speech that followed. He wisely gave himself time to detail Bryan's great contribution to the early fights for real tariff reduction, and enumerated his own well known sound views on the tariff—the principle upon which the democrats won in 1892, and the only

sound tariff principle that will best illustrate the fundamental democratic doctrine of hostility to special privilege.

Mr. Bryan's speech was a masterpiece. "A great speech," declared Governor Kitchin. "A wonderful oration, full of uplift," said Governor Aycock. "The speech of a great statesman," said Chief Justice Walter Clark. Similar expressions were heard on every hand. No report can do it justice. It delighted his hearers, who were surprised at its close that he had been speaking nearly two hours. Mr. Bryan's speeches make better men and better citizens. Raleigh has heard him several times before, and always with more pleasure and appreciation. Orator, statesman, wise prophet—may he live long to preach optimism and lead the way to better things.

### THE BIG BRYAN MEETING

From the news columns of the Raleigh News and Observer: The demonstration as Governor Aycock arose to present Mr. Bryan was big enough for the great visitor himself. It was the kind of enthusiasm that has marked his appearance everywhere he has ever spoken, one would have thought from the conduct of the crowd that it came with no other purpose than to hear North Carolina's great orator and commoner. In part Governor Aycock said:

"Ladies and Gentlemen: It has never been my custom in presenting a speaker to an audience to indulge in eulogy. If a speaker needs it, he does not deserve it, and if he deserves it, he does not need it. I shall not depart tonight from the wholesome rule, but I conceive it to be entirely fitting in presenting to you one who is known to us and all civilized peoples of the earth alike as the foremost orator of this generation to say a few words in reference to him.

"My first knowledge of Mr. Bryan as a public man was when as a young congressman he electrified the house of representatives and attracted the attention of the people of the entire United States by a speech on the tariff, illuminating that dark subject with a power of reason and a wealth of diction which have made the speech last until this day as one of the best which has ever been delivered. That speech showed to the American people a man who believed in the rights of the masses and did not believe in the privilege of the classes. There was then and is now much misconception with reference to the tariff. Possibly half of the American people believe that the government of the United States has the right under the the constitution to levy taxes not for the purpose of securing revenue for the necessary administration of the government, but with the sole end of conferring benefit upon certain members of the population engaged in a particular calling. Mr. Bryan's speech on this subject enforced the idea that all citizens of the United States ought to stand equal before the law; that the rights of all were the same, and that no man under our form of government is entitled to special privilege. He advocated this idea as a principle and pointed out that as a policy the principle would work out a fine result. Those who had grown strong, rich and powerful under the operation of laws specially favoring them were displeased with the speech and insisted that he was seeking to destroy industry. They were then and are now incapable of distinguishing between a right and a privilege. Mr. Bryan would take no right away

from any man however powerful and rich he may be. He makes no warfare upon wealth. He believes in industry and economy. He believes in prudence and right living. He believes in laying up during the sunshiny day something for the rain which is certain to come. He stands for property rights, but he denies that special privilege can hide itself under any claim of right in a free country proclaiming the equality of all the people.

