

**BALTIMORE CONVENTION GAVE PROGRESSIVE CAUSE MEMORABLE VICTORY**

Cedar Rapids (Ia.) Gazette: The democratic convention just closed at Baltimore was by far the most interesting ever held in this country. Never before in a republic's history did one man succeed beyond a doubt, in putting to rout those sordid selfish interests that have for many years dominated all conventions to a greater or less degree. When the convention met Champ Clark was the strongest candidate for the nomination, with Woodrow Wilson a good second. After the convention at Chicago there was a popular call for Bryan to lead and there were many delegates at Baltimore who had been otherwise instructed who earnestly hoped that conditions might arise which would give to the great leader the nomination. Up to the twenty-fifth of June, however, it looked as though Mr. Clark would be the nominee. The determination on the part of the national commit-

tee to make Alton B. Parker the temporary chairman of the convention primarily led to the defeat of Clark.

Mr. Bryan and his friends protested against such selection in vain; the committee would not recede and Parker was chosen. Mr. Bryan and his followers admitted that Parker personally was clean, but opposed him on the grounds that he was the representative of special interests. Mr. Bryan called upon each of the candidates for president to take a stand proclaiming their independence of those representing special interests and that they protest the selection of Parker. Woodrow Wilson was the only man who came into the open clear, and because of that one act and timely which proved his courage, he bids fair to be the next president of the United States. The special interest crowd won the temporary chairmanship, but in winning, lost. Mr. Parker made an admirable presiding officer and held out to Mr. Bryan and his cohorts the olive branch of peace; but like thousands of good men Mr. Parker and associates failed even then to realize that Mr. Bryan's fight was not a personal one, but a fight for principle, a fight to purge the democratic party even at the cost of eliminating himself and any ambitions that he might have, as well as to offend many good and steadfast friends. The convention momentarily stood aghast when Bryan with unparalleled courage in the history of a nation introduced the now famous resolution denouncing Morgan, Belmont and Ryan and their methods, and proceeded to tell the why and wherefore of his battle for the nation's integrity. Even some of his staunchest friends hastily concluded it was a great mistake. Former friends and foes opposed the resolution with an earnestness worthy a better cause only to see the resolution adopted almost unani-

mously, and even they dared not vote against it themselves.

The special interest crowd even after this, failed to note the solid foundation upon which Bryan was erecting an edifice to be admired by the wisest and best people of a great nation. The hopes of those more interested in special privilege than in the nation's good were only dashed to earth and wholly dissipated when Bryan changed his vote (after New York had switched to Clark) from Clark to Wilson and in unmistakable words served notice that New York's delegates (particularly representative of privilege seekers) could not and should not name the candidate of this great convention; that the man to be named would be spotless and under no obligations to the special privilege seekers, either actual or implied—and he made good, almost single-handed and alone—shelving for a considerable period at least if not for all time those interests of which the people have long since tired. At the same time Mr. Clark's chances went glimmering—the fortunes of politics.

The wounds that Bryan inflicted and received in this memorable contest will heal but the scars will remain as an ever reminder that "a government of, by and for the people shall not perish from the earth." It is a lesson from which candidates for the exalted position of president may well profit. Champ Clark, an ideal democrat, loved for battles he has fought for democracy in its darkest days, lost because when the time arrived to make his position clear he failed to respond to the heart beats of the people. Woodrow Wilson within an hundred hours rose from a second rate candidate to an exalted and commanding figure and proved himself to have all the elements of integrity, courage and leadership that are expected to be found in one who seeks to occupy the presidential chair.

To develop the weakness of some candidates and develop the strength of others took time and the convention at Baltimore was none too long to try out the case of the people and give just judgment. Wilson's nomination was made at the psychological moment—when he was a million votes stronger in the nation than when the balloting began.

Iowa's delegation was instructed for Clark of our neighboring state, although a considerable number of the delegates were very friendly to Wilson and nearly if not quite all great admirers of Mr. Bryan. They acquitted themselves creditably and at a most seasonable time cast a solid vote for Woodrow Wilson. Their home-coming should be considered a propitious time for advancing the cause of democracy under a leader who will inspire the confidence of all.—Cedar Rapids (Ia.) Gazette.

