

dry democrats, it is within the range of possibility that he may be in position of control as to nomination and platform. Should such prove to be the case, the candidate will be William J. Bryan, and the platform will be nation-wide prohibition, with woman suffrage and some other reform questions to keep it company.

Bryan's fight to put the democratic party right is the most formidable and menacing factor the republicans have to face. With the democratic party standing for prohibition in 1920, and the republican party committed to the saloon, the latter will be hopelessly beaten.

If the liquor forces, early become convinced that Bryan is going to win in the democratic party, they will go pell mell to the republicans in order to make sure of controlling that organization. Therein lies danger for the republicans. As a saloon organization, the republican party would be doomed to defeat.

Mr. Bryan has taken a long look into the future. He has been preparing, for years, for the thing he is now doing. The liquor traffic hates and fears him and will have more reason for doing so. Success to him.—Stewart, in National Enquirer.

WHY WILSON WON

A new sectionalism, a political revolution, a new era in American politics—these are some of the phrases used by the eastern observers in discussing the dramatic reversal of the election verdict by western votes after the loss of the great pivotal eastern states had led virtually every morning paper in the Union to announce President Wilson's defeat. The result reveals "a new political alignment," and "this is the tremendous fact of the election," declares the progressive Philadelphia North American. "The scepter of power is passing to the west in conjunction with the south and southwest," says the independent New York Evening Post; and it adds: "Mr. Wilson has shown us all that we must roll up our political maps and make one entirely new."

For half a century, as one editor remarks, "New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Illinois, and Indiana had been the United States in a national election." But now, says the democratic New York World, "the cash-register patriotism of New York has been spat upon by a virile west that is keeping the faith of the fathers," and this means "the beginning of a new political era." What might perhaps be interpreted as a courteous western expression of this same view reaches us from Minnesota in the statement of the editor of the Duluth Herald (Ind.) that the unexpectedly large Wilson vote in that state "represents, in a way, the west's declaration of independence of the political and financial control of the east." "Wall street may have a mortgage on the effete east," telegraphs the secretary of the Woodrow Wilson Independent league of California to a New York newspaper, "but the west does its own thinking." Many will recall Mr. Bryan's dream that the west would some day decide a presidential election, and one New York paper reminds us, "in the interest of accuracy," that "aside from the south, the Wilson majorities come mainly from the territory in which Mr. Bryan did his campaigning for Wilson this year." This campaigning, of which only the faintest echoes reached us in the east, took Mr. Bryan through nineteen states in eight weeks, during which time he made four or five speeches a day, always driving home these two ideas: That the government should not be turned over to the reactionaries who were repudiated by the progressive element of their own party in 1912; and that the President should not be rebuked for keeping the country out of war with Mexico and Europe.—Literary Digest.

MR. BRYAN'S PURPOSE FOR DEMOCRACY

[From The Springfield Republican.]

That Mr. Bryan remains a factor in politics to be reckoned with the election has demonstrated. The grievance which eastern newspapers and particularly those of New York city, have maintained against William Jennings Bryan is that he refuses to stay dead after being declared defunct and buried. So it has been in the past, and now is.

A dispatch from Omaha reports Mr. Bryan as having dismantled his winter home and shipped a portion of the furniture to his winter home in Florida, while his large library is being sent to Asheville, N. C., where it is said "he

will live and vote." Home critics of Nebraska's distinguished citizen intimate that Mr. Bryan's waning political influence in his own state leads him to depart for other political pastures, in the hope of securing the prohibition presidential nomination four years hence. Mr. Bryan's answer is that he will continue to do his voting at Lincoln, Nebraska. All this has its interest, especially as revealing human nature as Mr. Bryan's opponents have always exhibited it.

Mr. Bryan is still a democrat, but he was not "still" during the campaign after the David B. Hill pattern. He spoke in nearly a score of states—in New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois and Nebraska—but he did not speak in Idaho, South Dakota, Minnesota or Indiana, as has been stated. All but four of the eighteen states which heard Mr. Bryan went for Wilson. The east paid no heed to the former secretary of state as he covered the territory where he was most at home, albeit an occasional voluntary letter to the newspapers told of the great audiences he was talking to and the enthusiasm aroused by his appeals. When the story of this election is told, Mr. Bryan must be given a larger measure of credit that eastern people have realized belonged to him. As a matter of history—a sort of supplement to his resignation from the cabinet—the dispatch which Mr. Bryan sent to President Wilson three days after election is worth giving:

"The returns are now so nearly complete that I shall not longer deny myself the pleasure of extending to you heartiest congratulations upon your re-election and earnest good wishes for the success of your second term. Am proud of the west—including Nebraska. The states beyond the Missouri have rallied to your support and saved the day, and in doing so have honored themselves no less than you. They have been largely benefited by the great reforms enacted under your leadership, and they stand with you for peace, prosperity and progress."

