

a bad business move, and that a local dry district would increase vice rather than curb it. He still believes he was right on the local option situation.

He argued the duty and obligation of the state to its people to use the police power vested in it to abolish any and all social and business conditions which destroy the vigor and the moral qualities of its people. The liquor business falls within the class that the police regulation should move against, just as does the protection of the state from the effects of contagious diseases.

Prohibition will be easier for Nebraska than it was for Kansas for all but one of the states surrounding this one is dry territory. Prohibition is not a failure. Kansas will prove it, said the speaker. In 1914 Nebraska paid the United States government almost \$3,000,000 as a special tax on booze manufactured or consumed in the state. Kansas paid less than \$600,000. Either prohibition does prohibit or Kansans are able to dodge the sleuths of the United States government.

Once Judge Holmes had considered this the greatest and most moral nation on earth. But now he is doubtful. He has discovered that this nation uses more whiskey than any other two countries on earth, and that the consumption of it has increased from 102,000,000 gallons in 1902 to 193,000,000 gallons twelve years later. He discovered that not even Germany uses so much beer and other malt liquors. More than two billion gallons are consumed annually of this kind of booze in this nation alone. Only Russia consumes more alcohol than this nation. In fact the United States is steeped in booze.

Chairman Bryan assured the audience that the addition of Judge Holmes to the dry ranks was no small gain.

ADDRESS BY GOVERNOR BYRNE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Governor Byrne of South Dakota discussed the effects of the liquor traffic both in morals and business. He warned Nebraska that the liquor interest would not show openly the entire activity which they would be using. They would get their voters to the polls. Drys could not carry the election by wishing the state were prohibition. He told how the state of which he is governor had first put a prohibition amendment in its constitution, and then lost it through the indifference of the voters who really wanted the state to remain dry.

In part Governor Byrne said:

"There are some good people who question the propriety of the governor of a state appearing at meetings like this and taking sides on a question of this kind. Some people seem to think that a governor should be a kind of dignified automaton, holding himself discreetly aloof from the common, vital interests of life, except the things pertaining to his own election or reelection. I have been criticised at home for taking part in anti-saloon campaigns, especially outside of my own state. Last spring, I went over to Minnesota to take part in such a campaign, and some of our state papers criticised my action and inquired what business the governor had going out to tell the people how to vote on matters of local concern, and I suppose I shall be called to account for coming here. I do not take such criticisms to heart, and I see no reason why I should not advocate what I believe right and in the interest of the public weal. Nor do I oppose the saloon only, or especially. In my capacity as a public official or because, for a period, I happen to be such, but in my capacity as a sovereign American citizen. And feeling, as I do, a profound conviction in regard to the bad effects of the liquor traffic, and convinced, as I am, that it is one of the great evils of the day, a menace to society, a peril to youth and a mockery to age, and to every sentiment of truth and honor, did I fail to raise my voice in emphatic protest against its continuance, in my own state, or in any other state of this fair land.

"During the time I have been in public life, I have frequently come in conflict with the forces that seek to influence the agencies of government for selfish, personal ends; with those interests and combinations of interests aptly designated the 'invisible government,' existing outside of the constitution and law, and in no way responsible to the people. In my own state we have carried on a movement which, in a measure at least, restored authority and control to men elected by the people, accountable to the people and removable by the people. I have always found the liquor traffic in league with these special interests, an important part of this 'invisible government' that seeks to pervert the constitutional government to its own use. When-

ever the lobby of a corporation, interest, or selfish organization was making a combination to hamper the free act of the legislature, to secure the enactment of a law, or to prevent the enactment of some other law, or to influence or interfere with the enforcement of law, the liquor interests were ever ready to join in the sinister movement with a view to furthering its own ends and securing immunity from the consequences of its own iniquity.

"In my state, as in many others, for years the legislative lobby was in substantial control at the capitol. It influenced the organization of legislatures, and legislative policies were largely directed from the lobby headquarters. With lavish hand it dealt out railroad passes, express and telegraph franks and other valuable considerations in the furtherance of its schemes, until curbed by legislative enactment. During all that time the liquor interests were ready to point in every corrupting scheme, in every plan to thwart the free expression of the public will. It is never found allied with the agencies seeking the public good, but always on the side of selfishness and wrong. It never walks in the way of openness and light, but always by the dark and devious path.

SATISFIED WITH WORK

The two days that 1,400 delegates have worked in Lincoln have resulted in all that was desired, the nucleus of a machine to carry on the organization work.

No regular political convention ever conducted its work with more harmony than was evidenced among these delegates. They lacked some in the excitement that often goes with political conventions, sometimes because a fight and sometimes because of artificial effort. The delegates were a rather sober-minded gathering, intent on one object. It was able to sink individual opinion and to move towards a common end, an amendment for which all could work willingly. Not a murmur of dissatisfaction was heard after the troublesome points were settled the first night.

