

## Speeches Delivered at Bryan Birthday Dinner

Following are the speeches delivered at the Bryan birthday dinner, March 19, by Congressman Henry, and Frederick Townsend Martin:

In referring to Mr. Henry, Mr. Bryan said: Congressman Henry of Texas is winning new laurels each year as a sturdy and uncompromising foe to every form of public graft and greed. I have known him for sixteen years and have found him ever on the watch for an opportunity to render service to his fellows. His most recent achievement has been in compelling a more thorough investigation of the Money trust than some of the democratic members were willing to permit. With a skill that comes only with extended experience and with a fidelity that is found only when the heart is right, he has stood in the forefront of the fight and won his contention in the interest of the people. I wanted you to hear him discuss this subject, and I am sure that he will return to Washington stronger for his work because of the encouragement you have given him—as you will be stronger because of the instruction he has imparted to you. Nebraska is indebted to Texas for loaning Congressman Henry to us for this occasion.

Mr. Henry spoke in part as follows:

The position of the democratic party is misunderstood in regard to wealth and corporations. Our party is not opposed to dominancy in business achieved by fair enterprise and normal methods of dealing whether by corporations or individuals. Monopoly is not constituted by size alone. Many who opposed the democratic party persist in misrepresenting its position, and it is appropriate in this presence that I should state what I conceive to be our view. What we do criticize and condemn is the combinations, conspiracies and concert of action between corporations and individuals in the form of trusts and otherwise for the purpose of restraining trade and destroying competition. It is proper that I should allude to the decision of the supreme court recently considering the Sherman anti-trust statute. The democratic party believes that congress should speedily legislate the rule of reason out of that statute as inserted by the judicial amendment of the supreme court. In addition to that, we think that the acts constituting a trust should be clearly defined by statutory enactment. Furthermore, we believe that such offenses should be denounced as villainous and the offenders imprisoned in the penitentiary. A few trust magnates decorated with penitentiary stripes would be an example to deter future offenders and put to route this breed of violators of the law. Furthermore, it is essential to a correct solution of the question that the mandate of the Denver platform should be enforced by placing imports competing with trust controlled articles on the free list.

This brings me to the subject of the great money monopoly in New York which is in league with the industrial trusts and great trust railways. They are taking under its wings these institutions, and the three are daily violating the anti-trust statutes by concert of action, conspiracies, agreements and joint system of controlling finances. The money monopoly is composed of not exceeding twelve men. These men control the banks of New York that have monopolized more than seventy-five per cent of the industrial trusts and trunk railways, absorbing their bank deposits and financial resources. It is admitted by the Wall Street Journal that J. Pierpont Morgan is in practical and substantial control of every bank and banking institution in the city of New York. It is utterly impossible to set up competition to one of these railroads or corporations now under the wing of the money monopoly. By requiring these trusts and railroads to deposit their bankable funds and resources in the vaults of the New York banks and trust companies, they are enabled to direct how they shall be loaned or how they shall not be loaned, and are in a position to reward their friends and punish their enemies to the fullest extent. What America needs in regard to this question more than anything else is the blazing light of publicity thrown upon this condition and system by a thorough congressional investigation. We will be groping in the dark until the conditions are uncovered and the truth revealed and utterly unable to legislate on the currency question and the trust problems.

An investigation of the records in the treasury department and those of the great banking institutions of New York will demonstrate that the people's tax money paid into the treasury of the United States has been and is frequently

hurried from the vaults of the treasury and the banking institutions of New York for the purpose of furthering stock gambling, speculative schemes in other countries and to manipulate market prices of cotton, grain and agricultural products. Beyond controversy we know that Cortelyou, Roosevelt's secretary of treasury in 1907, hurried to the city of New York more than forty-seven millions of dollars of the people's money out of the treasury of the United States and poured it into the coffers of the great bankers there, principally among the four largest controlled by J. Pierpont Morgan and the Standard Oil group. This was done for the sole purpose of allowing these bankers to engage in scandalous stock gambling and doubtful speculative enterprises with the people's money. It is admitted by the Wall Street Journal that two groups now control practically the entire financial resources of New York and this country, to-wit, the Morgan group with a financial ability and capital of more than eleven hundred and nine millions of dollars and the Standard Oil group of more than eighteen hundred and seventy-five millions of dollars. Recently in a public address we find this language: "The great monopoly in this country is the money monopoly. \* \* \* This is the greatest question of all, and to this statesmen must address themselves with an earnest determination to serve the long future and the true principles of man." These are words of patriotic wisdom and far-seeing prophecy uttered by the great progressive democrat, Woodrow Wilson.

Permit me to refer to the Aldrich currency scheme for a few brief moments. It is undeniably designed to entrench the moneyed monopoly more securely in its present position of power. Bad as the present system is, it is a hundred times preferable to the conspiracy of Aldrich and his followers to insure by his plan the life of the money monopoly for generations to come at the expense of the blood and brain and labor and resources of the ninety millions of people.

