

Echoes of San Francisco Convention

(Special staff correspondence by Edith C. Johnson, in Oklahoma City, Okla., Oklahoman, July 14.)

San Francisco, Cal., July 13.—About six weeks ago I ventured to make the assertion in my column in The Oklahoman that William Jennings Bryan was larger than any political party, that he stood above and beyond what we popularly call "politics." At that time I had not so much as seen Mr. Bryan, let alone heard him. By some trick of fate I always had missed seeing and hearing him during these many years that he has been prominent before the American public. Now that I have both seen and heard Mr. Bryan, I feel more than justified in having made the statement that I did. Mr. Bryan is, indeed, bigger than any political party for he will not deliver himself over to any political party at the sacrifice of the things for which he stands. He is the superidealst of America and the most fearless and outspoken statesman and philosopher in this country, and by all odds, the most beloved.

The biggest and most spontaneous demonstration of the entire Democratic convention was accorded to Mr. Bryan and newspaper men who are exceedingly wise in the ways of such conventions tell me that this one which has just closed held more demonstrations and more thrills to the hour than any convention in history. That wonderful demonstration which lasted for fully twenty-five minutes was given to the man, William Jennings Bryan, and not to the ideas and principles for which he so undauntedly stands. Men and women who would not cast a single vote for Bryan and his platform applauded him wildly and exclaimed, "Isn't he just wonderful," and they meant every word of it.

How can we explain this paradoxical situation?

There are three answers to this question. First, the intense earnest-

ness and sincerity of the man commands immediate admiration and respect. Not one person in a thousand will question Mr. Bryan's honesty of purpose. There are those, of course, who say that he is not the sincere prohibitionist that he assumes to be, that he is on the payroll of the Anti-saloon league. Before I would believe that Mr. Bryan sold himself to any faction like the Anti-saloon league, I would have to see his voucher drawn on that league. The same principle applies to Mr. Bryan's fight upon organized selfishness and special privilege in this country. His attacks upon the profiteers are not made with the expectation that some of them will slip around and buy him off. And it is because of this very sincerity and honesty of purpose and the impossibility of controlling Mr. Bryan that it always has been and always will be out of the question for him to be nominated president of the United States.

The second reason why Mr. Bryan has so tremendous a hold upon the public is this wonderful oratorical power. "I could listen all day and all night to him," I heard men and women remarking all around me when he had ceased speaking in the convention. He has a perfect genius for oratory. He has the most delightful sense of humor. There is not a bigger, finer, fuller speaking voice in all America, and as I have said elsewhere, his voice required less amplification by the loud public speaking system installed in the auditorium than any other voice that spoke from the convention stage.

Third of the reasons for Mr. Bryan's amazing popularity is the compelling charm of his personality. With all of his puritanical tendencies he is the most human of human beings. He does not have to assume any dignity, for nature made him a majestic creature. He is open hearted, he is impulsive and spontaneous. When his stern lips part and break into a smile, his is the most altogether lovely smile you ever saw on human face. The kindness of the man seems to be unfailing.

One day during the convention, a boy rushed up to him back of the stage and just as Mr. Bryan was about to mount the stage stairs in answer to wild cries of "We want Bryan" and said, "Mr. Bryan, I want to shake hands with you." Unlike a good many other men in public life, who have no time for those from whom they can expect nothing, Mr. Bryan paused, turned back and shook the lad's hand heartily. I, too, was the happy recipient of his beautiful thoughtfulness and courtesy on the day when he spoke before the Commonwealth club. I had heard that Mr. Bryan on that day was to speak before a large body of women, and immediately I telephoned to the Commonwealth club for a ticket. Arriving at the Palace hotel for the luncheon in honor of Mr. Bryan, what was my amazement to discover that I had been misinformed and that I was the only woman among hundreds of men. With that spirit of hospitality which has been so delightfully expressed to visitors to San Francisco, the men at the press table which was placed within a few feet of the speaker, urged me to stay if I would. Sensing the fact that I might feel somewhat embarrassed at being the only woman in that great company, Mr. Bryan, just after he finished speaking, leaned over his table, and stretching out his hand to me, asked me who I was and whence I had come. It was no interest in me as an individual that inspired Mr. Bryan to single me out for that courtesy, merely his impulse to a lone woman at her ease. That same kindness of spirit led Mr. Bryan to turn around in his seat at the table and shake hands with the waiter who was serving him. In that respect he reminds me to the late Colonel Roosevelt, who made it a custom to go forward in the station when he arrived at his destination and thank the engineer for having brought him safely to his journey's end.

William Jennings Bryan is well-named "the commoner." No great man since Abraham Lincoln has been so successful in keeping the common touch. When Mr. Bryan arrived in San Francisco, and hundreds were greeting him at the station, one baggage man turned and said to another, "He looks just about like one of us."

At the close of the convention, Mr. Bryan remarked with smiling irony that his heart was buried in the depths of depression, and it would be some time before he could express himself. It makes little difference how many political parties reject the principles upheld by Mr. Bryan, he will go right on being the towering figure that he is. He will go right on charming people with his eloquence, and captivating them with his smile. And when he raises his two arms over an audience, the people will feel that a sort of benediction has been pronounced upon them, no matter what the great commoner has said to them.

THE BEST PURSE WINS

(San Francisco, Calif., Call.)

Wall street is satisfied. It doesn't care which way the cat jumps in the presidential campaign. Either candidate, Cox or Harding, will be satisfactory in the White House so far as finance is concerned. But according to an article in the Wall Street Journal it is almost a certainty that the party which spends the most money is the more likely to win the fight. The statistician says:

"With the exception of the election held in 1916, the party with the largest campaign fund has been the successful party ever since 1860. Prospects of success may help ma-

terially to determine the length of the party purse, but here are always conditions that give hope of success to both the larger parties, and the leaders strive to determine how much is needed to place their candidate in the White House. Sometimes this amount has been large enough to build a giant battleship, while at other times it has been scarcely sufficient to fire one of her guns."

The following table shows how much the parties have spent and what they have gained since 1860:

Yr.	Candidate	Campaign Fund	Elect. Vote
1860	Lincoln	\$100,000	180
	Douglas	50,000	12
	Breckenridge	72	
1864	Lincoln	125,000	212
	McClellan	50,000	21
1868	Grant	150,000	214
	Seymour	75,000	80
1872	Grant	250,000	286
	Greeley	50,000	...
1876	Hayes	950,000	185
	Tilden	900,000	184
1880	Garfield	1,100,000	214
	Hancock	350,000	155
1884	Blaine	1,300,000	182
	Cleveland	1,400,000	219
1888	Harrison	1,350,000	233
	Cleveland	855,000	168
1892	Harrison	1,850,000	145
	Cleveland	2,350,000	277
1896	McKinley	16,500,000	271
	Bryan	675,000	176
1900	McKinley	9,500,000	292
	Bryan	425,000	155
1904	Roosevelt	3,500,000	336
	Parker	1,250,000	140
1908	Taft	1,700,000	321
	Bryan	750,000	162
1912	Taft	750,000	8
	Roosevelt	325,000	88
	Wilson	850,000	435
1916	Hughes	2,012,535	254
	Wilson	1,400,229	277

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