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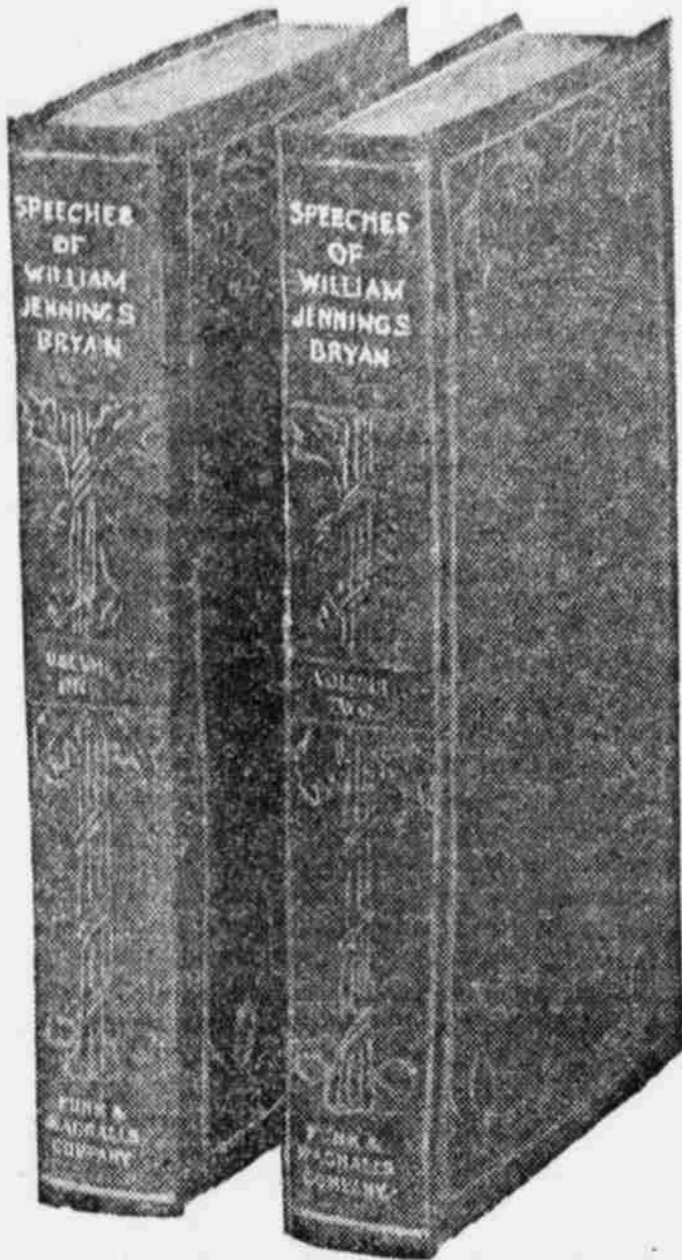
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BRYAN'S BIRTHDAY DINNER

(Continued from Page 7.)

States. The supreme court reversed the decision, but as several years had elapsed since the case was commenced the railroads had found out another way to do it, so that created no embarrassment for them whatever.

Very prominent lawyers in more than one circuit have told me that when a circuit or district United States judge had a son that had graduated and was ready to practice law it was quite common for the judge to call upon some law firm employed by some trust or combination, and say that his son was now ready to enter upon the practice of law, and ask if they knew of an opening, and of course the answer was, "Send him right over here, we have been looking for just such a man." So that in very many cases the United States judge sits upon the bench having graduated from the office of the attorneys for some great industrial combination and listens to the reading of a brief prepared by his own son, in the interests of the corporation for whom the judge had served before he went upon the bench.

These courts do not properly belong to our system of government. There is no place in a representative republic for an officer who holds his position for life appointed by another representative of the people with no power to remove, or to criticize or curb his action, and therefore these courts should be instantly abolished and in their place courts substituted that are elected by the people subject to recall, that is the courts of the several states.

If the people are capable of enacting laws, they are capable of saying what they meant by those laws when they enacted them, and the right to recall an unfaithful servant ought to be as great on the part of the people as upon the part of an individual.

