

Mr. Bryan at Baltimore

Lincoln (Neb.) Journal: The party came to scoff its old leader, but remained to pray for his help in getting the offices. The men who had decided to feed him to the lions became frightened over the furore he had created and finally gave in to his "impractical" but imperious leadership.

Lincoln (Neb.) Journal: Mr. Bryan brought the convention around to his own views by the skillful use of the lime light. His personality and experience gave him control of the publicity machine, which he used against the conservatives with deadly effect. He threw the full glare of the newspaper headlines of the nation now upon Parker, now upon Murphy, now upon Clark. In a couple of days he had the leaders in a panic. But he would still have failed in his main purpose if it had not been for the two-thirds rule. That prevented the leaders from putting Clark over early in the proceedings, as they had planned to do, and gave Bryan a chance to bring up his reserves in the shape of telegrams from the home states. These telegrams, sheer weariness and the persistent talk that "Wilson can win" finally brought about a result that did not seem possible.

Philadelphia North American: This newspaper always has regarded William Jennings Bryan as an honest man, a pure patriot and a great American. His character and his conduct in public affairs, we believe, always have rested on right fundamental principles. We have sharply disagreed with Mr. Bryan regarding the methods and the remedies which he has proposed at various times for evils, the existence of which we recognized, as he did. But never have we doubted his excellence of purpose, and never have we belittled his share in the great progressive advance.

His course at Baltimore during the last week has strengthened our belief in his patriotic purposes. In his whole career he never did a more heroic act than when he offered himself as a candidate for temporary chairman of the democratic convention. Alton B. Parker had been recommended by the national committee for that position. Judge Parker was notoriously the candidate of special privilege, which then controlled, and which still controls, the majority of the democratic convention.

Ignoring the consequences to his personal prestige and to his own possible nomination, Mr. Bryan forced the issue, so as to unmask immediately the line of battle and the reserves of the forces of special privilege. And though he met personal defeat for a minor post at the hands of a democratic convention, such as three times in sixteen years had honored him with the nomination for the presidency, it was in reality a voluntary and useful sacrifice for the cause which he holds higher than his own fortunes.

San Francisco Star: Mr. Bryan gratefully realizes, as many of the rest of us do, that the people are in no mood to dally longer with those forces that make for a soulless plutocracy. He realizes, as many others do, that in one way or another—peacefully, we trust—a revolution is coming which will place the actual, as well as nominal, power of self-government in the hands of American citizens; and he knows, as do all save the partisan and selfishly blind, that the democracy now must be true to the masses or the light of

its one-time glory forever will have departed from it.

This is no time for dalliance with Wall street emissaries; no time for listening to the whispered suggestions of those who consider property rather than men; no time for joining right hands, or hands of any sort, with those who esteem the people's government a thing for personal exploitation.

Huntingdon (Tenn.) Democrat: What ever else may be said of Bryan, he is not afraid. He has convictions and will not sacrifice those convictions for place or favor. He is always willing to meet an issue, and he does it in the open. He is wise in council and brave in battle, and above all he is the friend of the common people. A man of that type always makes enemies and finds strong opposition.

He subjected himself to much adverse criticism by opposing the election of Judge Parker as temporary chairman of the Baltimore convention. He did this because he believed he saw in those backing Parker the friends of the predatory interests, and he did not want this to be a convention by those interests. In his opinion if the democratic party is to succeed in November it must in some way distinguish itself from the republican party, and if the same interests dominate both parties where are the distinguishing features to come in. Those who criticize him most severely are those seeking control and those who want to see the party win without reference to principle, or to the methods used in securing the victory.

He told a truth when he said that the big interests are with the party that serves them. These selfish and oppressive interests will always find in Bryan an enemy that is unafraid, and one that will fight in victory or defeat.

Fort Smith (Ark.) Southwest American: The persistent and consistent followers of William J. Bryan for the past sixteen years, men who have never faltered in their fealty to him, and who have never doubted his sincerity, integrity and honesty of purpose, have had their faith in him renewed and strengthened by the Baltimore result. Not only that, thousands and thousands of voters in this country who have watched his great fight for political honesty and party trustworthiness have turned to him while the battle with the men of privilege and their representatives raged about his head in that trying hour. He is the biggest man and the most trusted one in the American nation today and through his great leadership and generalship the real democracy of the nation is soon to come into its own—a democratic president who will be truly democratic—for Woodrow Wilson is to be elected president next November beyond the shadow of a fear or doubt.

Lincoln (Neb.) News: The democratic convention was not disgraced by colored delegates working under a system which greatly enhanced their power beyond that of delegates from other states, but it was hampered by practically the same system working for some of the white delegates—the Tammany crowd. About half of the population of New York state is in New York City, the democratic part of which is controlled by Tammany. Out in the state the democrats are overwhelmingly opposed to Murphy and his henchmen; but by virtue of his control of the machine Murphy could

cast New York's entire ninety votes as a unit in the Baltimore convention. The blight of Murphyism and Tammanyism is steadily decreasing the democratic vote in New York City. But because he has control of the party machinery in this city, which dominates the party machinery of the state, this leader of a vampire political society is able to make himself the misrepresentative of thousands of democrats, and exerts a force in national politics which might easily prove to be a deciding influence.

