

THE BRYAN BANQUET

Home-Coming of Great Nebraskan Celebrated by Biggest Banquet Ever Held in Lincoln

According to announcements previously made in The Independent, the banquet in honor of Mr. Bryan's home-coming was given at the Lindell hotel, Lincoln, Monday night. More than 700 persons were assembled, largely from other towns and cities within the state, and a number from Colorado, South Dakota, and Iowa.

The usual banquet routine need not be described here, except to say that the Lindell management was taxed to the utmost to care for the more than 700 guests, but everything passed off as smoothly as one could wish, considering the immense jam in lobby and dining room. The toast list was as follows:

"We Have Kept the Faith," W. H. Thompson, Grand Island.

"Principles, Not Men," W. D. Oldham, Kearney.

"Just Democrats—That's All," H. B. Fleharty, South Omaha.

"Signs of the Times," A. C. Shallenberger, Alma.

"Fusion, Good and Bad," C. J. Smyth, Omaha.

"The Salt of the Earth," G. W. Berge, Lincoln.

"The Moral Issue," Mr. Bryan.

James Manahan, of Lincoln, presided as toastmaster, having for his symbol of authority a real old Irish blackthorn presented him by Mr. Bryan. It is needless to tell those who know Manahan, that he makes an ideal toastmaster—his Irish wit keeping every guest in the greatest of good humor.

To a populist onlooker one of the encouraging signs of this banquet was the firm grasp several of the speakers showed regarding the real issues and the real mission of the democratic party. At the great majority of banquets, responses to the toasts are usually a mere conjuring with the party name and an attempt to be witty; but W. H. Thompson, A. C. Shallenberger, C. J. Smyth and Mr. Bryan, especially, in their responses showed a realization of the fact that the real issue is between the big fellows and the little ones, between the plutocrats and the producers; that there is no room for two plutocratic parties; and that "harmony" between plutocrats and the great common people cannot honestly be brought about.

Mr. Smyth, responding to the toast, "Fusion, Good and Bad," without mentioning names, advertising to the recent action of the Jacksonian club at Omaha in taking back the members it expelled in 1896 and apologizing therefore, quoted from the resolution passed by the club in which it was asserted that "a wave of fusion swept over this nation, and especially in Nebraska, which caused the democratic party to tremble for the ultimate result." "If true," said Mr. Smyth, "was this good or bad fusion? Let us see." And he recounted the fusion brought about by Cleveland in 1893 between "Cleveland and Clevelandites and Hanna and Hannaites" that worked the undoing of the democratic party, concluding "this fusion was bad, very bad."

Casting 80,000 votes for Cleveland in 1888, the democratic party in Nebraska had dwindled down to 37,000 votes in 1893, because of the blighting influence of the stuffed prophet. "But," said Mr. Smyth, "behold the party in 1896, after it had thrown off the corporation element. It had risen from insignificance to great power and had taken on the stature of a man, noble and commanding. It now became a guiding influence in the deliberations of the national organization. After that men anxiously listened to know what Nebraska democrats thought upon this question or upon that. We ceased to follow and commenced to lead. The world learned where Nebraska was and from time to time its eye was centered upon it, and today the action of the party in no state is watched with more interest than the action of our party here. The fusion which brought this about was good. It may be that it is at an end because impracticable, but no man who contributed to its creation and assisted in its maintenance can feel aught but a sense of pride that he was permitted to do so."

The abstract of Mr. Bryan's speech on the "Moral Issue" given to the press does not do justice to the speech as actually delivered. The room crowded with enthusiastic admirers from every part of the state, almost to a man personally known to him, and the speeches that preceded his, had greater than is usual aroused his enthusiasm and he departed from the somewhat formal remarks he had originally intended and launched out into a speech that reminded one of the stirring days

of 1896; but the exact words of that speech will never appear in print, because Mr. Bryan spoke too rapidly and too earnestly for verbatim reporting. The substance, however, will long live in the memory of those who heard him, because of its undoubted spirit of no compromise with the plutocratic element of his party and the conviction that "harmony" with that element is impossible. He said:

"Instead of talking of concessions and compromises, it is time for honest and aggressive action. We are confronted with a condition that may well alarm the thoughtful and patriotic. We find corruption everywhere. Voters are bought at so much per head, representatives in our city governments are profiting by their positions, and even federal officials are selling their influence."

"What is the cause? The commercial spirit that puts a price on everything and resolves every question into 'Will it pay?' This commercialism has given popularity to that theory of government which permits the granting of privileges to a favored few, and defends the theory by an attempt to show that the money thus given directly finds its way indirectly back into the pockets of the taxpayers."

"We see this theory in operation on every side. The protective tariff schedules illustrate it; our financial system rests upon it; the trusts hide themselves behind it, and imperialists are substituting this theory for the constitution."

"Is it strange that money is used to carry elections? If a party makes certain classes rich by law, will it not naturally turn to those classes for contributions during the campaign? If congress votes millions of dollars annually to tariff barons, money magnates and monopolists, is it not natural that aldermen should traffic in the small legislation of a city council, and if officials high and low use the government as if it were a private asset, is it surprising that many individuals who are without official position yield to the temptation to sell the only political influence they have, namely, the ballot? What is the remedy? There is but one remedy—an appeal to the moral sense of the country—an awakening of the public conscience."

