Bryan's Washington Hall Speech from the Stenographer's Notes

Most Striking Characteristics Are the Distinctly Anti-Omaha Tone and the Note of Disappointment That Pervade It Almost Throughout --- Verbatim Report of Principal Passages of the Peerless Leader's Address

(Note by stenographer: Mr. Bryan arrived at the hall at 8:20 p. m., unaccompanied, proceeded immediately to the platform, which was unoccupied, handed out from the footlights to the audience about three dozen chairs, carrying them himself as far as the footlights, retaining one chair for his hat and coat, and another chair alongside the table at which he spoke. He began speaking immediately, concluding about 10:20, reading a portion of the time from manuscript.)

Mr. Bryan: Some of you take these chairs, please, so they can be occupied.

Note: Mr. Bryan then hands out about three dozen chairs, carrying them to the footlights, where they were received from him by people in the audience, the audience cheering while this was being done, Mr. Bryan wearing a broad smile as though he enjoyed it.

Mr. Bryan: Mr. Chairman! (Turning to the empty chair at his side and addressing it in a deferential and courteous manner.) (Prolonged laughter and cheering.) Ladies and gentlemen: This is my meeting. (Laughter and applause.) I mean I am not here at anybody's invitation. I paid for the hall. I introduced myself—with such introduction as may be necessary to the newcomers in this community. (Laughter.)

Note: Mr. Bryan here proceeded to read an editorial from The Bee and to justify himself for hiring a hall over a saloon and belonging to a brewer—this part of his speech having already been printed in full in The Bee.

Mr. Bryan: I have no disposition to dictate and have no means of enforcing a command if I desired to issue one. But I am a member of the democratic party; I am a citizen of the state of Nebraska, and besides being in duty bound to meet the responsibilities of a democrat and the responsibilities of a citizen, I am also bound to meet those higher responsibilities that rest upon us as moral beings.

I think you will agree with me that I have as much interest in the democratic party as any other member of the party, and if any of you think that my course jeopardizes democratic success, I think you will not deny that I have as much interest in democratic success as any other member of the party. Even those who are candidates for office are not personally interested in its success more than I am, for in the national work I am trying to do I would be embarrassed by the defeat of the party in this state, especially if the responsibility of the defeat could be fairly placed upon me. I think you will agree with me also that as a citizen of the state I have as deep interest in the welfare of the state as any other citizen. I am as closely identified with its standing, its welfare and its progress as any other member of the party. I am a taxpayer in the state of Nebraska and cannot be indifferent to anything that affects the state. As an individual it is my responsibility as well as that of others, and I have no more right to dodge a question that is ready for settlement than you have.

When I returned to the state after an absence of some months I found a condition here that I had not expected to find, and I may add a condition which I believe the great majority of the democrats of this state are entirely ignorant of:

I had announced my position on the subject of county option and had said before leaving it was an issue that could not be avoided unless the initiative and the referendum was submitted by special session, and the submission of the initiative and referendum only avoids the issue because it presents a larger issue and one which includes county option together with other issues.

Under the initiative and the referendum any question upon which the people desire to act can be submitted at the polls. If we have the initiative and the referendum submitted we can work this fall for the adoption of the amendment, and when it is adopted we can take up any question upon which the people desire to act.

That is the reason I am willing to postpone, as far as I am concerned, any discussion of the question of county option. If we can have the question of the initiative and referendum submitted I am willing, as I say, because I regard the question of the initiative and the referendum as the largest single question that can come before this state, and because it includes all other questions, I prefer to take the big question first and get the right of the people to act on these questions, and if we can do that this fall it is accomplishment enough for one year.

When I reached Nebraska I found that a special session had not been called because the canvass made did not assure the success of the amendment.

I found that the liquor interests, which controlled enough members of the senate to prevent the submission of the initiative and the referendum, were insisting that the county option question should not be made a state issue.

They wanted to have the state organization of both the leading parties against county option and their argument was that the matter should be left to the districts. But I found that these same liquor interests were at work selecting candidates for the state senate with a view to controlling that body. I found that representatives of the national liquor organization had been in the state and that they had tried to arrange for the selection of senatorial candidates.

I state that generally and I have the proof of it. I have talked with two men who were called upon by representatives of the national liquor organization, and that national liquor organization was trying to secure, and I am not sure but it has secured, a representative in this state to select the state senators to be voted upon.

