

WILLIAM J. BRYAN FOR UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR?

Nebraska Statesman Suggested to Succeed E. Benjamin Andrews Whose Resignation Has Been Announced

THOUGHT BOARD OF REGENTS MAY POSSIBLY CONSIDER HIM FOR THIS HIGH POSITION

People Who Are Interested In The Welfare of Our Great State Institution Speculate On Successor To The Executive Who Has Been a Great Factor In Building Up Nebraska's Leading School and Putting It In The Front Rank of State Universities of The Country

Will the university regents, in looking for a successor to Chancellor E. Benjamin Andrews, whose resignation is announced to take effect January 1, 1909, consider William J. Bryan of Fairview for the headship of the state school?

Suppose that they should tender the position to the man who has three times been the choice of a great minority of the people for the presidency of the United States, would Mr. Bryan accept the office?

In case the offer should be made and accepted, what sort of a chancellor would Mr. Bryan make?

These and similar questions are of moment to Nebraskans interested in the success of their state university

resignation was announced last Saturday. One gentleman who is connected with the university affairs in such a manner that he has heard much of the gossip as to who the new chancellor will be stated yesterday that he had heard Mr. Bryan nominated for the place more than any other man. There seems to be a general idea that Mr. Bryan would make a good executive if he were selected and accepted. The question revolves rather about the possibility of his election by the board of regents and his willingness to take the position.

It is said that at least a part of the board of regents will favor a western man for the chancellorship. In the past the university has in fact

the regents with a tender of the university leadership it remains to be seen whether or not he would accept the place. That he can still be the leader of the democratic party is not questioned. That acceptance of the chancellorship of the university would practically mean his withdrawal from politics is also almost certain. Whether the power over a party which can scarcely be hoped to ever again nominate him for the office of his ambition would be greater in Mr. Bryan's regard than the opportunity to enter a field of broad usefulness in the educational world is a matter of conjecture.

It is highly improbable that Mr. Bryan can ever be president of the United States. All that continued manipulation of politics can mean for him is the power to partially control a party which has already done its utmost for him and which can hardly offer him further reward. On the other hand, the chancellorship of the University of Nebraska offers an opportunity for great constructive work, something which Mr. Bryan has never yet been fortunate enough to accomplish to any extent. Nor would the acceptance of the office mean Mr. Bryan's withdrawal from the public eye. It would even add to the power of his utterances by removing them from reach of prejudicial allegations. Lectures such as Mr. Bryan has been known to deliver on moral and economic topics would have a vastly greater influence coming from the chancellor of a great university than from the boss of a political party.

However all speculation as to a possible successor to Chancellor Andrews is scarcely better than guesswork. The board of regents, if they have anyone in view, are saying nothing about it and probably will not do so until the offer is made and accepted. The suggestion of Mr. Bryan's name, so far as can be learned, has come entirely from outside sources and its effect on the regents is problematical.

Andrews' Great Work.

In withdrawing from the chancellorship on January 1 Chancellor Andrews will close a period in the course of his life's history, which has been fraught with great consequences for the University of Nebraska. Since Mr. Andrews accepted the headship of the school in August of 1900 the space at the campus devoted to study has been almost doubled, the state farm has been re-created, appropriations have been doubled and the University of Nebraska has attracted wide attention by the quality of its work and the character of its professors and graduates.

Since Chancellor Andrews gave up the superintendency of the Chicago city schools for the place at the Nebraska the university has made great material advance. It is within these last eight years that the Administration building, Brace hall, the Museum, and the Temple have been built and the work on the Engineering building inaugurated. In the same time practically all the buildings of permanent value at the state farm have been erected. Under Dr. Andrews a consistent pur-

pose in building up the campus has been followed.

Financially the university has made wonderful progress since 1900. The amount of money devoted to the various uses of the school has doubled since Dr. Andrews took up the task of building up the state institution. One evidence of the chancellor's activity is to be found in the increased appropriations for the state farm. Although an eastern man of extreme culture, Dr. Andrews realized that Nebraska was an agricultural state and he foresaw that the state must educate its young men in the methods of scientific agriculture. He went about the matter with characteristic energy and the result has been the creation

accuracy of decision and action. It is safe to say that the university has never had in the ranks of its faculty or administrative force a man of so great a personality, of such loyal energy, and of such combined classical culture and practical executive power.

Chancellor Andrews is fearless in his convictions. He never stops to explain. He does things and lets the results of his acts explain their justice. It was because of his brave disregard of sentiment and prejudice that the university was enabled to secure from Stanford universities Professors Ross and Howard, both of whom proved themselves great men in the educational world. Even since he has been at the head of the uni-



WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

In view of the suggestion made repeatedly during the past three days that William Jennings Bryan might consent to become executive head of the University of Nebraska. With mere suggestion as the only traceable foundation for rumor, what chance is there that the regents would choose Mr. Bryan to become head of the state's great institution of higher education? Considering the fact that Mr. Bryan is still leader of the political party at whose behest he has three times made the race for the presidential chair, what chance is there that he would relinquish this leadership for the chancellorship of the university?

That these questions are pertinent is evidenced by the fact that mention of Mr. Bryan's name in connection with the university vacancy has been frequent since Chancellor Andrews'

drawn its strongest men from the east, but conditions have changed since the last selection of a chief executive and it is possible that a western man would be favored, other things being equal.

This being the case, Mr. Bryan's chances of selection by the regents might not be small. That he possesses at the same time western ideas combined with a world-wide experience is a great advantage. Having all the characteristics of the western man, yet Mr. Bryan is capable of taking his place with the most advanced easterner. Not only this, but his experience and his fame are world-wide. He has been a guest of foreign nations and has not failed when called upon to take his place with the great men of other countries.

Would He Accept?

If Mr. Bryan were approached by



E. BENJAMIN ANDREWS

of the state farm in its present form. The New Colleges.

When Chancellor Andrews came to Nebraska there was no college of medicine. Now the school of medicine is one of the most active and valuable departments of the university. It was Dr. Andrews who picked Dean Roscoe Pound for the head of the law school, which selection resulted in the creation of a systematic law department. Chiefly by insistence of the Chancellor the regents established the College of Education, which, in its first term, has enrolled over 300 students. Another new department is that of pharmacy, which was instituted only last fall.

All of these things have been secured only after indefatigable effort. Chancellor Andrews is a tireless worker with a wonderful quickness and

versity Chancellor Andrews has insisted that the university was the place for free discussion by the thinking men of the country. Because of this policy the university has secured the services of men who have advanced thought on radical lines and whose presence has done much to raise the university to its high standard.

Cultured Scholar.

Chancellor Andrews is a scholar of the old school. He knows his classics as the small boy knows his alphabet. Verse after verse of Greek and Latin composition is at his tongue's end. His broadness of education is shown by the various professional chairs which he occupied at different times. He has been professor of history, of political economy, of finance, of moral philosophy and of homeletics. He can