

merchants will not long suffer themselves—ought not to suffer themselves—to be placed at such a disadvantage. Our industries have expanded to such a point that they will burst their jackets, if they can not find a free outlet to the markets of the world; and they can not find such an outlet unless they be given ships of their own to carry their goods—ships that will go to the routes they want them to go—and prefer the interests of America in their sailing orders and their equipment. Our domestic markets no longer suffice. We need foreign markets. That is another force that is going to break the tariff down. The tariff was once a bulwark—now it is a dam. For trade is reciprocal; we can not sell unless we also buy.

“The very fact that we have at last taken the Panama canal seriously in hand and are vigorously pushing it towards completion is eloquent of our re-awakened interest in international trade. We are not building the canal and pouring out million upon million of money upon its construction merely to establish a water connection between the two coasts of the continent, important and desirable as that may be, particularly from the point of view of naval defense. It is meant to be a great international highway. It would be a little ridiculous if we should build it and then have no ships to send through it. There have been years when not a single ton of freight passed through the great Suez canal in an American bottom, so empty are the seas of our ships and seamen. We must mean to put an end to that kind of thing or we would not be cutting a new canal at our very doors merely for the use of our men-of-war. We shall not manage the revival by the mere paltry device of tolls. We must build and buy ships in competition with the world. We can do it if we will but give ourselves leave.

DEBT IS DUE AGRICULTURE

There is another duty which the democratic party has shown itself great and close enough to the people to perceive, the duty of government to share in promoting agricultural, industrial, vocational education in every way possible within its constitutional powers. No other platform has given this intimate vision of a party's duty. The nation can not enjoy its deserved supremacy in the markets and enterprises of the world unless its people are given the ease and effectiveness that come only with knowledge and training. Education is part of the great task of conservation, part of the task of renewal and of perfected power.

“We have set ourselves a great program, and it will be a great party that carries it out. It must be a party without entangling alliances with any special interest whatever. It must have the spirit and the point of view of the new age. Men are turning away from the republican party, as organized under its old leaders, because they found that it was not free, that it was entangled; and they are turning to us

because they deem us free to serve them. They are immensely interested, as we are, as every man who reads the signs of the time and feels the spirit of the new age is, in the new program. It is solidly based on the facts of our national life; its items are items of present business; it is what every man should wish to see done who wishes to see our present distempers made an end of and our old free, co-operative life restored.

“We should go into this campaign confident of only one thing—confident of what we want to do if entrusted with the government. It is not a partisan fight we are entering upon. We are happily excused from personal attacks upon opponents and from all general indictments against the men opposed to us. The facts are patent to everybody; we do not have to prove them; the more frank among our opponents admit them. Our thinking must be constructive from start to finish. We must show that we understand the problems that confront us, and that we are soberly minded to deal with them, applying to them, not nostrums and notions, but hard sense and good courage.

PLEGDED TO PEOPLE'S CAUSE

“A presidential campaign may easily degenerate into a mere personal contest and so lose its real dignity and significance. There is no indispensable man. The government will not collapse and go to pieces if any one of the gentlemen who are seeking to be entrusted with its guidance should be left at home. But men are instruments. We are as important as the cause we represent, and in order to be important must really represent a cause. What is our cause? The people's cause? That is easy to say, but what does it mean? The common as against any particular interest whatever? Yes, but that, too, needs translation into acts and policies. We represent the desire to set up an untangled government, a government that can not be used for private purposes, either in the field of business or in the field of politics; a government that will not tolerate the use of the organization of a great party to serve the personal aims and ambitions of any individual, and that will not permit legislation to be employed to further any private interest. It is a great conception, but I am free to serve it, as you also are. I could not have accepted a nomination which left me bound to any man or any group of men. No man can be just who is not free; and no man who has to show favors ought to undertake the solemn responsibility of government in any rank or post whatever, least of all in the supreme post of president of the United States.

“To be free is not necessarily to be wise. But wisdom comes with counsel, with the frank and free conference of untrammelled men united in the common interest. Should I be entrusted with the great office of president, I would seek counsel wherever it could be had upon free

terms. I know the temper of the great convention which nominated me; I know the temper of the country that lay back of that convention and spoke through it. I heed with deep thankfulness the message you bring me from it. I feel that I am surrounded by men whose principles and ambitions are those of true servants of the people. I thank God, and will take courage.”

“LONG DOUBTING THOMASES”

Editorial in New York Tribune: It requires courage to abandon a long treasured prejudice, and the completeness with which the New York World and the Evening Post have waived their former contention that nothing of saving value to the democracy could possibly come out of Lincoln, Neb., requires appropriate record and commendation. The World retracted a misappreciation of many years when it said enthusiastically recently:

“Mr. Bryan was the hero of the Baltimore convention. There can be no doubt of that. \* \* \* 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.”

The Evening Post is equally generous in its admission of Mr. Bryan's controlling part in the Wilson victory. It said:

“What is certain is that Mr. Bryan had the political genius and the personal boldness, first to detect and then to shatter the plans of Murphy and his fellow cozeners, and so to free the convention from the dead hand of manipulators and traders, and open the way to the triumph of Governor Wilson.”

The example of the World and the Evening Post shines nobly in contrast with the grudging comments of two of their former associates in the effort to deny Mr. Bryan any capacity whatever for intelligent leadership or valuable party service. The Times feebly insisted that Mr. Wilson did not “owe his nomination to Mr. Bryan,” and the Sun bluntly asserted that “Governor Wilson enters the campaign owing not one copper's worth of political debt to Mr. Bryan, who with a preconceived programme of domination or destruction played his own viperish game with consummate skill until it was detected.” Of course, that is an obvious misconstruction of the facts, inasmuch as whatever game of his own Mr. Bryan was playing he had at the same time to play Governor Wilson's game, and play it so strongly as to lead to Wilson's nomination.

Any impartial study of the proceedings of the Baltimore convention will show that Mr. Bryan was the single dominating personal influence there. Its work was largely his work, and that conclusion stands out so plainly that even long doubting Thomases like the World and the Evening Post have felt impelled to recognize and applaud the indubitable results of the “peerless commoner's” leadership.

MR. BRYAN'S GREAT VITALITY

New York Herald: “How does Bryan stand the strain?” This was the question uppermost in the minds of those who saw the journeyman presidential candidate dashing along West Thirty-fourth street the other day. Fresh from the most terrific political struggle in the history of the democratic party, a struggle in which he played the leading part, he looked as fit as a man returning from a month's vacation. Most of the politicians and newspaper men who took part in the siege of Baltimore came back in wretched physical condition, the sizzling heat, irregular meals and all night sessions playing havoc with the strongest constitutions. Bryan alone came through with unimpaired vitality. “Bryan is a remarkable physical machine,” said a reporter who had campaigned almost 100,000 miles with the Nebraskan. “To begin with, he has a powerful frame. It has never been weakened by riotous living. He has a tremendous appetite, and can eat at any hour of the day or night. Eggs, a small steak, some chops, dessert and coffee is an ordinary meal for him. He can sleep to order. I've seen him sleep like a baby in the fifteen and twenty-minute intervals between speeches from the ‘back piazza’ of his train. It's his ability to sleep under any conditions that enables him to keep up his high rate of speed.”

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