I found, also, that representatives of the local liquor interests were acting with the national organization and that the plan deliberately entered upon and industriously pursued was to secure enough state senators to prevent the carrying out of the wishes of the people.

I have this also upon evidence that cannot be disputed: I assert here and I shall repeat it again and again, that the brewers of this city have been trying to select senators in districts outside of Omaha, and if the brewers will unite in a statement denying it, I will name the name of the brewer who called a man up a short time ago in a district outside of the city. (Applause.)

I found that certain special interests were combined with the brewers and that an offensive and defensive alliance had been formed, under the terms of which the special interests would act together to block any legislation to which they objected. Having fully informed myself and having secured evidence that is to my mind conclusive, I had to decide my duty as a democrat, as a citizen and as a man, and I announced that I would attempt to ascertain the sentiment of the democratic members of the legislature on the initiative and the referendum, and would ask the Direct Legislation league to ascertain the position of the republicans on this proposition.

I said that I had no doubt that the governor would call a special session if assured of enough votes to pass the resolution for the submission of the initiative and the referendum. I also announced at that time that in case the initiative and the referendum was not submitted it would be necessary then to meet county option as an issue, and that I was in favor of a platform declaring in favor of it. I at once addressed letters to the democratic senators and members, and the Direct Legislation league has made inquiry of the republican members. While the poll is not yet complete, it is certain that the resolution would have no difficulty in passing the house. We have now more than the necessary three-fifths of the members of the house who have promised to vote for that. (Applause.) We have fifty-six democrats, out of the entire membership of the house, fifty-six democrats who say that if the special session is to be called they will vote for the initiative and the referendum, and we have enough republican members to add to this to give us six more than the necessary constitutional three-fifths of the house. But it is still doubtful whether it would pass the senate. Some of the senators who voted no are willing to vote yes in case they are asked to do so by a majority of their constituents, while other senators have declined to promise to vote for it even if petitioned to do so by a majority of the voters of their district.

The governor has said that he would call this special session if he has written assurance of sufficient votes to pass the initiative and referendum resolution. I cannot say yet whether the written assurance can be given, nor can I say whether the governor would feel justified in calling a special session upon the assurance that has been given. We have reached this far, however, that we know this, that we will be near enough to the number, we will have pledges enough from senators who promise that they will vote yes on that proposition if it is submitted at a special session, we have enough who promise to vote yes added to those who agree to vote yes if their constituents ask them, to make the necessary number, so that it will only be necessary to secure the petitions in a few districts.

I think I can say this much, although the poll is not yet complete and there may be a difference of one or two votes from that which we now estimate. But whether the special session is called or not, I believe that the democrats of the state should know the political situation and understand the sordid influences which are attempting to contaminate the politics of both parties.

If the special session is not called, there is but one reason for it, and that is that the opposition to the initiative and referendum, not in the house of representatives, for we now have a clear three-fifths and more already pledged, not among the people, for the sentiment is overwhelming, but solely in the state senate—is sufficient to prevent the submission of this amendment.

Whether the senators who oppose the initiative and referendum represent the wishes of their constituents or not, is really immaterial, so far as the public is concerned. If those senators do not represent their constituents, then the liquor interests are responsible for compelling the misrepresentation of these senatorial districts. If, however, the senators represent their constituents, then we must face a more serious proposition.

The reason given by most of the senators who opposed the initiative and referendum was that their people are opposed to county option and opposed to the initiative and referendum because it could be used for the submission of the question of county option. In other words, if those senators represent their constituents, the men opposed to county option insist upon making it a paramount issue. As the initiative and referendum are intended to give the people a chance to vote on public questions, the defeat of this proposition by those who are opposed to county option means that rather than have county option submitted they will prevent the submission of any question.

If the liquor question must be disposed of before we can secure the initiative and referendum, then the sooner we dispose of it the better, for we have no assurance that the liquor interests will be any more willing to have the initiative and referendum submitted by the next legislature than they are to have it submitted by the present legislature. We might as well prepare for the conflict and settle now the question whether a special pecuniary interest can control the policies of the parties of the state, silence conventions on important issues, and then set up legislatures by secret manipulation. I for one am not willing that the democratic party shall go into the present campaign as the open and avowed representative of the liquor interests. (Applause. A voice: Amen.)