The contest of the strong against the weak, the few against the many, has been going on for ages.

We are now entering upon a new phase of the world's social and economic development, the contest of the weak against the strong, of the many against the few, is moving around the world armed with the ballot and universal education. There can be no doubt about the ultimate result, the people will come into their own. They will come into possession of governments and laws, and the courts, and the property, and use them all for the development and uplifting of man.

If the democratic party does not write this issue into its platform and lead in this great contest as it can and should, then a new party will arise and leave the democratic party without a minion or a purpose—a wreck upon the shores of neglected opportunity.

"SHALL THE PEOPLE RULE"

Editorial in Omaha (Neb.) World-Herald: Mr. Bryan has issued a statement declaring that if he is elected a delegate to the Baltimore convention, and the democrats of Nebraska instruct him to vote for Harmon, he will refuse to carry out those instructions and will resign his commission.

It is difficult to believe that it is Mr. Bryan who says this. He has always pleaded for and demanded rule by the people. He has favored the primary system as against the convention system, because under the primary system the people are the bosses, and under the convention system the leaders are the bosses. He has pointed out that the weakness in representative government lies in the refusal of the people's chosen representatives to carry out their instructions.

Is Mr. Bryan now ready to declare

that he will not help the people to rule unless they rule as he instructs them to rule? That he will refuse to represent the democracy of Nebraska in the national convention unless they instruct him as he instructs them to instruct him?

If the people of the United States are qualified for self-government then the people of Nebraska are also qualified. If all the people are qualified for self-government that includes the democrats. It includes even the democrats of Nebraska. They make mistakes, at times, but, as Mr. Bryan has well said, the people are entitled to make their own mistakes. Their intentions are right and in the end their actions will be right.

Suppose there was a presidential preference primary law in all the states, as there ought to be and as, in a few years there will be. Suppose all the candidates for delegate to a democratic national convention should take the position Mr. Bryan has taken. What would be the result? It would be confusion, if not chaos. Two-thirds of the democrats of the country, even more, might conceivably be left without representatives in the convention.

If delegates are to refuse to carry out the people's will—if they are to refuse to serve unless they can put their own will superior to the will of the people—what is the use of electing them? What is the use of instructing them? Why not let the leader, or boss, of the party in each state name the delegates and instruct them himself?

An individual member of a party has the right to refuse to accept the judgment of his fellow members and to refuse to act with them. But the case is entirely different when that individual presents himself as one seeking a commission to represent his party on a particular issue, upon which the rank and file are to issue their instructions when they elect him. If he is determined in advance not to accept these instructions unless they are such as he wants them to be, then, it would seem, the dignified, fair and manly course would be for him to refuse to present himself as a candidate for the responsibility of representing them.

If Mr. Bryan is not willing to promise to abide by the instructions of the democrats of Nebraska he ought not to be a candidate.

THE IDLE ACRE

Have you an idle acre on your farm? If so, why not at once put it to some use—if for no other reason, that it may work no injury to yourself or to your neighbor? Every such acre, in a settled community, is an accuser, branding its owner—so says a contemporary—"as either thoughtless, wasteful or shiftless; possibly all three," says C. R. Barns, Minnesota university farm. On any such acre, weeds may grow sufficient to "seed down" a township and to increase the labors of the whole farming population. The broad areas of uncultivated land, which form so large a percentage of thousands of Minnesota farms, are a standing indictment of our systems of land ownership and taxation, as unreasonable and unjust. No man should be entitled to hold more land than he can fully cultivate or make otherwise useful to the community; as, for instance, in the growing of timber trees or in the maintenance of a well-stocked fishpond. Idle land could be so heavily taxed that nobody could afford to keep it out of use—it must be "cultivate or sell." But instead of observing this just rule, we punish with heavy taxation the farmer who improves and enriches his land, and let off, with only nominal taxation, the owner of idle acres. —Green's Fruit Grower (Rochester, N. Y.)

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