"And how can this appeal be made? Not by showing a greater desire for the spoils of office than for reforms, but by turning a deaf ear to the contemptible cry of 'anything to win,' and by announcing an honest and straightforward position on every public question. If we would appeal to sincere men we must ourselves be sincere, and our sincerity can be shown only by a willingness to suffer defeat rather than abandon the cause of good government."

"Shall we accept imperialism as an accomplished fact in order to appease those who are willing to indorse government without the consent of the governed? There can be no thought of such a surrender, for who would trust us to deal with other questions if we prove false to the fundamental principles of self-government?"

"Shall we change our position on the trust question in order to secure the support of the trust magnates? Not for a moment can we think of it. We want the trust magnates against us, not for us. Their opposition is proof of our party's fidelity; their support would cast suspicion upon us."

"Shall we abandon our advocacy of bimetalism in order to conciliate those who defeated the party in all campaigns? Never. Some phase of the money question is always before congress and no one can predict when the coinage phase of the money question will again become acute. No reform of any kind would be possible with the money changers in control of the party."

"Shall we change our position on the tariff question in order to win over democrats who are enjoying the benefits of protection? It is absurd to suggest it, for the same vicious principle runs through all of the abuses from which the people suffer. And so with the party's position on the labor question, on the election of senators by the people, on watered stock, control of corporations and on other issues."

"The Kansas City platform is sound in every plank and the first act of the next democratic convention should be to reaffirm it in its entirety, and its next act should be the addition of new planks in harmony with it and covering such new questions as demand consideration."

"Then the convention should select candidates who believe in the platform—candidates whose democracy will not be an issue in the campaign and whose fidelity to democratic principles will not be doubted at the election. And then the committee should announce that it will neither ask nor receive campaign contributions from those

who are entrenched behind the bulwarks which we are attacking." Then let us defend our position, not upon the ground of dollars and cents, but by showing how republican policies violate moral principles and invite the punishment that sooner or later overtakes the wrong-doer.

"Will such a course insure victory? The best that our party can do is to deserve victory, and an appeal to the conscience of the American people is sure to win ultimately and offers the best promise of immediate success."

CALL FOR NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING.

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 12, 1904.—To the Members of the National Committee of the People's Party of the United States, Greeting: The call hereinafter is made in compliance with a resolution passed by said committee at Denver, Colo., July 29, 1903, that the committee shall be called to meet at St. Louis, Mo., on February 22, 1904, for the purpose of fixing time and place of holding the national convention of the people's party, which convention, when convened, shall place in nomination members of its own party as candidates for president and vice president of the United States, and transact such other business as may come before it.

As vice chairman of the national committee of the people's party, I was empowered by a resolution passed by the national committee of the people's party at Kansas City, in regular session of the same, to call meetings and to transact any other business of the committee that the chairman by virtue of his office would be empowered to perform.

Therefore I do hereby call on all committeemen of the people's party to convene at St. Louis, Feb. 22, 1904, for the purpose aforesaid. And in addition to the committee, would respectfully invite all members of the party who can conveniently attend such meeting to do so.

It is to be hoped that at this meeting a full recognition of the efforts made at Denver last July will be indorsed by a united people's party of the nation. And that the influences for reform as found in the people's party may be no longer throttled by misunderstandings, for it is the only party that can and will uncover wrong doing and corruption wherever found.

We hope that this meeting will be well attended and be fruitful of great good. Reform papers please copy.

J. H. EDMISTEN,
Vice Chairman National Committee
People's Party.

RECORD RUN TO KANSAS CITY

Wabash Train Makes Trip in Five Hours and Fifty Minutes

Wabash train No. 9, fast mail between St. Louis and Kansas City, made a record-breaking run from St. Louis to Kansas City Sunday afternoon.

The schedule time for starting is 2:20 p. m., and the regular time for the run is seven hours and ten minutes. No. 9 started one hour late, lost twenty minutes on the way and pulled into Kansas City on time, making the run in five hours and fifty minutes, five minutes faster than any previous record.

There was a full equipment of a mail car, combination car, chair car and diner. At many places along the route the train showed a speed of seventy miles to the hour, and between Mexico and Montgomery City a mile a minute was reeled off. The distance is twenty-four miles, and it took just twenty-four minutes to make the trip.

The train was in charge of Conductor J. S. Gould. The engineer was George Nelson and the fireman was Charles Summerville.—St. Louis Republic.

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If your watch needs repairing carefully pack it in cotton and send by mail. I will examine it free of charge and let you know what repairs are needed and what they will cost. You can then say whether I shall proceed and repair it for you. If the expense should be more than you desire to pay the watch will be returned without charge.

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Two More Homeseekers' Excursions.

Tuesday, February 2 and 16, the Rock Island System will sell round-trip tickets to points in New Mexico, Oklahoma, Indian Territory and Texas at one fare plus \$2.00.

Good to return any time within 21 days of date of sale.

Write or call for new Oklahoma book with county maps.
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