**WHAT BRYAN IS DOING**

Lincoln (Neb.) Journal: If Mr. Bryan puts through to victory the fight he has begun at Baltimore he will make more party history than any other American of his time, with the possible exception of Roosevelt. Hour by hour as the combat went on at the close of the week it became clearer that his purpose is not to make some personal friend, nor to "wreck the democratic party." It is to put an end to sham battles in national campaigns. His purpose is to make the democratic party wholly radical. He wants to drive out every reactionary from leadership. Then he wants to go before the country with a radical candidate and a radical program and make his appeal to the radical voters of all parties.

No wonder a groan goes up from Baltimore, when this man Bryan puts a flaming sword between the famished delegates and the flesh pots

of office. No wonder the would-be postmasters in every community begin to whine of impatience. No wonder the practical politicians in every state wail like lost souls over the throwing away of a national victory after it was already in the party's grasp. These men believe in their hearts that Mr. Bryan emerged from the kindling wood made in his collision with Parker on the opening day, determined to bring about his party's destruction.

Today Mr. Bryan is at the most critical moment of his political history. If he relaxes for a moment and lets the practical politicians put one over on him by naming a weak man whom they can control and yet whom he can still support, he will have made his fight in vain. He will have discredited himself as a party man without freeing the democratic organization from the clutches of Tammany. If he forces through his program and compels his party to become wholly radical or wholly conservative, he may lose his place as the "greatest living democrat" only to become one of our greatest living Americans.

Can Mr. Bryan succeed? He has the devotion, the high moral purpose and the courage required for his task. If he has the political wisdom needed for the creation and guidance of so complete a revolution he will succeed. Here comes the test that decides whether Mr. Bryan belongs among the statesmen or the politicians of his period.

**BRYAN FROM THE PERSONAL VIEWPOINT**

St. Joseph (Mo.) Gazette: Not long ago before the Minnesota legislature William J. Bryan delivered himself as follows:

"Three defeats have not destroyed in me the sense of obligation to my fellow men. I am now paying it on the installment plan. It does not embarrass me because most of you here voted against me. If I was fit for the presidency I did not need it. Those who voted against me in those three campaigns did not deprive me of the immortal honor of such a place as I may earn by serving others. What difference does it make what the world does for me? It is of far greater importance what I do for the world and that it shall be done as well as I can do it."

There is not another man of "presidential caliber" in the United States who could get up before a legislature and use the above language without being accused of being a flatulent egotist and a cad. How many men have ever aspired to be president who could "get away" with such comments upon himself as the above? The reason Bryan can be because the people, independent of party lines or religious affiliations, have become convinced that his personal integrity is above question and his impersonal interest in his fellow man genuine. Bryan has never posed as the misunderstood saint, has never for a moment gotten off his guard and given anybody a chance to call him self-righteous. He is remarkably well balanced in personal character and head and shoulders the superior of any man who has allowed his life to be blighted and his years cut short because his fellow citizens would not give him the presidency.

This is a tribute to his personal character and will be appreciated by every democrat who reads the Gazette, and has voted for Bryan for president one of more times.

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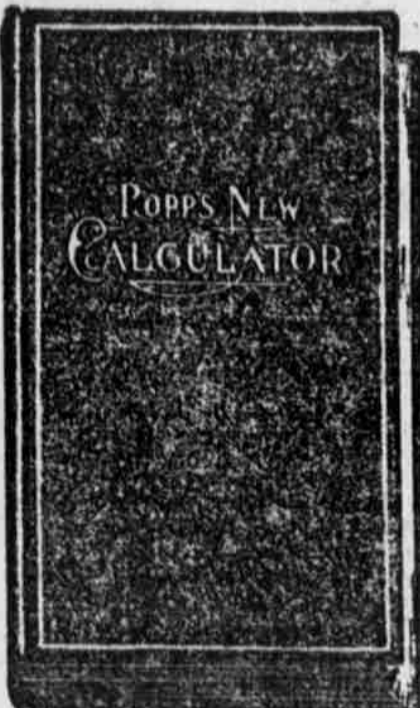


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