The Commoner.

Bryan Wins Great Fight When Timid Friends Falter

(By Virgil V. McNitt, for Central Press Ass'n.)

Washington, July 19 .- What is to be the political future of William J. Bryan? His enemies have ceased predicting that he is eliminated. You can not eliminate a man who holds the confidence of great numbers of people, nor can such a man abdicate his leadership when his followers decline to let him.

It is a part of Mr. Bryan's philosophy that to be worthy of participation in a great cause, one must not be fraid to die. There were plenty of good men at the democratic convention-timid good men who feared to disturb harmony, who shivered with apprehension every time Bryan set out to make a stand for principle.

To oppose Parker, to denounce Ryan and Murphy and Belmont, and to renounce the aid of the predatory interests, in view of the spirit of the convention, looked like political suicide for Bryan. He undoubtedly took his political life in his hands whenever he rose in the convention. He knew that he could not he p making enemies, and he knew that any chance he might have for the nomination would be destroyed. He was not seeking the nomination, and he preferred to fight for the right rather than to avoid enmities.

During the Chicago and Baltimore conventions I worked in close association with Mr. Bryan, and, a non-combatant myself, was enabled to see a great deal of his fight from the inside.

Bryan expected to find a progressive convention at Baltimore, and he planned to take an inconspicuous part in its affairs. He felt sure that assembled democracy would realize that its supreme opportunity had come. He found instead that Thomas F. Ryan was on the job ahead of him, a very busy delegate, though a very quiet one. He found Charles Murphy, of Tammany, in high favor. He heard rumors of plans for a money-bags campaign with plenty of swag for the workers.

Amid almost tearful pleadings to keep out and to let harmony prevail, Bryan made his fight for the temporary chairmanship, and was defeated. Very few men in Baltimore had the sagacity to congratulate Bryan on this defeat, and very few could understand his appearance of good cheer afterward. There was great gloom among some of his friends. "If Bryan had only listened to reason!" they exclaimed mournfully. The truth of the matter is that most of Bryan's enemies and many of his friends lacked the clearness of vision which should have made plain the fact that his first defeat was in reality a victory, as it brought to him reinforcements of millions of home folks who stayed by his side from that time, and helped him win his final victory. It is needless to recount the incidents connected with the presentation of the Morgan-Ryan-Belmont resolution. It took a bitter struggle to get it before the convention, and even after it was adopted it was denounced as the monumental work of folly of a determined trouble-maker. A week afterward the newspapers that so denounced it were forced to admit that by this act Bryan divided the sheep from the goats, gave the convention a character, and made possible the nomination of Wilson.

found Mr. Bryan dictating to Bob Rose, in the most calm and matter-of-fact manner conceivable, the opening sentence of his story for the morning papers:

"This has been a day of interesting developments."

Mr. Bryan took his stand against Speaker Clark very reluctantly. He was disappointed and perplexed when so many of the Clark delegates voted against him in his fight for the temporary chairmanship, but his own course was in no way shaped through this partial desertion by his friend Clark. "It is hard to part with old friends," he said. "This is the saddest part of politics."

Champ Clark, abetted by Hearst, scored Bryan roundly, but Bryan's replies may be summed up in these words: "I have not accused Mr. Clark of wrongful acts, but merely of failure to act. He is generally beloved, and his failure to secure the nomination is no reflection on his personal character or general ability."

Mr. Bryan's valedictory in the closing hours of the convention, when he surrendered the leadership to Woodrow Wilson and pledged his support to the ticket, was received with an attention so close that the proverbial pin might have been heard had anyone dropped it. The convention was willing at last to show respect to the man who had possessed the courage to oppose the majority, and by opposing, save it from its own mistakes.

Mrs. Bryan was with her husband through the convention, and she stood by him solicitiously through all his struggles, urging him to get more rest, and taking care that he did not forget his meals. When reminded, Mr. Bryan was always ready to eat when the proper time came, no matter how great the stress.

Mr. Bryan enjoyed his experiences as a correspondent very much at Chicago, where he was not personally involved in the warfare. He lived at the University club, and was accustomed to dictate his stories each evening to a stenographer. Stretched out in an easy chair in his room, with eyes twinkling whenever a good sally occurred to him, he worked rapidly. That is, he turned out the pages fast enough when not disturbed. He was constantly interrupted by callers, and by friends who wished to speak with him over the telephone. When his story was

TRIUMPH OF PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRACY

The Lincoln (Neb.) Daily Star, heretofore an independent republican newspaper, has taken its stand in favor of Wilson and Marshall, in the following editorial:

In the nomination of Woodrow Wilson for president, and Governor Thomas R. Marshall of Indiana for vice president, the democratic convention at Baltimore has sent out a bugle call to the progressives of this nation that is echoing and reverberating through every state from ocean to ocean.

