

Harmon in Nebraska

O'Neill, Neb., April 5, 1912—Hon. Judson Harmon, Governor of Ohio, Columbus, Ohio—Dear Sir: When it was announced that you would make a fight to secure the preference vote in Nebraska as the democratic candidate for president, many of us were much surprised. We knew that you were not making any effort to capture the delegations from Iowa to the east of us, from Kansas to the south of us, from South Dakota to the north of us, or from Wyoming or Colorado to the west of us. . . . We have naturally inquired why you selected Nebraska as the only state west of the Mississippi river in which to make a fight for delegates. We readily realized that the Wall street interests were bitterly hostile to Mr. Bryan, who was the biggest factor in taking the democratic party out of Wall street's control. We know that two years ago there was a sharp difference on a purely local question—the liquor question—and that by reason of this unfortunate local difference many democrats had become hostile to Mr. Bryan personally. It seemed to us that big business thought that it could utilize the liquor question to divide the democrats of Nebraska and repudiate in Mr. Bryan's home state the principles of progressive democracy for which he has stood. That we were right in this is apparent from the work of your organization in Nebraska. The organization is spreading literature in foreign languages for the express purpose of stirring up opposition to Mr. Bryan on the question of sumptuary laws.

Practically the entire fight against you in Nebraska has been conducted by the friends of Woodrow Wilson. You are coming to Nebraska for the purpose of explaining or denying, it is said, some things we have been saying about you. What the people want, governor, are the facts and not explanations.

Is it true, governor, that the platform on which you were elected declared for the initiative and referendum? Is it true, governor, that you went before the Ohio constitutional convention and opposed the placing in the new constitution of a provision providing for the initiative and referendum?

The records in the federal court at Cincinnati show that in December, 1905, on the application of the Pierpont Morgan interests; you were appointed receiver of the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton railroad, in which the Morgan interests were trying to freeze out the small investors. The record does not show what your salary was as receiver. If you and the Morgan interests settled this privately it was not legally necessary that the record should show it. You continued to be such receiver until the property was practically disposed of, in so far as a receivership was concerned, in August, 1909. What salary did you receive from the Morgan interests during that period? There is no way in the court records to discover it. But you know what it was, governor, and so does Pierpont Morgan. The checks with which you were paid are still in existence. Publish the checks, governor.

When you were appointed receiver, the law firm of which you were a member, was, upon like request of the Morgan interests, made counsel for you as receiver. The salary fixed for the counsel fees was \$10,000 a year. You have abundant time between now and the time you deliver your address to secure from the Pierpont Morgan interests, the checks given to you as receiver, and the checks given to your law firm. In the presidential contest the people are not interested particularly in "explanations." They are not interested in any local question. But they are interested in your relations with the Morgan interests. Give us the facts. Publish the checks, governor; publish the checks.

Very few democrats in Nebraska would vote for Pierpont Morgan for president. But they would rather vote for Morgan than vote for Morgan's hired man. Publish the checks, governor; publish the checks. Yours truly, M. F. HARRINGTON.

WALL STREET FOR HARMON

On March 30, 1912, the correspondent of the Philadelphia Enquirer sent the following special telegram which appeared on March 31st:

"It was reported on good authority tonight that E. R. Bacon, a prominent Wall street financier and railroad man, will meet Governor Judson Harmon, of Ohio, here tomorrow for a conference regarding the financing of the Harmon

campaign for the democratic presidential nomination. This is taken to indicate that Governor Harmon has now secured powerful Wall street backing in his campaign."

True to prediction made, the next day found Mr. Bacon who is a prominent Wall street financier and railroad man, an intimate friend and representative of J. Pierpont Morgan at Washington, and all the papers reported that he dined with Governor Harmon and discussed plans with him for the carrying of the presidential primaries of the several states including Nebraska. If any further evidence was wanted as to who Wall street was for this furnishes it. If the democratic party wants to tie itself to Wall street's kite, let them nominate Governor Harmon but let no democrat say that he has not been warned in advance that Wall street is for Harmon.—From circular issued by Ohio Progressive league.

LEST WE FORGET

As a reminder of the calumnious attacks that were made on Bryan and Bryanism 16 years ago, a brief extract of an editorial commenting on the defeat of the democratic candidate in 1896 is herewith reproduced:

"The thing was conceived in iniquity and was brought forth in sin. It had its origin in a malicious conspiracy against the honor and integrity of the nation. It gained such monstrous growth as it employed from an assiduous culture of the basest passions of the least worthy members of the community. It has been defeated and destroyed because right is right and God is God. Its nominal head was worthy of the cause. Nominal, because the wretched, rattle-pated boy, posing in vapid vanity and mouthing resounding-rottenness, was not the real leader of that league of hell. He was only a puppet in the blood-imbued hands of Altgeld the anarchist and Debs the revolutionist and other desperadoes of that stripe. But he was a willing puppet, Bryan was, willing and eager. Not one of his masters was more apt than he at lies and forgeries and blasphemies and all the nameless iniquities of that campaign against the Ten Commandments. He goes down with the cause, and must abide with it in the history of infamy. He had less provocation than Benedict Arnold, less intellectual force than Aaron Burr, less manliness and courage than Jefferson Davis. He was the rival of them all in deliberate wickedness and treason to the republic. His name belongs with theirs, neither the most brilliant nor the most hateful in the list. Good riddance to it all, to conspiracy and conspirators, and to the foul menace of repudiation and anarchy against the honor and life of the republic."