You will permit me to pay my respects to the Mad Mullah of recent African hunting fame now giving his presidential appointee, Mr. Taft, a square deal with a brick bat. Years ago he wrote, "The men who object to what they style government by injunction are in hearty sympathy with their remote skin-clad ancestors who lived in caves, fought one another with stone-head axes and ate the woolly rhinoceros. They are not in sympathy with men of good minds and sound, civic morality." He now not only wants to upset government by injunction but kick at the judges and rip up their decisions. He is a mixture and strange being. In New York in company with George W. Perkins and the steel trust he appears like a kitten. In fact, there is shown not the difference of an eyelash between the big stick and the big trusts. Out of New York he preaches progressive principles, but it is plain to see that he is chaperoned by Perkins and the trust magnates whom he protected while in office while he had the chance to bend the big stick over their heads when they were committing bigamy with the Tennessee Coal and Iron company.

### SPEECH OF FREDERICK TOWNSEND MARTIN

Frederick Townsend Martin, of New York, delivered an address on the subject of "The Idle Rich." In referring to Mr. Martin, Mr. Bryan said:

But the last speaker on our program, Mr. Frederick Townsend Martin, is more than the peer of any of the other speakers in the possession of courage. It requires a hero to combat the sophistries of the social environment in which he was born and grew to manhood. To condemn the idle rich in the most exclusive social circles of New York requires much more independence than any of us have been called upon to exhibit on the western prairies, and I honor Mr. Martin for the work that he has done and is doing in bringing the just demands of the poor to the attention of the rich. I first met Mr. Martin at Atlanta two years ago last December. I found him interested in the establishment of a home for American ambassadors at foreign courts, and it was there that I first heard him utter his warning to the idle rich. Until recently the rich have had a monopoly of the diplomatic branch of the service, and I was attracted to Mr. Martin when I found him attacking from altruistic motives a monopoly which his class enjoyed. I had become acquainted with the undemocratic charac-

ter of our diplomatic service when I first visited Europe and had on my return to this country brought before a committee in Washington and urged the purchase of homes for ambassadors on two grounds, first, that no deserving person should be excluded from government service merely because of his lack of a large fortune, and, second, because the owning of the homes in which our ambassadors live would enable us to control their style of living—make them live like Americans and not ape the aristocracies of the old world in extravagance. Since I first met him Mr. Martin has written several magazine articles on the subject which he discussed tonight, and these convinced me that something had happened to him although I did not know at first just what it was, but when a few months ago I read a speech that he delivered at one of the missions in a poor section of New York, I understood what had happened to him. He was talking to the poor and telling them that the rich and the poor are children of the same God and must stand together and make their fight for better conditions. Then I knew what had happened; he had taken hold of the doctrine of brotherhood and was putting it into practice.

I desire to thank Mr. Martin for coming from New York to deliver this message to us, and I am sure that you will appreciate the message all the more when you understand what it costs him to combat the influences which have environed him.

This completes the galaxy of speakers who have done honor to this occasion and a strong group of men are they.

Mr. Martin spoke as follows: My Dear Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen—I deem it an honor and a privilege to be present here tonight and take part in this celebration. I am glad with you that our dear friend, William Jennings Bryan, statesman, orator and genius, was born, and express with you the hope that he may live to an age that shall distinguish him even more than would a United States presidency.

Were I the fortunate possessor even of a fragment of the wonderful genius which has distinguished our friend, I should not now be compelled to impose upon you by reading these few ideas.

A distinguished life is more worthy of honor than a distinguished birth. Our honored friend, William Jennings Bryan is a man of such true qualities that he need not label himself with genealogical tables or live on the reputation of his fathers. I know nothing of the glories of his ancestry but we all know that his life is a credit not only to himself, his nation, but his generation.

Men used to borrow merit from the dead but a grandfather is no longer a social institution. Men do not live in the past. They merely look back. Forward is the universal cry. This brings me to my subject.

We live in an age of rapid and profound change. The very foundations of the world seem to be giving away.

Forty years ago I was a boy in a conventional American home. The atmosphere of that home was still under the vitalizing influence of the nation's great struggle. Lincoln was enshrined. Longfellow and Emerson, Hawthorne and Irving, were constantly read. At that time, the good and bad of Europe had not deeply affected America. We were more provincial, to be sure, but there was bliss and simplicity and innocence.

Morally and intellectually, the life of the family and the life of the state were settled. We knew there was a God. We were positive as to just what was right and what was wrong. The Bible, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the fact of the assured greatness of our country, the power of our religious, political and social ideals to save the world—our faith in these was our "Rock of Ages." And to these must be added the absolute belief in the theory that it was the sacred duty of every human being to serve his kind.

Just in how far these fundamentals are now broken and scattered, I shall not attempt to say. But it is true that the Bible is no longer read, that religion has lost its hold, that the constitution and the laws are trampled upon by the rich and powerful, and are no longer held as sacred by the poor and weak.

Instead of Hawthorne, we read Zola and Gorky; instead of Longfellow and Bryant, we read Ibsen and Shaw. Among many perfectly respectable, aye, even religious people, the name of Nietzsche is more familiar than that of Cardinal Newman! I do not know whither we are going, but I do know that we are going.

Nor would I be understood to imply, even for a moment, that we are going to destruction. I have profound faith in the ultimate sources of