

## Mayor C. W. Bryan Not a Candidate

[From the Lincoln Daily News, Feb. 20.]

An out-and-out assertion that he will not be a candidate for election to the city commission is made by Mayor Bryan in a statement given out Wednesday. The mayor says he has carried out his program with the exception of some matters which are before the legislature now. He believes there will be no measures before the public at this campaign that would justify the sacrifice of his own time.

The mayor has indicated several times previously that he would not make the race this year, but there was a belief that he was "hedging" in his statements. His withdrawal probably will encourage one or two other candidates for the place to get into the game in earnest.

The mayor's statement reads:

"It was not my desire or intention to become a candidate for mayor two years ago, but at that time our city was handicapped on account of the rate it was paying for public utility service, lack of city departments to look after the welfare of the wage-earner, park facilities, etc., which prevented Lincoln from competing with other cities for securing factories and other enterprises employing labor. However, after suggesting a number of progress measures that I thought should be put into effect to place Lincoln on an equal basis with other progressive cities, and being unable to induce other business men to make the campaign on these issues, I undertook the work myself. Practically all of the measures advocated by me at that time have been put into effect with the exception of one or two that required a charter amendment, and these are now before the legislature, and I feel that they will be adopted.

"Serving in the capacity of mayor the past two years has caused me to make a considerable sacrifice of my private business affairs, in addition to being required to put into the work more time and nerve force than I felt I could afford.

"I hope to have the work on the Antelope park extension to O street far enough along by the end of my term so that the remainder of the work will be a matter of development and the carrying out of detail plans that will be complete and in the hands of the city by May first. I also hope to have the other unfinished work of my department well under way, including the construction of a public comfort station, etc., by May first.

"There are a number of changes, in my judgment, that should be made in the conduct of the city's business affairs in order to put it on a basis of efficiency and economy, but it is difficult to make these changes under present conditions. I do not believe that there will be any measures that will come before the people of the city in the near future that would justify my making the sacrifice that another term would entail, and, therefore, I am not a candidate for re-election and it is not my intention to become a candidate at the coming spring election.

"I will prepare for publication, in the near future, a report showing what has been accomplished during the past two years, and hope also, in the near future, to suggest a number of measures that, in my judgment, should be considered by the public in the coming municipal campaign. CHARLES W. BRYAN, Mayor."

[From the Nebraska State Journal, (republican) Lincoln.]

Mayor Bryan's declination to be a candidate for re-election seems final. He has been making this statement privately for several weeks, but it has been assumed all along that he would file at the proper time to keep the office from falling into unworthy hands. Now he talks so much like business and is so earnest in asking that good men be brought out to enable the voters to have a broad range of selection that it is necessary to look upon the matter as settled. The job of finding a man to take this place will be right up to the voters in a short time. In three weeks more the list of nominations

will close. The first election will occur in April and the second in May.

Mr. Bryan made good in the office of mayor to so surprising an extent that even his big crop of enemies are unable to say much against him. He started in with only one adherent on the commission, John Wright, and wound up with everybody voting with him on nearly all important matters except this same Mr. Wright. It required so much nervous force to impress his policies upon his colleagues that he has decided that he can no longer serve the city. He has put through an amazingly long list of platform pledges and items called "policies." As a leading merchant remarked the other day he has a real vision of the possibilities of a municipal government. No doubt one reason for his decision to retire is his feeling that the present method of city government is so awkward that it requires an entirely disproportionate amount of energy to keep it in operation. Instead of giving his entire strength to solving city problems, he has had to devote about 60 per cent of his fuel to inducing his fellow commissioners to move along in the path of progress as he has outlined it.

The retirement of Mr. Bryan will let the bars down for a host of candidates for this place and other places on the commission. So long as he was supposed to be in the field nobody felt safe in tackling his particular office.

### THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE

If any paper is given the odious pre-eminence of being more unpatriotic than others, the New York Tribune is likely to win the distinction, although the New York Herald is a close rival. While the President is devoutly hoping for peace and declaring that the people want peace, the Tribune prints the following at the head of the first column on the editorial page:

#### "WE MUST TAKE OUR PLACE"

"Some time within the next few days or weeks we are going to war with Germany. The time and circumstances of the declaration are of minor consideration because the action of congress in the matter of armed merchantmen joins the issue and insures this occasion.

