

The President's Great Speech at Newark

Secretary Daniels continued, "I would be the first to want the people to know the truth. However, there is not, and I protest against the highly colored misinformation which the people are now being fed by some publications.

"I recently ordered the cruiser Maryland, now in Pacific waters, to test some Alaskan coal which had been recommended by the naval board for government use. Her bunkers were filled and she made a test run to San Francisco. This was the result"—and he pointed to the headlines:

"U. S. S. MARYLAND STRIPPED FOR ACTION, MAKES FORCED SPEED TO SAN FRANCISCO—PREPARED FOR BATTLE."

"The man who wrote that story," Daniels continued, "ought to be prosecuted. But this is only one instance. There have been hundreds within the last two weeks. Not only has the navy department been misrepresented, but the White House, the state department, and the war department, and other federal branches.

"The danger in this character of publication is not confined to the boundaries of the United States. It is spread throughout the civilized world, in Japan and everywhere. Thus the people of every nation are given erroneous impressions; they are without the true facts, and the radical elements demand reparation. They demand it justly, too, but the men who are responsible are not government officials; they are the editors and proprietors of such papers."

PROSECUTING JINGO LIARS

The Chicago Record-Herald prints the following editorial: Secretary of the Navy Daniels, a newspaper man himself, and Mr. Bryan, also a man of journalistic training and experience, have publicly denounced the yellow publishers or editors who have been busy inventing lies and manufacturing scare headlines in connection with the Japanese question. Mr. Daniels favors prosecution of yellow manufacturers of war scares.

Some months ago the British foreign secretary complained publicly of the pernicious effect of jingo lies and fabrications on international relations. What honest, pacific statesman has not felt and suffered from this modern evil?

Certainly the law should provide for the prosecution and punishment of such poisoners of public opinion, such willful incendiaries and destroyers of peace. They commit their offenses merely to create sensations and sell papers. They are hypo-critical and reckless.

Meantime, if legal proceedings are at present impossible, the government should name the worst of the offenders and brand them publicly as enemies of their country and of society.

WAR SCARES MAKE AMERICA RIDICULOUS

The New York Herald prints the following editorial: It is an American characteristic to talk about war every time the Washington administration is engaged in negotiations regarding an international dispute. Indeed, we do not seem to have progressed in self-restraint and common sense since the days described by Dickens in "Martin Chuzzlewit," while the speeches of most of our statesmen are almost counterparts of the great Elijah Pogram's "Defiance."

But these war scares do not come as they did then, so much from rawness, bad manners and ignorance as from design on the part of those whose business fattens on war's alarms.

One element is the men who want to sell guns and munitions of war. Others have a few worn out ships to dispose of to the government. Still others expect to sell hundreds of thousands of copies of one cent papers each day, smeared all over with red inked headlines. And still another class is playing politics.

They are an unsavory, sordid and unpatriotic aggregation who would profit by dragging the country to the verge of war for the purpose of pocket or other personal advantage. If war came they would remain home and make money. If they were asked to go to the front and face a few salvos of artillery they would rush to cover or retire from the jurisdiction.

These remarks are prompted by the spectacle of a nasty crowd of adventurers who are predicting that war is coming with Japan. It is too bad they can not be muzzled or locked up. The Japanese war scare has been brought out so often that the entire public might be expected to laugh at its appearance. But the trouble is we live so rapidly that the war scares of the past are forgotten and each new one appears to serve for a time as something really serious. Ice on the heads of the public! A club on the heads of the disturbers!

President Wilson delivered the following address at Newark, N. J., May 1, 1913:

Mr. Chairman and Fellow Citizens: It is with very deep and genuine pleasure that I find myself in Jersey again. I know of no greater satisfaction than speaking for the people of this great state. For I have not come to speak TO you. I know what you believe in; I know what you want; I have come to speak for you, and to tell these men with whom we are dealing what it is their business to do. For we are their masters; they are not ours.

It made all my pulses go quick again to think that I was going to come back and speak for these people in this great county of Essex; that wants to govern itself and does not. The most amazing thing to me about Essex in all my life in New Jersey has been the number of aggressive, intelligent, independent men there are in this great county and the failure of those men to grapple the realities of the situation and master their own county and city government. You are not governed by yourselves in Essex; but there come times when the great voice of the people of this county speaks out in such volume that even those who ordinarily dare to venture upon mastery cower under the voice of the real master. That is what has to be done now.

I have exercised a great self-denial about New Jersey. When I had to make up my mind where I was going to spend next summer, after I got back from the Panama canal, my great temptation was to come back and pitch my tent near where I used to pitch it on the shore. I was withheld by this consideration, my fellow-citizens. There is going to be a contest for the nomination for the governorship of this state next summer and I did not want anybody to suppose that I was coming back to try and boss the job. I have no candidate for the democratic nomination for the governorship of this state; but I am opposed to whoever is desired for governor by certain gentlemen whom I shall have the pleasure of naming tonight. I do not want to see any more governors of New Jersey privately owned. I do not want to see any more governors of New Jersey manipulated by hands that are not discovered to the people themselves. I am going to New Hampshire next summer. New Hampshire is in telegraphic communication with New Jersey, and anybody who wants to know what I think can find it out by asking the question; but I am getting just as far away from New Jersey as it is convenient to get, so that nobody may think that I had camped here as if I were trying to manage the choice of a people that I have labored as I never labored for anything else to set free to make their own choices.