This is not a quotation from some little country weekly in which partisanship is supposed to take the place of brains, but is taken from an issue of the New York Tribune of the latter part of November, 1896. This paper was founded by Horace Greeley and was one of the great forces that made for the freedom of the slave and the maintenance of the union, but which since has sold out body and boots to the parasitic crowd that hang about the house of Dives. It is significant that at this time so many people who applauded such sentiments as expressed in this Billingsgate editorial have experienced a change of heart and now see in this Mr. Bryan a leader of great courage and sound judgment. This all goes to show that the country is almost to overtake Bryanism of 16 years ago and that when he stood way out above and beyond the small-bore politician and time-serving office-seeker, they could never understand his creed nor fathom his motive. The last decade and a half has witnessed a wondrous change in the conscience and wisdom of American citizenship and it may not be many years until the old rule, that a brilliant man can not be elected president of the United States, may have its exception, and when a man of great heart, clear foresight and unselfish patriotism may sit in the executive chair and in appealing to the honor and understanding of the citizens of our country he will not be called a demagogue and anarchist.—South Bend (Ind.) New Era.

THEN AND NOW

There are some democrats in the state of Ohio who seem to forget that the mighty uprising of the masses of the democratic people in 1896, the revolution within the party and without the party, was the beginning of a distinctive era in the political history of this country. Some there were then who failed to note its significance, failed to measure its power, failed to comprehend its breadth and its depth as a popular movement, and do not today realize what it has

done for the people in its transformation from a state of dormancy into full and living action of their powers in the government of the republic.

The democratic party was defeated in 1896, but was tenfold stronger with the people after that defeat than it was before the convention of that year. Defeated in 1893, 1894, 1895, it seemed for a time that the party was to be lost forever through errors of administration, resultant disorganization, loss of confidence by the people and deadly antagonism of the voters to the policies of the Wall street of that time, and to the men in power who were banded together to carry them into effect.

The democrats of Ohio were in the very front rank of the progressives of 1896, they fought splendidly the contest in the state that year and bore the brunt of the fight for the nation. There were a few deserters then; there were men who were controlled from Wall street then and there are men who today take their orders from the captains of industry and shape their political courses upon exactly the same instructions as they did in 1896.

They said the democratic party was wrong then in its progressive action, and they are just as reactionary today as they were when they deserted in 1896. They are not for the people; they are for those who exact financial tribute from the people. They are for the trusts, the combines and the corporations. They have been devoted servants to them and owe allegiance to their interests.

These men do not control the democratic party of the state and they can not deliver that superb fighting organization to the support of any Wall street attorney, agent or representative. The democrats of Ohio are thoroughly progressive, and they will stand by progressive men and progressive leaders in spite of the efforts of superserviceable placemen, or of tricky politicians or other Wall street assistants to use them to advance the interests of the combines.

There will be not one backward step taken by the democrats of Ohio. They will support no one for president who is not a recognized progressive.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

THE IDEAL REPUBLIC

William J. Bryan at Indianapolis in 1900 (reproduced by the South Bend, Ind., New Era): I can conceive of a national destiny surpassing the glories of the present and past—a destiny which meets the responsibilities of today and measures up the possibilities of the future.

Behold a republic, resting securely upon foundation stones quarried by revolutionary patriots from the mountain of eternal truth—a republic applying in practice and proclaiming to the world the self-evident proposition that all men are created equal; that governments are instituted among men to secure these rights; that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.

Behold a republic in which civil and religious liberty stimulate all to earnest endeavor, and in which the law restrains every hand uplifted for a neighbor's injury—a republic in which every citizen is sovereign, but in which no one cares to wear a crown.

Behold a republic standing erect, while empires all around are bowed beneath the weight of their own armaments—a republic whose flag is loved, while other flags are only feared.

Behold a republic increasing in population, in wealth, in strength and in influence, solving the problems of civilization and hastening the coming of a universal brotherhood—a republic which shakes thrones and dissolves aristocracies by its silent example, and gives light and inspiration to those who sit in darkness.

Behold a republic gradually but surely becoming the supreme moral factor in the world's progress and the accepted arbiter of the world's disputes—a republic whose history, like the path of the just, "is as the shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."