"And entrance into the great world war must infallibly change the direction and character of American history and American policy. For two years we have lived in the mistaken belief that such a war and such a crisis as that which confronted the world would be without meaning for us. We have believed that the isolation which existed in other generations endured, that the warning of Washington could have present application.

"In all this we were wrong. Painfully, perhaps stupidly, surely pathetically, the President and millions of his fellow countrymen have clung to the belief that we might escape performing our part of the task laid upon this generation of mankind. We have, as a nation, held to the idea that when peace at last came the world would be as it was in July, 1914; that what had been interrupted then of work, of life, would be resumed at the point at which it was dropped."

It does not require very much of an inspiration for a man who wants to fight to find one. Some of our fire-eating metropolitan editors wanted to go to war over the report that Germany was holding Ambassador Gerard as a hostage, which proved to be as baseless as the story circulated in Germany that we were going to do something to Bernstorff.

The new senate rules will prevent a few from obstructing the senate, but they still leave the minority at liberty to instruct the will of the majority. Why not let the majority rule?

Lincoln, when a congressman, criticised the government during the war with Mexico. As the people forgave him they will certainly not deal harshly with those who in time of peace endeavor to prevent war.

One letter from a mother anxious to save her son from unnecessary war offsets all the abuse from all the war papers.

## Wanted—Weekly State Papers

WANTED—A weekly paper in every state, devoted to the democratic cause. A weekly paper is not an expensive institution; it can be owned and edited by the same man, no plant being necessary. The typesetting and press-work can be done by contract, thus saving initial investment.

The Commoner devotes itself to national politics and international affairs. It is glad to encourage the establishment in every way in the state capitols, or, if more convenient, at some other place within the state, of such state democratic papers which will do in the state the work which The Commoner tries to do in a larger field. The Commoner will be glad to make club rates with such papers in each state.

The average weekly is largely local. Its news items and editorials relate mainly to the town or county in which it is published. Such a paper serves a purpose—is in fact indispensable, but there is a gap between the average county paper and the national newspaper—a gap that should be filled by one or more state weeklies in every state.

The abolition of the saloon will help the legitimate newspaper—it will no longer be forced into unfair rivalry with those subsidized by the liquor interest.

Now is the time for the establishment of state weeklies throughout the country; The Commoner welcomes such and will render all the assistance it can.

W. J. BRYAN.

The more or less graceful manner in which the print paper manufacturers came down after the publishers got after them with the President's new-fangled gun, the trade commission, suggests that a remarkably useful career lies ahead for that body. The fact that there was no justification for the extremely high price to which newspaper had risen was so clearly shown by an impartial government investigation, that the debate ended before it was begun. Most high prices are brought about through the employment of just such methods.

Now there is talk that China may enter the war on the side of the allies. Doubtless some Oriental Teddy has been going up and down the land demanding to know if the mollycoddles of the country were trying to Unitedstatesify China.

### USE OF THE WAR SCARE

Ex-President Taft is advocating "conscription to build up an army for the country's defense"; he thinks that the people are so "stirred by enthusiasm" that they will support a conscription measure, and he asks, "why should not we take advantage of this state of public mind?"

He declares, "that military duty is a part of every citizen's duty," and expresses the fear that "many people have lost their vital sense of their obligation to the government."

The above quotation is from his reported speech at the Brooklyn Institute. It is given that the reader may see the use that is being made of the war scare. The ex-president represents the sentiment which is being cultivated by professional soldiers and those who have a pecuniary interest in big army contracts. They have wanted something of this kind all the time, but they have felt it necessary to wait until they thought the country stirred "by war and enthusiasm" before venturing to propose it.

Well, they had better make the most of the scare for if the country can keep out of this war until the end, there will be a reaction against the expense and absurdity of the plans of the army and navy experts that will carry us back to democratic principles again.

W. J. BRYAN.