A. C. Apperson of Clay Center who was supposed to figure in earlier proceedings arrived late and told the convention that the chances for success were never more rosy. He was glad to hear that differences had arisen over the form of the amendment. It indicated that interest was great.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN

[From the Nashville Tennessean, Sept. 28.]

William Jennings Bryan speaks at the auditorium tonight on "The European War and Its Lessons for Us."

That, at this time, is the most important possible topic to the American people. Mr. Bryan, at this time as at all times since he became a public man, is the speaker of all speakers in the United States, who can present the facts of an important question by a way that gets home to the people. To these two essentials of a masterly address, there will doubtless be added the third essential, a large audience of intelligent persons.

Mr. Bryan has spoken in Nashville a great many times, and no other man has so uniformly drawn large crowds or created intense interest in what he said. But since Mr. Bryan has been heard in Nashville, he has added very materially to his great record of achievement. Since Nashville people have had an opportunity of hearing him, the procuring of the peace treaties, probably the most monumental single work of his life, has given him additional fame throughout the world. Since he has heard here, Mr. Bryan has left the cabinet of President Wilson, that he might more effectively work with the president toward keeping the United States from being drawn into the vortex of war. The jibes of certain newspapers have not succeeded in bringing the people to believe that there was a rupture between Mr. Wilson and Mr. Bryan. It was merely the reaching of a conclusion that the two men, working toward the same result by different means, might come nearer achieving the thing desired, a thing that was very difficult and the achievement of which at that time was extremely doubtful, even with the utmost utilization of all the means at hand. The president knows and has said that Mr. Bryan was not in any sense at variance with him as to what must be done. Mr. Bryan knows that and has said it. And the people of the United States know it thoroughly and have never doubted it.

And so Mr. Bryan continues, as he has been for the last twenty years, one of the greatest powers for good in the United States. It is

doubtful if the American people, much as they love this man, will in this generation realize the magnitude of the service he has rendered them. For almost exactly nineteen years now, Mr. Bryan has had the ear of a larger part of the American people than any other man has ever had. He has used his unmatched opportunity to inculcate in the public mind principles that have already gone a great way toward returning the government into the hands of the people, and they will continue to go forward along this road for a generation yet.

William Jennings Bryan is one of the great Americans of all time because of what he has accomplished himself, but he is immensely greater because of what he has made it possible for others to accomplish. Many of the laws that have been put on the statute books by others had the way blazed for them by Mr. Bryan. The reforms that were effected in congress a few years ago might have come in the fullness of time, but they could not have been brought about at the time they were but for the work done by Mr. Bryan. Woodrow Wilson would have been a great president at any time and under any circumstances, and would have achieved many notable reforms, but the task was made much easier for him by the missionary work of Bryan. Some of the great measures enacted during the Wilson administration might not have been possible at all but for Bryan's work.

In fact, it may be said without exaggeration that the whole progressive movement in American politics owes its existence to Mr. Bryan. Practically every policy of the Roosevelt administration that was of real benefit to the people was taken bodily from Mr. Bryan's code. Wherever there has been a crusade that resulted in the purification of politics, the germ of it can be found in a principle enunciated for a fight made by Mr. Bryan.

The Bryan policies have successfully proved themselves sane, safe and sound. A great number of men have adopted one Bryan policy after another—and many times have forgotten that they were Bryan policies. It is no uncommon thing to find men today absolute enthusiasts for a principle on which they condemned Mr. Bryan a few years ago. The man and his work have stood the test. They are incorporated into the law and the life of the land.

That is the man who speaks to the people of Nashville tonight on the lessons of the European war. All of us must realize that that war does contain very important lessons for us, lessons the due observance of which will lead us in paths of safety, lessons the disregard of which may plunge us into calamity. It may be that none of us are able, just yet, to read those lessons aright. The learning of a lesson is a process painful and slow. Many may not be able to accept Mr. Bryan's interpretation of those lessons. He will not claim that he has himself learned them thoroughly. That is probably an impossible task in this brief time. But, with deep earnestness, he has brought a great mind to bear upon them, and there is no shadow of doubt that he is doing much toward enabling the people of the United States to read their lessons for themselves.

An excellent example of the effects of mob psychology is given by those former advocates of peace who have permitted themselves to be dragged by pressure of popular opinion into favoring some sort of a larger war program. The regret at their recantation is mellowed by the fact that anybody whose convictions are not moored to his courage so securely that they can't resist transient tides, never strengthened much the forces with which he was once aligned.

Mr. Taft recently expressed the opinion in a carefully considered argument that while woman's suffrage is certain to be adopted by the United States sometime, that time has not yet arrived, and that if it is sufficiently delayed to give better preparation to women as a class, its "advantages will outweigh its probable injurious consequences." At the rate that the ex-president is progressing he will get around to endorsing direct election of senators by 1930.

The republican editors of the east are trying to be mysterious about the identity of the next republican nominee for president by saying that "he will be a man who stands for the fundamental principles of the republican party." That description fits most any of the standpatters of former days, but the real problem is to find enough voters to stand for the aforesaid fundamental principles. They have repudiated them so often in recent years.