

# Mr. Bryan Declines Prohibition Nomination

(Below will be found extracts from the reports of the Nebraska State Journal covering the National Prohibition Convention, in session at Lincoln, July 21, 22, and 23.—Ed.)

"Norris, Montana, July 22, 1920.

"C. W. Bryan,  
Lincoln, Neb.

"Please deliver the following message to the chairwoman of the prohibition national convention now in session at Lincoln.

"Having been away from the railroads and telegraph facilities for the past 24 hours, I have not received your telegram notifying me of the nomination tendered me by the prohibition party convention. But reading a copy of it in the Bozeman Chronicle, I hasten to reply. I profoundly appreciate the honor done me in tendering this nomination, and I fully share in the convention's interest in prohibition as the permanent policy of our government, and in the strict enforcement of the Volstead act, without any weakening of its provisions. I also share the convention's disappointment at the failure of the Democratic and Republican parties to pledge their candidates to such a policy, but I cannot in justice to the prohibition party or to myself accept the nomination.

"My connection with other reforms would make it impossible for me to focus attention upon the prohibition question alone, and besides, I am not willing to sever my connection with the Democratic party, which has had a glorious part in securing the prohibition amendment and the enforcement law and which has signally honored me in years past.

"I have not decided yet how I shall vote this fall, but whatever I may feel it my duty to do in this campaign, I expect to continue a member of the Democratic party, and to serve my country through it.

"WILLIAM J. BRYAN."

William Jennings Bryan will not be the standard-bearer of the national prohibition party in the 1920 campaign. Without waiting until he had received the official telegram sent him by officers of the convention or other information wired him and waiting for him at Bozeman, Mont., where he spoke Thursday night he sent a telegram to his brother Charles W. Bryan, for transmission to the convention, emphatically declining the honor.

In this he said that he appreciated the honor paid him, but that he cannot in justice to the prohibition party or to himself accept the nomination. He is interested in other reforms, and does not wish to focus attention on prohibition alone.

Mr. Bryan said that he had not yet decided how he shall vote this fall, but that he expected to continue a Democrat. He was not willing to sever his connection with a party that had a glorious part in securing the prohibitory amendment and which had signally honored him.

The reading of the telegram was received in silence. At the time the convention was about to proceed with naming a vice president, and after the reading had been finished the convention turned promptly to the task of naming a presidential candidate. No signs of resentment were shown, but on the contrary a little wave of handclapping ran over the audience.

## NO SURPRISE TO MANY

The decision of Mr. Bryan was not a great surprise to the leaders of the party. These had been advised in advance by C. W. Bryan of exactly how W. J. felt toward the matter. At first they acquiesced in the decision and began canvassing the situation. The persistency of the rank and file, however, gave birth to the idea that it might be possible to stampede him into accepting it or to put it up to him so strongly that he might be convinced that the path of duty lay that way. After the nomination was made Wednesday night arrangements were made to start a series of chain telegrams urging upon him the necessities of prohibition, but apparently Mr. Bryan acted upon what he read

in the morning papers and before he had read any of the telegrams sent him, including one from his brother advising him of the situation in Lincoln.

Privately many of the delegates expressed keen disappointment over the failure of their efforts to secure Bryan's consent. They said that when they left home many friends, Democrats and Republicans, urged upon them the necessity and wisdom of nominating Bryan, and predicting that he would sweep the country.

The delegates sang "In the Sweet Bye and Bye" in opening the evening session. The floor was well filled with delegates and visitors and there was a scattering in the galleries.

Following the song the crowd repeated the Lord's prayer.

The chairman announced the first order of business was the nomination of president of the United States. She asked Vice Chairman Mason to take the chair.

Delegate Colvin of New York asked postponement of business for five minutes.

Delegate George D. Harger of Pennsylvania presented his plank regarding Armenia and favoring the league of nations without reservations. The resolution was promptly laid on the table.

The delegates seemed to know Bryan had refused the nomination and seemed depressed. When Miss Brehm, chairman, read the telegram from Bryan refusing the nomination a Wisconsin delegate moved the order of day be changed and the convention proceed to nominate a president.

## TRIED TO REACH HIM ALL DAY

Attempts had been made throughout the day to locate the Commoner, Friends, relatives, officers of the Prohibition party, press associations, telephone and telegraph companies were called into the field to aid in locating Mr. Bryan. For more than twenty-four hours he had succeeded in secluding himself. Cass Lake, Devils Lake and Crookston, Minn.; Pony, Ennis and Bozeman, Mont., all claimed the nominee at various times during the day. Late in the afternoon it was definitely understood that Mr. Bryan was en route to Bozeman and was expected there about 8 o'clock mountain time.