We next see Mr. Bryan at the Chicago convention in 1896, battling again for the rights of the masses against the privileges of the classes. That was a world-famous fight. It brought him to the knowledge of all reading men throughout the world. His speech on that occasion placed him easily in the front of the notable orators of that day. It procured for him the nomination of his party for the presidency. Then came the tremendous campaign of that year—the campaign which attached to him with a devoted love which has never been shaken, a large part of the American people and won for him the admiration and respect of all those who differed from him. Crowds hung upon his every word wherever he spoke and multitudes gathered in the great cities to look into his inspiring face when even they were so far away as not to be able to hear the rich tones of his magnificent voice. It was in that campaign that we heard him proclaiming that the need of business was for more money, and we heard him insisting that with more money industry would bound forward with a mighty step; that agriculture and manufacture, transportation and commerce would feel the impelling power of rising prices; that labor would be more richly rewarded and capital win larger profits. We heard his adversaries insisting that what the country wanted was not more money but more confidence; that with a return to sanity and conservatism, with the restoration of confidence by letting existing conditions continue, business would be restored and prosperity distill as a gentle dew. The election came and by the use of enormous sums of money, by intimidation, by corruption, by ballot box stuffing and false counting, Mr. Bryan was defeated. The gold standard was adopted and government did all it could do to prevent any increase in the amount of money of the world. Despite of government, in the face of the efforts of the privileged classes, enterprise discovered the gold fields of Africa, the frozen Klondike yielded to the heat of men's eagerness for gold, the chemists discovered new processes by which gold could be separated from the baser metals in a cheaper fashion than ever before. All the earth began to open its stored gold and it began to pour into the channels of commerce—first in small rivulets, then in larger streams, until it ran through the industrial channels with a mighty sweep of power, raising prices, stimulating enterprise, causing invention, heartening the depressed, inspiring the eager, awakening the dormant powers of all the people of the earth, until a wave of prosperity spread over the world so great and so wonderful that Mr. Bryan's adversaries in the Massachusetts legislature seriously appointed a committee to inquire into the cause of the rise of prices, and that committee wisely and truly attributed the rise in prices in large measure to the increase of gold in the world, proving thereby that what Mr. Bryan said in 1896 that the business of the world demands more money was the everlasting truth. When this prosperity came, republicans who had in every way sought to prevent any increase in the supply of money, joyously announced to the world that they were responsible for prosperity,

and timid democrats laughed at and sneered at as idiotic supporters of the fallacy of the free coinage of silver, hid their blushing faces and with much shame confessed that they had been misled. To him who loves justice, political or otherwise, it is a gratifying thing to see a principle advocated by a seer justified in his lifetime through the particular remedy which he offered with which to correct the existing evil had been rendered unnecessary.

"We have recently known a man to become famous for the expression of a single sentence with reference to the trusts, and that is that 'crime is personal.' As far back as 1896 Mr. Bryan in one of his speeches announced that the trusts were seeking his defeat and added well they might because if elected he would see to it that the promoters of these unlawful combinations should transact business from behind prison bars.

"Thrice beaten for the presidency, he lives among us today strong, virile, patient, resting with calm certainty on the future, as day by day he sees the United States adopting one after another the things for whose advocacy he was denounced. Whose voice was it, pray, that first set the American people to thinking that a man was above a dollar? Who was it that persuaded the American people that the powers of the interstate commerce commission and of state corporation commissions should be extended so as to make public service corporations really responsive to the necessities of the public use? Who was it that taught and taught until all the world understood that great business must not be an exploitation of the wealth of others into the pockets of the exploiters, but must be a creation of values growing out of preparation and study and carefulness and economy and honesty? Who was it that hammered away at this lesson until he of the 'big stick' took it up and became a sort of conscience to the American people in their business development? I answer unhesitatingly, William Jennings Bryan. There are some men who have thought that there is a likeness between Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Bryan, and there is. They are both progressives, but Mr. Roosevelt's progress is toward a benevolent government of the people, while Mr. Bryan's progress is toward a beneficent government by the people. Mr. Roosevelt wants to govern the people well. Mr. Bryan wants the people to govern wisely. And these two men are typical of the two great parties of which each is the most distinguished private.

"The world grows and riches increase upon the face of the earth. Skill and effectiveness, initiative and invention are creating untold wealth; industry and scientific methods are prodigiously enlarging the capacity of production. Men who run private business, men who seek out the secrets of nature are doing well their work. The great need of the age and of the hour is men in politics and statesmen who shall find a better way for the utilization of these vast products of the earth and her industries so that all mankind shall share fairly in them. Absorbed as we all are in our own affairs, each seeking for himself the necessities if not the luxuries of life, each seeking advantage for himself and his family, all of us can feel and respond to the great awakening of the modern world, the earnest desire to see the betterment of those who have less than we, the strong passion for brotherhood, the yearning ambition to do something to bless and uplift mankind. As a leader in this line of thought, Mr. Bryan stands in the forefront. I present him to you as a man, a scholar, a patriot, an altruist, an orator, I present to you, Honorable William Jennings Bryan."

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