I do not know how many of the democrats may agree with me. There is no way of finding out where our party stands unless a fight is made, and I am willing to be counted as one who protests whether those who agree with me are few or many. I believe they are many; in fact, I believe that if the matter can be fairly presented to the democratic voters a large majority will record themselves as unalterably opposed to the domination of our party by the liquor interests. At least I will not admit until we are voted down in the convention or at a primary, that a majority of the democrats are willing to take orders from the liquor dealers who have a pecuniary interest in opposing all restrictions and who have in the past opposed every important effort to limit the evils of the saloon.

The liquor interests have no politics. They are willing to act with any party they can control and against any party they can not control.

A situation something like the present presented itself once to Andrew Jackson. When he was president he had a fight with the national bank of that day, and you will remember that Nick Biddle, the president of the bank, called upon him and told him that the bank had the power to elect him to the presidency or defeat him, and what was Jackson's answer? Was it that he would see that it was not put in the platform? Was it that he would dodge the question? No. Jackson said to Mr. Biddle: "If your bank has that power it has a blank sight more power than it ought to have and more than it will have if I can take it away from you." (Applause.) That is what he said then and every Jacksonian democrat ought to be willing to say the same now. If the liquor interests of this state claim that they have the power to elect governors or to defeat them, to elect senators or to defeat them, to elect legislators or to defeat them, then those liquor interests have more power than they ought to have, and I, for one, will be like Andrew Jackson and take it away from them. (Prolonged applause.) And, my friends, I have too much faith in the honor, in the integrity, in the high purpose, and in the democracy of these men with whom I have been working for now more than twenty years to doubt that when this issue is made they will stand loyally for the right of the democratic party to speak for the people of this state and not be spoken for by those selfish interests. I care not what a democrat may think on the question of sumptuary legislation. I care not what he may think about the advisability of a particular law upon this subject. When you bring before a democrat who deserves the name the question whether the law shall be made by the people, whether the representatives shall be elected by the people, or whether the political methods in this state shall be open and honest and fair, I have no doubt as to what that democrat will reply!

I do not believe that these liquor interests can terrorize the state of Nebraska as they terrorize the people of Omaha and the county of Douglas. (Applause.)

You are but a part of this state; you are less than one congressional district; you have to join with Sarpy and Washington to make a congressional district, and that is only one-sixth of this state when you have a congressional district.

I know that these liquor interests have terrorized this community. I know that these men have issued their orders. I know that they have threatened any man who would speak out against them or act without consulting them. They have insulted the democracy of this state and our legislature. They have sent down to the city of Lincoln a representative who stood there to tell people how to vote in the senate and in the house. If the democracy of this state has not the manhood to rise up and spew these people out of its mouth it does not deserve to be called a democratic party. (Applause.)

It is hardly necessary at this time to submit an argument in favor of the initiative and referendum.

Note: Here Mr. Bryan went into an extended argument for the initiative and referendum.

Mr. Bryan: Is it not strange that I, a member of this party, should come down to the city of Omaha to make a speech on the initiative and the referendum that was endorsed in the last state platform without a dissenting vote? Is it not strange that I can come here to speak for what my party stands for and not a member of your democratic organization ask if he can do anything to help arrange this meeting for me? Do I need any other evidence to prove to you that these great liquor interests have descended upon this town and terrorized into silence democrats, who under other circumstances will be quick to speak out on this subject? That is the situation, my friends. When I come here to speak for the initiative and referendum I come to speak for the doctrine that was endorsed less than a year ago by the democratic convention of this state.

They call me a disturber of harmony. Who is the disturber of harmony? The man who raises himself against his party or the man who pleads that the will of his party shall be binding upon the members of the party.

I say it is hardly necessary that a man shall make an argument in favor of the initiative and the referendum, for when you find a man who is opposed to it you will find a man that either has no reason or is ashamed to give the reason that he has. (Applause.)

There is no opposition that can be suggested that is not autocratic, aristocratic or plutocratic in its origin.