With an uneasiness caused by the uncertainty of the possible acceptance by Mr. Bryan the delegates found it difficult to settle down to the business of the day and the flood of motions, amendments and debate during the afternoon was stopped only when the delegates decided to take a two hour recess before the evening session at which time the delegates had decided to take up the question of a nominee for the vice-presidency on the prohibition ticket.

## MR. BRYAN NOMINATED BY PROHIBITION CONVENTION

### NOTIFICATION TELEGRAM

Wm. Jennings Bryan,  
Bozeman, Montana.

Prohibition national convention nominated you by acclamation with great enthusiasm, in response to a flood of demands from people of all political creeds and from all parts of the nation. People are sick and disheartened over the situation in the dominant parties and millions are in revolt against both of them. We believe that we speak advisedly when we say that you face an unprecedented opportunity for good. A million volunteer campaigners and speakers will spring to your support. A hundred thousand college students can be organized to work for your election. The women are praying for such an opportunity as your candidacy affords. Millions of the rank and file of the voters will find in your candidacy the only opportunity for expressing their convictions and advancing them to expression in law. The motherhood, childhood and youth of the land cry out to you as the only candidate through which their civic aspirations can function. It is the opportunity of a generation. The stone which the builders have rejected, the same shall become the head of the corner. We pledge

your our wholehearted and unselfish devotion and co-operation.

MARIE C. BREHM, Chairman,  
Prohibition National Convention.  
EMIL L. G. HOENTHAL, Secretary

William Jennings Bryan, noted citizen and statesman of Lincoln, Nebraska, and thrice candidate for president of the United States, was nominated for president by the thirteenth national prohibition convention Wednesday at 7:03 p. m.

Mr. Bryan was nominated following a fifteen minute demonstration during which every state standard was torn from its fastenings and placed in a triumphal march of dry delegations. The Nebraska Commoner was placed in nomination despite the fact that assurances were given the delegates that Bryan had given Lincoln friends to understand that he would decline the nomination.

A heated debate of two hours was indulged in before the nomination was definitely placed before the convention. Miss Marie Brehm of California, permanent chairman of the prohibitions, called Vice Chairman Mason of New Jersey to the chair and then placed the name of the Nebraskan in nomination amid the cheers of the several hundred delegates.

In naming Mr. Bryan the convention upset precedent as well as its program by selecting the candidate on the first day. Nominations were not scheduled until Friday.

## START BIG DEMONSTRATION

The delegates were tired. They had been in session past the supper hour. This did not dampen their enthusiasm however and when Chairman Farris of the Missouri delegation with a shout grabbed the Missouri standard and jumped into the aisle the delegates grabbed their state insignias and started the march of jubilation.

Every state took part in the parade and very few individual delegates held back. The delegates pounded on the floor with the end of the standards and howled "We want Bryan," "We'll win with Bryan" and "Watch the prohibitionists sweep the country."

After five minutes of parading, cheering and yelling Vice Chairman Mason pounded for order but could not get it. The delegates were determined to continue the demonstration and every bound of the gavel made the delegates howl the more.

After eight minutes the pep of the demonstration had apparently died down and Vice Chairman Mason again tried for order. This resulted in a new outburst of noise and the shouting was greater than before. Delegates were red in the face from yelling. One old lady carried a state standard and was howling "I'll back Bryan" at the top of her voice.

A steam roller locomotive yell "Bryan-Bryan-Bryan, Bryan, Bryan, Bryan" was introduced and a number of the group took up the shout. The parade ended when the delegates joined in singing America.

J. A. Murray seconded the nomination on behalf of the Nebraska delegation. Others seconding the nomination were John B. Coffin of Florida, Miss Margaret Wintringer of Illinois, E. L. Miller of Missouri and Wylie Philips of California.

The nomination was officially announced at 7:03 p. m.

The nomination was made by acclamation. Six or seven delegates held out stubbornly refusing to vote in the affirmative. All attempts to swing them over to make it unanimous failed.

## THE NOMINATING SPEECH

When Mrs Brehm, chairman of the convention, called Vice Chairman Mason to the chair the delegates scented that a change in the situation was about to break.

They had been debating the question of a possible nomination of Bryan for over two hours but no one seemed to have the key to a nominating speech.

When Mrs Brehm announced she was about to make a nominating speech the delegation arose and cheered for close to a minute. She said:

"Having known William Jennings Bryan for many years and knowing that he has been a total abstainer and that his mother was a white ribboner and knowing his attitude towards American and world prohibition I take pleasure in making this speech.

"Knowing he is the first real Christian states-