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THE INDEPENDENT,
 Lincoln, Neb.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN

The spontaneous outburst of sentiment in favor of William J. Bryan that has swept over the land during the past few months, resulting in crowning him with the leadership of thought upon the vital questions of politics is another demonstration of the supremacy of the moral function in the collective life of the nation. The trend of events conquered ignorance, and with each demonstration of the truth of Mr. Bryan's teachings the heart of the nation penitently turned in affection toward him who, conscious of being right himself, exhibited sublime faith in the power of the people to eventually know and do the right.

The reception recently accorded to Mr. Bryan upon his return to his native land after his globe encircling tour is without precedent as a tribute to a private citizen. In his tour of the world he found his fame had preceded him, that mankind in all of its various strata wheresoever dispersed knew something of the gallant leader of the people in the titanic struggle for supremacy between democracy and plutocracy in the land of Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln.

Never before did the presence of a stranger in the benighted regions of the earth awaken emotions akin to those awakened in the bleeding hearts of the earth's downtrodden millions along the pathway of America's great commoner in his journeyings through the eastern hemisphere. Bryan's voice in behalf of freedom has become a world power. He speaks as a citizen, but his words have become endowed with imperial power over the intellects and hearts of unnumbered millions who regard the political arena of the United States as freedom's battle ground for the children of the earth.

What is the secret of Mr. Bryan's power? The answer is, he knows the right and dares to give it full and free expression. He is known to have ambition. But his implicit trust and sublime confidence in the power of

the people too, in the end, know and do the right, tempers his ambition and levels his words and deeds with the eternal heartbeat of humanity. His ambition is an honest ambition and it has not corrupted his heart. He has given demonstration of a heart that is sublimely brave and true in being able to weather the storm of ignorance and prejudice until the unfolding hand of time has partially lifted the clouds of intellectual darkness and cleared the mental horizon of his fellow citizens, when the homage of honest hearts could no longer be withheld from him. Thus, the spontaneous ebullition of sentiment of affection for and confidence in Bryan in the hearts of his countrymen is made manifest in the hearty greeting and welcome home that is accorded him, so universal that for the time, at least, political bias is overwhelmed.

EDWARD ROSEWATER

The news of the sudden death of Edward Rosewater on the morning of 31st ult. was a great surprise and shock to the citizens of Nebraska. In the demise of Mr. Rosewater, the state of Nebraska sustains a great loss. His services to the city and state of his adoption during the past thirty years, easily outranks that of any other Nebraskan, either living or dead. He was a man who did things. He was public spirited, able, industrious and courageous, a man of superb ability and untiring energy, a power for good and a terror of evil doers.

At no time in his eventful life was the scope of his activity greater or his influence so potent as at the very hour of his untimely end.

His pathway in business and politics was beset by difficulties that a less heroic nature would have shrunk from. But the valiant Rosewater was unawed and hesitated not, always exhibiting a sublime confidence in the final outcome of all of his undertakings in business and in public affairs. His life was one of indomitable purpose, resting upon a broad and comprehensive understanding of the ends sought, as well as the means to be employed and the difficulties and delays to be encountered.

Living in a state as completely subject to corporation rule as either Rhode Island or Delaware, his soul was in constant rebellion against the insolent railroad political regime that dominate party conventions and legislatures and besmirched the government of the state generally.

He conducted many fierce battles in caucuses, conventions and legislatures against the railroad political rings and fought them with Spartan valor when victory was impossible, contenting himself with presenting facts and arguments for the enlightenment of the voters. No matter how hopeless the task, in the face of angry majorities, led by railroad tools, whom he had publicly branded as such, the invincible and irrepressible Roman soldier seemed at all times eager for the fray. In his almost perpetual conflict with the corporation minions in politics, his motto seemed to be: "Lay on Macduff and damned be he who first cries, hold, enough!"

He was a personal friend and ardent

supporter of President Roosevelt and felt an intense satisfaction in applauding every move made by the president to curb the aggression of the railroads and the trusts.

Intellectually, Mr. Rosewater towered above the average editor of the daily newspaper, and the Omaha Bee has, for many years, occupied a place on the front rank of American journalism. Rosewater's editorials covered a broad range and were noted for their breadth of scope and power and incision of statement. In the demise of Edward Rosewater the journalistic profession has lost a brilliant star, and the state of Nebraska has suffered the loss of one of its greatest and most valued citizens.

A TYPE

Perhaps a lifetime may not again afford an opportunity equal to the present to so strikingly illustrate the baseness of a class of politicians that has been much in evidence at the receptions given to Mr. Bryan since his return to his own country. They represent a type of humanity not confined to any political party or to any nation or age. On the contrary they have been in evidence in all ages and all nations, encumbering the pathway of human progress and illustrating a hideous deformity of human character. The cause of humanity in every age has had to contend against its Judases and Benedict Arnolds.

Less than a year has passed since some of the men of our own and other states who are attracting attention to themselves at the present time by their conspicuous fawning at the feet of Mr. Bryan were expressing great satisfaction in the belief that Bryan was as dead, politically, as an Egyptian mummy. They emphasized their feelings upon the subject with the further expression that Bryanism was a sort of political distemper that had fortunately run its course and was now a thing of the past, to so remain for ever. Some of the men who thus spoke last year and the year before, and who are now seeking to monopolize the attention of Mr. Bryan and parade themselves before the public as his most ardent admirers, are men who professed friendship for Mr. Bryan in the past and pretended to give him loyal support in his former campaigns. Others of them are men who made no profession of friendship for his candidacy at any time, some of whom openly opposed him.

Expressions of hostility toward Mr. Bryan on the part of these men were frequent and often obtrusive, until after the rate bill in the last session of congress became a topic of current discussion, when the name of Bryan began to be associated with that of Roosevelt and it was becoming apparent to the dullest intellect that the popularity of both Bryan and Roosevelt was soaring skyward. The new manifestation of Bryan's popularity surprised and stunned his enemies in the democratic party, who later having grasped the magnitude and power of the sentiment for him in the eastern states, made up their minds to utilize the Bryan wave to advance their own political fortunes. Hence among the loudest and most officious attendants upon Mr. Bryan are to be found many

who neither understand nor approve of the ideas that Mr. Bryan stands for, and have no sympathies in common with the millions of stalwart supporters of the great commoner, but who have determined to ride upon the Bryan wave and make use of it to boost themselves into prominence and position, after which, if they can profit by so doing, they will be ready to betray Mr. Bryan and the American people.

Men of the type herein described are at the present time to be found playing their vocation of hypocrites in both political parties in the state of Nebraska, some wearing the cloak of Roosevelt, others that of Bryan, in order to deceive honest voters into electing them to office. The voters must bear in mind that the individual record of each candidate furnishes a far safer and better guide to their true character than do their pre-election professions. They must remember that it was with a kiss that Judas betrayed his Master.

THE CORPORATION IN POLITICS

(From the Springfield Republican)

President E. P. Ripley of the Atchison railroad company maintains the right of a corporation to mix up in politics as an individual entity. This is a matter worth brief consideration. He says in his latest letter to the people of Kansas—and his policy of presenting the case of his corporation

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