Why, this is the most popular proposition that there is. When I am asking that this be submitted and that our people be permitted to make a record on it and take a vote on it I am not injuring the democratic party, my friend; I am not jeopardizing its success. Why, this proposition is so popular that when it was submitted in Missouri last year—and Missouri has two cities bigger than Omaha—(laughter), I find they are not afraid to speak on this subject. In the state of Missouri that proposition carried by 40,000 majority, submitted by a democratic legislature, although I, as a presidential candidate, was defeated by some 600 in that state; that proposition, submitted by a democratic legislature, was 40,000 votes stronger in the state of Missouri than I was as a democratic presidential candidate. Is this an unpopular thing that I am urging—that I am asking my party to stand for? It is so popular that even in republican states they have adopted it. It has no latitude; it has no longitude; it is popular everywhere. They adopted it in Oregon, away out west, and they adopted it in Maine; away down east; they have adopted it in South Dakota, away up north, and they have adopted it in Oklahoma? away down south. (Laughter and applause.) You see it is not an unpopular thing, my friends.

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Mr. Bryan: I want to remind you that fourteen years ago, before anybody talked about county option, that initiative and referendum was put into the democratic platform, and I was chairman of the committee that year, and if you will get the republican State Journal of the next day after the convention you will find something which is very interesting. The Journal said that when Mr. Bryan read this plank of the initiative and the referendum that the delegates looked at each other in surprise and that one delegate said to another, What is that? (Laughter.) Now, that is what the paper said. And the paper said this democrat answered, It is a new kind of fancy drink, and the paper said it went through unanimously then. (Laughter.) And then think of its being unpopular in Omaha! (Laughter.)

But in the last fourteen years the people have had a chance to study this question, and I think more of them understand it, but for fear some of you may not have been studying it, although you ought to have more time to study it now; since the 9 o'clock closing hour (laughter) I have looked for quite an increase in political information and study of these public questions in Omaha during the last two years.

I hope I will not be disappointed in my expectation.

The initiative is merely a process by which the people can compel the submission of a question.

At present if we want a question submitted to the people of this state it must be submitted by a majority of the legislature; not only a majority, but it must be submitted by three-fifths of the legislature. We will have to have not only a majority of the senate in favor of the initiative and referendum, but we have to have three-fifths of both branches.

Under the initiative and the referendum a certain number of people can petition for the submission of a question, and when the requisite number petition, then the question must be submitted, but it cannot be adopted unless a majority of the people want to adopt it, but when it is submitted and a majority of the people vote for it, then it becomes a law. And why ought it not to become a law? Is there anybody who says that he would rather trust a man elected, as some of them are, by secret manipulation to the legislature than trust the people sitting in judgment upon questions that interest them, and each one interested, not in a private or pecuniary way, but interested in the public welfare?

Are you afraid to trust the initiative and the referendum?

Why, my friends, this is not a new doctrine. We have it now. If you want to change the county site, how do you do it? A petition is circulated, and when it is signed by a certain number of people, voters in the county, the question must be submitted, and then the people, at a referendum vote, act upon the question. That is the law in this state today on such an important question as the changing of a county site. It is not trusted to the representatives, but it must be voted upon by the people themselves. Isn't that good doctrine? Isn't that democratic doctrine? Isn't it in harmony with our ideas of government?

And what is the referendum? Well, if the legislature passes a law and any considerable number of the people think that that law ought not to have been passed, a referendum can be asked and then that question is submitted to a vote, and the voters have the right to say whether the measure shall become a law or not.

Is that not fair? Why, the law gives the governor a chance to veto, and if the governor has the right to veto a law that has been declared for by a majority of both branches of the legislature, shall we say that the people themselves, who elect governors and elect legislatures, shall not have the veto power and be able to sit in judgment upon a bill that had to be signed by the governor as well as passed by the legislature?

Now, that is easily understood, and that is the thing that your senators are not willing that the people shall vote upon.

No matter if they themselves believe that the initiative is wrong and the referendum is wrong, no matter if in their hearts they have a contempt for popular government; no matter if they despise the intelligence of the people who elected them, what right hav they to say that the people themselves shall not say whether they shall have direct legislation through the initiative and the referendum? (Applause.)

Am I a disturber of party harmony when I ask that the legislature be reconvened and that that matter be submitted to the people?

I repeat that in asking it I speak in harmony with the platform of my party. I say that when I ask for it I am asking for what the governor desired—a democratic governor. I am asking for what a democratic legislature desired—if we have a majority of the democrats in favor of this proposition.

Now, this is the initiative and the referendum. Are you surprised that it is popular?