That was the whole object of the electoral reform for which we fought so hard, and, thank God, fought so successfully, while I was governor of New Jersey—to set the people free to make their own selections, not personally conducted; selections not suggested by people who undertook to make the government of the state their own private business, but exercised in the open, under discussion, under scrutiny, under canvass of all the worthy names that were to be considered in so great a connection.

I want to say a few words about the democratic party. I want everybody to realize that I, at any rate, have not been taken in by the results of the last national election. The country did not go democratic in November. (It was impossible for it to go republican, because it could not tell which kind of republican to go.) The only united and hopeful instrument through which it could accomplish its purposes was the democratic party; and what it did was to say this: "There are certain things that we want to see done, not certain persons who we wish to see elevated. There are certain things that we want to have demonstrated; as, for example, that the government of the United States can no longer be controlled by special interests. Now, we are going to have a trial at using the democratic party as our instrument to discover those things. If the trial is not successful, we will never make it again. We want an instrument in our hands by which to make ourselves masters of our own affairs, and it looks likely in the existing circumstances that this is the suitable and ready instrument. Therefore, we will try it, not adopt it—try it." You know what happened to the democratic party in this state. It got so confident of power about sixteen years ago—nearly twenty years ago now—that it supposed that the people of New Jersey had

gone to sleep and had entrusted it with their fortunes, and were asking no questions any more. Therefore, that power was grossly and abominably abused, and the people turned away from that party for twenty years almost, because it had betrayed its trust. Then they turned to it again in 1910 to make trial whether this long dwelling in the wilderness had purged this party or not; to see whether the evil spirits had been baked out of it under the sun of the desert; to see whether this was a rejuvenated, a renewed, a chastened party. And the first thing they wanted to know was whether the old gang still ran it or not. Well, I will not go into the history of the two years that followed. Suffice it to say that the old gang did not run it; that they kept under cover even in the lobbies at Trenton, knowing that there were fingers that would point them out to the whole country if they wished to come there and display themselves.

These gentlemen do not like the open. They do not like to have attention concentrated upon them. They tremble in the spotlight. Then I was told that just as soon as I went to Washington the old gang would come back; and I did not believe—until I saw it. Once more that bulky form of the gentleman who used to personally lead the legislature of New Jersey into disgrace reappeared upon the very floor of the legislature, and again it was known that his intrigues were successful in blocking the things that he did not wish done. Am I mistaken? Have you not seen them? The same influences that have for two years been scotched had not been killed. That great system, with a big snake-like S-s-s-s, that great s-s-sneaking, whis-s-s-pering s-s-system had established itself again in Trenton. And why had it established itself? Because something was afoot that it could not afford to allow to be done.

As I came in Mr. Matthews was referring to the circumstance that at the hearing against the jury bill the room was lined with sheriffs of the various counties or their representatives. Nothing had distressed me more than that. New Jersey is at present full of honest sheriffs; but they are not all honest; and we are not gunning for the honest ones. But the ways of the dishonest are just as astute as they are devious. They can let their grand juries indict at the strategic and dramatic moment, and they can also withhold their grand juries from indicting when everything is quiet and there is no storm on the horizon. You know perfectly well that the mastery in politics of some gentlemen who assume to dominate New Jersey would be impossible if the things that they did were subject to the ordinary scrutiny of dispassionately-chosen grand juries. We passed a very stringent electoral reform, intended to put the government of the state in your hands, but if the grand jury's hand is withheld at chosen moments, what good is it that you go to the polls and vote? Who counts the votes? Who controls the management of the polls? How will the crimes committed against the ballot be brought before your judges? I managed to give you two judges that were not afraid of the system. At last, in the fullness of time, I managed to give you a prosecutor who was not afraid of the system. And the prosecutor saw without spectacles things which I myself from a distance had pointed out to the authorities of this city as much as a year before. It did not require spectacles to see them! Everybody knew that they were there; but the hand of the law was withheld.

Do you want a system under which it is possible to withhold the hand of the law? Do you want a system under which it is possible to choose when the hand of the law shall be withheld and when it shall not? Ah, gentlemen, I tell you the processes of corruption in the justice of this country do not lie so often where it is supposed that they lie—with the men who preside over the trial of cases—as they lie with the system which determines who shall feel the punch of the law and who shall not; and the poor man, the uninfluential man, the man who does not stand in with the gang, will feel the punch of the law and the other man will not. It is a disgrace to the judicial system of the state and of the union, and I come here to protest against it as a representative American citizen, that these things should be allowed to exist. Look at the apparent reasonableness of the whole thing—how honest men allow themselves to be played upon. "Ah," they say, "The democratic platform of the state promised jury reform, but it did not say what kind of