

"It stands upon its base, not upon its head. Any reconstruction which must be made must come from the bottom up."

While Mr. Bryan may not regard himself exactly as the base of the Democratic party, yet it will be conceded that he has been considerable of a pillar for twenty-five years. Therefore, the inference that he expects to be in the inner chambers when the reorganizing begins.

There was a well-defined feeling at the meeting of some of the party leaders in Washington last week that Mr. Bryan's hand was quite discernible in a movement to shake Ex-Governor Cox's control by placing anti-Cox men at the helm of the national committee. No doubt Mr. Bryan is content for the time being to allow the Cox managers to pay off the hard-pressing campaign debts. When that is done they may consider their duties finished.

Ex-Governor Cox insists on being accepted as the party chief. He demands retention of control of the party machinery. He will not brook opposition, because he wants to be renominated, and he is determined to grasp the honor. Cox, like many other Democrats, believes there will be something worth fighting for four years hence.

In order to retain his control, Cox is going to do a lot of talking about party harmony. Mr. Bryan will not be much excited by that.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Herald gives the names of a number of prominent Democrats who are "off" Cox. These men, the correspondent adds, have been in touch with William J. Bryan, and there are letters to show that Mr. Bryan gives whole-hearted adherence to the plan to dethrone Cox and reorganize the national committee. "Mr. Bryan told the coalition that Cox is 'impossible,' that the party can be rescued from its present 'humiliating position' only by relegating Cox to the ranks and selecting a new chairman who is not of the Cox following; that he, Bryan, is prepared to consider McAdoo a possibility four years hence, but that a new man easily may come up from nowhere, and that he can be counted on to put in his best licks for a general house-cleaning.

It is readily apparent that while the country is watching the course of the Harding administration it is going to be splendidly entertained by a most interesting political game by the Democrats.—Miami, Fla., Herald.

THE BRYANS IN ACTION

The Bryans—William J. and Charles W., his brother—are busy with plans for reorganizing the Democratic party. They are proceeding upon the proposition that, as the result of the November cyclone, the party is pretty thoroughly disorganized, and needs attention from the ground up. Hence they are considering the situation in all of its aspects, municipal, county, state and national.

Charles W. Bryan has given out the latest interview on the subject:

"We have been developing plans for thirty days to have the Democratic party deserve to win the support of progressive forces. The plans include drafting of constructive national, state and municipal legislative programs, representing the consensus of opinion of the progressives. * * * The legislative programs are being developed by the students of governmental needs and will be presented to the people. If possible these platforms will be adopted in county, state and national conventions. Selection of state and national leaders will be determined at meetings called for that purpose. The time and place of meetings will depend on the organized opposition, if any."

This sounds like "business," and undoubtedly means "business."

The brothers complement each other, and together make a strong team. What William J. lacks in taste and capacity for the details of organization, Charles W. supplies, and what Charles W. lacks in eloquence and whooping-up qualities, William J. abundantly supplies.

Mr. Bryan denies a report that there is factionalism in the movement. It is not aimed at "the Tammany element" of the party. The light in the window is for all who may respond in good faith and pledge support to the principles enunciated.

If the democracy reorganizes on a Bryan basis should it not make, and will it not be likely to make, its next appeal under the familiar Bryan leadership?—Washington Star.

MR. BRYAN AND THE DEMOCRAT PARTY

No surprise is caused by the news from New York that William J. Bryan and his brother, Charles Bryan, have a program for the rehabili-

tation of the Democratic party. It was suggested in these columns a few days ago that when the time arrived for reorganization of the party that the hand of Mr. Bryan would be seen as well as felt.

Mr. Bryan submitted as humbly as his dignity would permit to the taking over of the party by the Cox-Taggart-Murphy crowd last summer. He had his say in open convention at San Francisco and then gracefully retired to the ranks. No one in the ranks was less obtrusive. The new captains drove the old ship on the reefs, and, in the language of that distinguished southern senator, John Sharp Williams, "There she sticks!"

But recently it appeared that the rising tide and wilder waves might wreck the remains. There has been bitter warfare on Chairman White. Some of the women of the party have been bombarding him with requests for his resignation. An artist might paint the shipwreck with the Cox-Taggart-Murphy crowd hanging on one side and the McAdoo-Palmer-Cummings faction clinging to the other, with William J., swimming to the rescue—not to the rescue of either faction, mind you, but of the ship.

That, literally, is what is going to take place when the commoner's progressive platform is announced. The Bryan plan, according to Judge R. C. Roper, of Nebraska, is to reorganize the privates in the lines so as to develop an effective fighting army. It is the aim of Mr. Bryan to give control of the party to the middle class Democrats, leaving the generals and captains to take care of themselves.

It was not so much about the plan of reorganization we started out to speak, but more as to the right of Mr. Bryan to take the reins. In the races he made for the presidency he polled what may correctly be termed the normal Democratic vote—that is, he held the party together. We all know what happened to Alton B. Parker. The party went to smash. The two Wilson campaigns can be properly classed as unusual. In the first Wilson campaign, the Republicans were split in two. The second Wilson campaign was materially helped by war conditions. Then came the Cox campaign. Glory be, the pieces haven't yet been picked up. So, with considerable accuracy, Mr. Bryan can claim, that while he missed the goal, he left the party in reasonably good condition. Probably at no time in its history was the party more nearly in control of the privates than in the Bryan campaigns. If the generals and captains had stood their ground, we might have now been speaking of our beloved fellow citizens as former President Bryan.