Let me ask—let me see if it is popular here. You probably understood it before I said anything about it. I have tried to make it clear. I am going to put it to a vote. I am going to ask how many in this audience are in favor of the initiative and referendum and are willing that the people of this state shall have laws that suit them and reject laws that they do not like? And after those in favor of the initiative and referendum have risen on this vote I will ask them to sit down and I will ask those to rise who are willing to announce before their fellow men that they are not willing that the people of this state shall decide questions that come before the people of this state. How many of you will by rising indicate that you believe in the initiative and referendum? Let's see you rise. Now, you may be seated again. How many? I will not count those against the wall unless they step out, although there are some sitting down for fear they might be counted that way. How many of you will, by rising, indicate that you are opposed to the initiative and referendum? Evidently the brewers did not come tonight. (Laughter.) One man! One man in this audience is opposed to the initiative and referendum.

A Voice: And he don't know anything.

Mr. Bryan: No, I don't say that. I wish we could excuse all on the ground that they don't know better. (Laughter.)

This is Omaha. This is the largest city in the state, and here the five brewers live, who sit upon their seven hills here and from their throne of beauty rule the state. (Laughter.) And yet in Omaha, in the very presence of these brewers, there is only one man in this audience that rises to say that he is opposed to the initiative and the referendum. (Applause and laughter.)

It is just as I thought! It is just as I thought!

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Mr. Bryan: It is hardly necessary to submit any arguments in favor of county option, for it stands upon its own merits, and those who oppose it cannot successfully combat the arguments presented in its favor. The presumption is on the side of those who favor county option. The presumption is always upon the side of those who assert the right of the people to have what they want. In order to overthrow that presumption there must be sound argument.

Note—Here Mr. Bryan launched into an extended argument for county option and against the saloon.

Mr. Bryan: Now, that is the argument, that county option is one-sided, you hear most. An absurd argument! And why absurd? Because they talk about fairness with a saloon. It is not fair to the saloon. Why, my friends, you never use the word fair when you are talking about a saloon. You never say it is not just to the saloon. It is one-sided. You don't talk about justice when you are talking about saloons. Read the lexicon of the liquor dealer and there are two words that do not appear in it. One is fairness and the other is justice. The saloon is a nuisance everywhere, and never tolerated except as a necessary evil. (Applause.) The saloon is on the defensive everywhere, and talk about the saloon insisting that as a matter of justice and fairness it must be allowed to inflict its noisome presence in a community where it is not wanted! (Applause.)

In this city, only a few years ago, more than half of your saloons had houses of ill fame connected with them, and it required a crusade of the executive officers to cleanse these saloons of these attachments. Yes, in the city of Omaha. And it is only a few weeks ago that the mayor of the city of Milwaukee, the socialist mayor, in his inaugural address, in which he spent several sentences defending the saloonkeeper, added, however, that a license to sell liquor does not include the right to keep a house of ill fame. Why would he say it if the saloons of Milwaukee had not been in the habit of exercising a right that was not included under their license to sell liquor? In the city of Chicago, within two weeks, a crusade has been started against these establishments and thirty brewers have signed an agreement to help the city enforce the law, and it is so important an item of news that it is telegraphed all over the country. Why, most people help the city enforce the law without coming together and agreeing to do it and signing an agreement to that effect. And one of the brewers said we have now demonstrated that this can be done. Why didn't they demonstrate it a good while ago when they were not signing agreements and were not helping to do it? They agreed not to deliver to those places run in violation of law. What does that mean? It means they have in the past been delivering to them.

Now, that is the situation, my friends.

I say to you that the saloon is on the defensive and it ought to be glad to exist anywhere without insisting upon thrusting itself where it is not wanted. (Applause.)