STANCHFIELD AND HIS CLIENTS

Lincoln (Neb.) News: John B. Stanchfield, the New York lawyer who, as a member of the New York delegation at Baltimore made a bitter attack on Bryan, calling him a publicity-seeking, money-grubbing marplot, is the attorney of record for August Belmont and Thomas F. Ryan in several of their big deals, according to the New York World. He was merely serving as the tool of these men and made the reply to Bryan which they, themselves, dared not make. The attack on Bryan loses some of its force when this is known, for it could hardly be expected that an employe of the Belmont-Ryan crowd who draws his large salary from them and because of the position they have taken for themselves, would be anything but opposed to a man who was exerting all of his mighty power to overthrow them and change the conditions which enable them to continue their unfair advantages over the people. Stanchfield's attack was not simply the personal belief of one delegate, as it appeared on the surface, but it was the biting back of the monster of special privilege which realized that it was brought to bay and was forced to fight a losing fight.

Washington (D. C.) Times: "With William J. Bryan and his charge made in the convention today, the issue is proof or retraction. I shall expect him to meet that issue."—Champ Clark.

Mr. Ajax defied the lightning, but that was on a cool, clear day. The Baltimore sky just now looks like the inside of a brass kettle and most of the wise citizens are carrying umbrellas. It sure looks like a shower that will test the weather proofness of Champ's political raincoat.

Washington (D. C.) Times: The official undertaker for the democratic convention is having a very busy time. He was ordered to prepare for one of the most elaborate political funerals ever seen in these parts. But when they started to screw on an elaborate name plate engraved "William Jennings Bryan," the undertaker found that the deceased had a full head of hair. As a matter of fact, the man they thought they were going to bury wasn't even sick.

New York Sun: Of Mr. Bryan it may fairly be said that he was "the" big figure of the convention. His spectacular actions may have caused bitterness here in Baltimore this week, but, on the whole, it is hardly to be doubted that they will help the ticket immensely at the election in November. For they put the stamp of progressiveness indelibly upon the actions of this convention.

Part of the debt of the convention's members and visitors to Mr. Bryan the Sun has already acknowledged. Another part it hereby confesses, and that is the debt we are all under to him for keeping things lively during the proceedings, for furnishing to those present the greatest political entertainment of recent times. And the best thing we can say of him just now is this:

That in the last few hours preceding the nomination of Mr. Wilson, when various statesmen and orators were usurping the limelight; when representatives of Alabama, and Missouri, and New York, and Massachusetts, and California and other states were releasing their candidates and explaining their views and setting themselves straight; when the thought uppermost in the minds of most of the people present was of the Nebraskan and what he was thinking of it all, Mr. Bryan was content to sit quietly in his chair, with an enigmatic smile on his face, and let others mount the stage.

He was the one man there who did not have to remind the convention visitors and the convention delegates of his presence!

New York World: Mr. Bryan was the hero of the Baltimore convention. There can be no doubt of that.

He might have done more, he might have done less and he might have done some things differently, but he is the man who made the fight; he is the man who shaped the issues; he is the man who controlled events.

Whether in all things wisely, whether in all things unselfishly, whether in all things loyally devoted to Governor Wilson, it was his courage, his clearness of vision, his knowledge of the forces with which he had to contend and his splendid mental and physical endurance that gained the day.

We pay this tribute to Mr. Bryan because it is deserved, and we find the more pleasure in it because for many years past there have been occasions almost without number on which we were compelled to disagree with him and to oppose him.

It has seemed at times that Mr. Bryan's purpose was not to strengthen himself. That suspicion attached to him at Baltimore and it delayed his triumph. Indeed, the glory of his achievement is doubled by the fact that it was brought about at last as much by foes convinced as by friends who never doubted.

Washington (D. C.) Times: William Jennings Bryan, powerful, relentless, magnificent, is the towering obstruction to the attempts of certain great interests to steer the democratic craft over the course they had mapped out for it. They sought to hold out the idea this was the smooth, easy, and safe course to success at the polls next November. Bryan believed their piloting headed the party to utter ruin, and meant a third party in this country.

And back of Bryan stand millions of determined democratic voters who, like Bryan, believe the democratic party, like the republican, has come to the parting of the ways.

Bryan, and the millions back of him, believe that there is just one way to save the democratic party, and that is to lop off remorselessly the selfish, corrupt and corporate influences which have had so large a part in shaping the policies of both democratic and republican parties in the past.

THE LEADING FACTOR AT BALTIMORE

Pittsburgh Post: On June 9th, last the Post in commenting upon Mr. Bryan's influence in democratic councils, had this to say: "One of the leading factors in the democratic national convention, which is to convene in Baltimore on June 25, will be William J. Bryan. Mr. Bryan has taken a very important part in the contest for delegates, assisting, wherever possible, the progressive candidates as against the conservatives. As a result of this, his influence in the nomination of a pres-