There can be no question but that Miami will be the center of deep concern on the part of many Democratic leaders who led the party right up the hill and right down again. They constantly will be anxious to know the thoughts of the sage of Villa Serena, who is less noted for his serenity in politics than he is in his home life.—Miami, Fla., Herald.

FROM RIDICULE TO PRAISE

In the days before the world war the people of all nations were trying to find a way to get together in a great brotherhood of nations, the object being to make war practically impossible.

Responsive to the call of humanity for permanent peace, William J. Bryan, American secretary of state, evolved a plan to bring the nations together in such a brotherhood. By the strength of his great personality he actually induced more than thirty nations to enter into treaties, under the terms of which no nation could go to war with another nation until one full year should elapse after a dispute should have been submitted to other friendly nations for arbitration.

Then came the war. Bryan dropped his peace treaty talk, and declared that the first duty of every American should be to help win the war. After the war the demand for severe peace terms with Germany was so strong that the gentle peace terms which Mr. Bryan had proposed were ridiculed.

But now—how changed the drift of opinion! The despised and rejected peace plans proposed by Bryan are again receiving attention, and it may be that the world will yet solve the problems of the world war in harmony with the peace views of Mr. Bryan, and that the plan of the diplomats across the sea to tie the American eagle to the tail of the European kite may be displaced by the common sense and humanitarian peace plans proposed by Bryan.

Recently there appeared in the Houston (Texas) Chronicle the following remarkable review of the life and peace efforts of Mr. Bryan, clearly indicating that President Harding may

yet espouse the Bryan peace policies. The Chronicle article reads as follows:

"What an anomaly William Jennings Bryan has become in American politics, what a unique figure. Who has been so often or so repeatedly rejected from a partisan standpoint? Who has found it so difficult to gain office by election? Yet who has more distinctly stamped his personality on the drift of events?"

"It has been said of several Americans that they were too great for the presidency. It may be too early for that to be said of Bryan yet it would not be surprising to find him ranked with Webster, Calhoun and Clay, in this particular, at some future day. Since his appearance on the national stage in 1896 he has fathered many reforms. Most of them have found a more or less definite expression in our political views.

"Scarcely one but what was received with smiles, if not ridicule, at the outset, yet how many of the Bryan suggestions are we not following out right now?"

"Under such circumstances, is it surprising that he should be called into consultation by the Republican president-elect, especially on a matter he is so earnestly interested in, and on which he is so well qualified to speak, as world peace.

"How well many remember his arbitration treaties when they were first announced. What a makeshift they seemed. But we were all tense and rigid then, preferring inflexible things, because of the influence of a great tragedy in the making.

"As the war developed, we grew more tense and rigid, more in favor of iron-bound methods, more amendable to arbitrary, unbending supervision. Emerging from the gigantic struggle, we looked with enthusiasm on the hard and brittle covenant presented for our consideration. We wanted only a peace pact, but such a pact as no nation could possibly overstep.

"In this mood, Bryan's arbitration treaties seemed more tenuous, more impotent than ever, and the thought of what they might have accomplished, or what they might still accomplish, was quietly forgotten.

"Now, however, it suddenly comes to the surface again, and with redoubled force. Even Mr. Root says he is not so sure but what it offers the safest foundation on which to build, and President-elect Harding is so impressed that he wishes to get the whole idea from the lips of Bryan himself.

"None of us can foretell the outcome of all his controversy over the best method by which to inaugurate a permanent movement for world peace. There is a mighty jangling of opinions, and a mightier web of cross purposes to be cleared away.

"But, and this is not the point we started out to make, it is paradox of paradoxes that Mr. Bryan should be sitting among national counselors again, especially with the Republicans in power."

Driven out of the cabinet by a Democratic president, because he could not reduce himself to a level of a rubber stamp; branded by the administration and by the newspaper voice of Big Business as a political outcast; his peace plans ridiculed and rejected as the dream of a dreamer, suddenly he comes before the eye of the world again, and today he is holding a place first among the statesmen of the world. So appealing now are his humanitarian plans that it seems quite probable that no manner of league of nations can be consummated which shall not carry the soul of the Bryan peace plans into the organic law of such a league.

Ridicule does not kill. If ridicule were fatal why, if it were a deadly thing, Bryan would have died in 1896 and every day since then.

If ridicule could kill—why, if it were a deadly thing, I should have died every morning before breakfast during the past thirty years—poisoned by the sting of the asps of error, and all because through all those years I have held fast to the pure principles of government which that remarkable man has proclaimed,—daring always, and happy in this hour, to hail him as my brother and my friend.—Edgar Howard, in Columbus, Neb., Telegram.

JERSEY HOUSE FAVORS EIGHTEENTH AMENDMENT

On January 24 the New Jersey house adopted a concurrent resolution for ratification of the Federal Prohibition Amendment by a vote of 51 to 4. At the same session the House unanimously repealed Governor Edward's 3.50 per cent beer bill enacted last year. On the same day the New York assembly voted down a request to congress to legalize the manufacture and sale of wine and beer by a vote of 77 to 42.—American Issue.