Mr. Bryan will never be president of the United States, but the democracy will benefit by his attachment to it as a moral force calculating to pull against other forces operating on a lower level. Mr. Bryan tells the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union that he is "in politics with both feet." What for? To drive the saloon out of the United States; "for this," he says in his Commoner newspaper, "is the great moral issue of this generation, and the democratic party is the party to lead the fight in the nation." Stranger things than the success of Mr. Bryan in this effort to revolutionize his party have happened in American politics. If the democracy under its present leadership shall be able to bind to itself the firm backing of the people of the states whence its success came in this election, the old democratic party will be well on the way toward such transformation as Mr. Bryan hopes for.

MR. BRYAN AS A MAKER AND MAINTAINER OF PRESIDENTS

We desire to commend to those democrats in Indiana who were so afraid to let William Jennings Bryan come into the state, that they take note of the fact that it is the west, where Mr. Bryan did his campaigning, that brought to democracy its national victory. Of course, you may never have heard of it. The Commoner was literally boycotted by both the Associated Press and International News services employed in South Bend, and not a word of his speeches or his tours came over the regular news wires, although he put in all of October, practically altogether in the west, and with seemingly telling effect.

Yes, Mr. Bryan was literally boycotted on this tour by the press associations. They fell out with him when he quit the state department. His pacifism seemed not to jibe, somehow, with the popular militarism that was sweeping the country at the time and for misconstruction and garbling of his public utterances, he took them to task. They started out accordingly, to wipe Mr. Bryan out of the public mind, if possible, and doubting the efficacy of further misrepresenting, they seemingly adopted the policy of ignoring him. Bryan, however, stumped the western states, and with practically the only publicity given to his speeches beyond that of his voice, being that of local newspapers in the

cities that he visited; well, it was those localities that saved the day for democracy—whether on account of him, or in spite of him, we do not know. * * *

But truth, and truth only, is eternal and dominating, incident to which we would add, democracy itself needs to take notice, as well as the public at large. We commend the idea to our democratic state central committee, so fearful of Mr. Bryan, and the truths that he always disseminates, evidently quite acceptable to the masses as indicated by the vote out west. Take off your hat to Mr. Bryan, democrats. Oh yes, he quit the cabinet in a huff, and he criticized the President on points of war, but he was American first of all, and democrat second, and no doubt contributed of personal influence as much as any one man—aside from the President himself, to that same President's re-election.

Mr. Bryan nominated Mr. Wilson at Baltimore, in 1912, and he, in all probability, delivered to him the electoral votes of Nebraska, California, Kansas, Washington, Montana, Utah, North Dakota, New Mexico and Wyoming—quite essential to his choice, in 1916.—South Bend (Ind.) News-Times.

THE CAMPAIGN OF 1920

The clouds of the political horizon are today tinged with a different hue than ever before, and the chances are that the alignment for the presidential contest in 1920 will knock most of the old-time politicians clear off the political checkerboard.

At this time there appears to be little doubt but what the "paramount" issue in the next national campaign will be the liquor question. It then follows that the men who will lead the who have long ago enlisted in the great cause, who have long ago enlisted in the great cause, and have been at the head of the smaller armies in the various state campaigns that have resulted in the elimination of the saloon from one-half of the Union.

President Wilson will not be available in 1920, and the democratic party will have to select another candidate—one who has an unblemished record on the question of prohibition. The man will likely be Bryan, W. J. Bryan, William Jennings Bryan of Nebraska and Florida, the man who has thrice fallen in such contests, but who arose stronger and more optimistic after the ballots had been counted. Mr. Bryan has always been strong in the west and with that section of the country in the dry column, and, coupled with the impregnable democratic south, which has long been mostly dry, he would certainly be a very formidable competitor for the great honor which he has been seeking for the past twenty years.

No man has ever appeared in the political life of this nation against whom has been arrayed such powerful opposition as has been constantly directed at Mr. Bryan. In 1896, the republican national committee spent the enormous sum of \$16,000,000 to defeat the Commoner, and more than \$9,000,000 four years later. All of the big interests of the country have always been hostile to his candidacy, including about all of the larger newspapers; and through it all the Nebraskan has remained serene and composed, and retains his popularity with the people.

The states in which Mr. Bryan campaigned this year showed big Wilson pluralities, and his work for the dry cause was undoubtedly a big factor in adding four stars to the prohibition flag.—Huntington Beach (Cal.) News.

MR. BRYAN DELIVERED THE GOODS

Mr. Bryan devoted his speeches during the campaign to fifteen states in the west, mostly where women vote and states that were dry or held elections on the liquor question. His own state went dry by 29,442.

In 1912 it was his power of mind and voice that made President Wilson's nomination possible. In 1916 the states in which he spoke made possible President Wilson's re-election.

Former President Roosevelt also campaigned in these same states which were progressive and where he was popular as a rancher and rough rider years ago, but Mr. Bryan's appeals delivered the votes which insured President Wilson's re-election.

The two leaders now visible for 1920 are