In this triumphant call there is no false note -no note of fear or timidity.

For weeks, and especially since the republican flasco at Chicago, the truly progressive of both parties have centered their hopes in the outcome of the Baltimore convention. These hopes have not been misplaced. The answer comes thundering back: "We will keep the faith!" and that answer has sent a thrill through the fibre of every citizen who unselfishly and patriotically believes that the government of the United States should be returned to the custody of the people.

It has been evident for some time that nothing really progregsive could be expected from the republican party as an organization. The administratian of President Taft has been such that it has discredited him with a majority of the thinking voters of his own party.

The actions of Theodore Roosevelt, both before and during the Chicago convention, have not been such as would bring confidence to the real progressive.

With the republican organization hopelessly split and no chance of remedial legislation from that source, the democratic ticket and platform present a solution that the electorate will most certainly take advantage of.

The Star believed, and the majority of the democratic voters of Nebraska believed, that Champ Clark was the logical candidate to lead the progressives to victory. His work as speaker of the house seemed to qualify him particularly for this work, and his long years of conscientious service had endeared him to the people.

In his hour of disappointment the hearts of his loyal followers go out to him with a message of faith and devotion. Missouri's grand old democrat has still his work before him in congress and he still lives in the affection of his friends. For eight straight ballots Champ Clark received the vote of a majority of the delegates, and in defeating him for the nomination a precedent of seventy years' standing was overturned.

That the bitterness and soreness engendered

"WE WIN IF WE LOSE" WAS BRYAN'S VIEW

Mr. Bryan was sure of the success of his resolution. "Even if it should fail of a two-thirds vote," he told me, "the delegates would have to nominate a progressive to square themselves."

The resolution contained a concluding clause stating that the same influences (Morgan and Ryan) had dominated the Chicago convention and nominated Taft. Soon after Mr. Bryan reached the platform to make his fight he was invited to meet Mrs. Taft, who was attending the convention that evening. He of course complied with the request, and on his return to the platform he ran a pencil through that part of the resolution so that the president's wife might not be embarrassed by anything he might do.

Following the tornado that accompanied the passage of the resolution, Mr. Bryan left the convention hall and entered the room of the resolutions committee. Leaving behind the slowly subsiding storm of excitement and entering the committee room two or three minutes later, I

at last finished, he revised it carefully before permitting it to go out.

Serving as a correspondent at Baltimore, in view of his other activities, was a herculean task. He always held in mind the needs of the papers that were relying upon 'iim, however, and he kept at work in the second week of the convention, after the other big-money special writers had ceased.

Without doubt a large share of Mr. Bryan's strength at Baltimore was due to the fact that he reached a national audience daily through his articles for the press. Many thousands of telegrams were sent to delegates by those who were following his fight, and who wished him to win his greatest battle.

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CIRCULATE THE COMMONER

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An old-time reader of The Commoner 0 writes: "Wherever The Commoner is 0 regularly read the democratic vote in-0 creases. One of the most effective 0 methods of increasing Governor Wilson's 0 vote would be by the circulation of The 0 Commoner (particularly among men 0 who have heretofore voted the republican ticket) in every state of the union. I suggest that you make a special rate for campaign purposes and I am sure there are many hard working democrats who will take advantage of that rate to put The Commoner regularly into the hands of their republican neighbors." The Commoner will be sent to any one from now until the close of the 1912 campaign for the sum of 35c, or three subscriptions will be entered until the close of the campaign for \$1.00.

in the great struggle will linger for a while goes without saying, but these feelings will soften with time, and the democratic party will present a united front in November.

Regardless of personal feelings or personal preferences, it is gratifying to all Nebraskans to know that there was one figure that stood out above all the others at Baltimore, and that figure was William Jennings Bryan. Unmindful of jeers or hisses from his opponents, he defied the predatory interests of Wall street and brought out of the Baltimore "melting pot" a ticket and a platform of his own choice.

The Star is a progressive newspaper, fighting the battles of the people as it sees the light. With absolutely no other interest than the rights of the people in view it will work from now until November for the election of Woodrow Wilson as president of the United States. because it believes that in the progressive principles laid down in the democratic platform lies the only hope of relief for the American people from the enormous evils of government to which they have been subjected.

RECALL OF JUDGES IN 1780

On the 1st day of May, 1780, at a convention of the settlers of Tennessee, held at Nashborough, (now Nashville) "Articles of Agreement or Compact of Government" were entered into. One of the first articles provided for the election of a court of twelve triers or judges. Provisions for the "recall" were also adopted, in the following language: "As often as the people in general are dissatisfied with the doings of the judges or triers so to be chosen, they may call a new election in any of the said stations, and elect others in their stead, having due respect to the number now agreed to be elected at each station, which persons so to be chosen shall have the same power as those in whose room or place they shall or may be chosen."