You people up here in Omaha have said some unkind things about Lincoln (laughter) because Lincoln has no saloons. Well, if you will try and bear with it, my friends, we will get along. (Laughter.) In fact, our people seem to get along very well down there. They tried this policy and before they tried it they had limited the evils of the saloon much beyond what you have done in Omaha. They had fixed 7 o'clock as the closing hour even before the saloons were closed entirely. By a vote of a little more than 200—a majority of a little more than 200—the saloons were shut out and we went a year that way. Some of our citizens, of course, had to leave business frequently to go to Havelock, but they came back and in time got over it. (Laughter.) We got along. Of course we had to pay $60,000 a year extra taxes because of the license fee being lost, but our people paid it and at the end of a year the liquor interests desired to have another chance to vote. They had objected to the initiative and referendum when it was adopted in Lincoln, but they were the first ones to use it after it was adopted. (Laughter.) They used the initiative and referendum, too. (Laughter.) We had quite a fight there. The national organization took a hand and sent in three prominent men—one from New York, one from Chicago, and then to be sure that we would have the Simon-pure article, one came from Milwaukee. (Laughter.) And they had a meeting. They had a very good-sized meeting. In fact, our people are great on meetings down there. Some of our people were very anxious that these men should not feel that they had not been well received. It was a sort of matter of local pride with them. They wanted to show the hospitality of the city. And so 600 women, dressed in white and wearing badges with the legend, "No Saloons," occupied the front rows of seats in order that the house might have an inviting appearance, and when one of the speakers said that he would start with the proposition that whisky tasted good as it went down, a lady rose and asked him how it tasted when it came up. (Laughter.) And then when he got along a little further he said that if you would ask any criminal lawyer he would tell you that liquor was not the cause of murder. A man rose in the audience and said it was the cause of the last murder committed in this county. And he says, well, that is an exception. (Laughter.) And another man says I know that is so because it was my cousin. And then another man says the one before that was also due to drunkenness. Another man said, one of our criminal lawyers said he had eighteen criminal murder cases and everyone of them was due to liquor. And then the speaker passed to another phase of the subject. (Laughter.) And they didn't have anybody to sit on the platform. They were almost as bad there as I am here. (Laughter.)

It is a fact, my friends, that there was not a man of prominence in the city of Lincoln who would sit on the platform and by his presence give his support to what these men were to say. And when the three from the outside had spoken the people voted and the majority was something over 800 against saloons. After a year's experience our people said they would rather tax themselves $60,000 a year than have the saloons come back, even if it would release them from the payment of that $60,000. (A Voice: Good.) Not only that, but Havelock went dry. (Laughter.)

Oh, no, my friends, I do not want you to misunderstand me—the temperance people of Lincoln claim no credit for Havelock's going dry. It was not their fault. It was the fault of the other fellows. After Havelock had one year's experience with the people that went down there it said for heaven's sake deliver us! (Applause and laughter.) Their saloons were said to have made $150,000 during the year, but as soon as Havelock had a chance to vote they went out and Havelock is now dry also. The saloon is not really a desirable thing. Do you know how bad the saloon is? Let me tell you. I saw a clipping the other day about some man who had kept a saloon in Lincoln and had lost his privilege; said that he was going to get even with Bryan. How was he going to do it? He said that he had bought an option on some land next to my home and if Lincoln went wet he was going to establish a saloon there. (Laughter.) Do you know of anything worse, against a saloon, than that? When a man wants to get even with another man the worst thing he can think of it to put a saloon near him. (Laughter.)

If any of you had time I wish you would go out and see how near your brewers live to their saloons. Do they live right near them? They are willing to put them near poor people's homes. They are willing to stick them under the noses of poor people's children. They are willing to open these man traps in the presence of the people whom they would debauch, but when they build their homes they want to get away from the saloon.

Take your petitions around and ask them to sign a petition to put a saloon in their block and they would be the last ones to want a saloon near them, but they will put a saloon in your block and ruin the value of your property, and more—they will jeopardize your children and your associates and the associates of your children.

Don't think the saloon is a popular thing. It is not popular.

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Mr. Bryan: I have heard people say they were opposed to sumptuary legislation. Have you ever heard that suggested?

A man came to our committee about two years ago in this city. We were preparing our platform for our state convention, prior to the national convention, and he wanted to put a plank in on sumptuary legislation. I said no, not in this platform. Well now, he says, these liquor folks have raised enormous sums—I think he said $8,000,000—and they are going to put it into this fight. Well, I said, let them do it, but they will not have that plank in this platform, and it was not in our platform.

When a man talks to me about sumptuary legislation now, I want to define what he means by it. They have been using these general terms long enough.

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Mr. Bryan: But I warn the people of Douglas county that if they go before this state on the theory or the argument that the liquor interests have the right to force liquor into a county against the wishes of the people of the county they must not be surprised if their logic is adopted by those who oppose the saloon and who on that very argument will say that if you can force liquor into a county against the will of the people you can take it out of a county even when the people want to keep the liquor. (A Voice: Good.) Now, this will work both ways. (A Voice: Bet your life.) And you cannot afford to build up your argument upon that foundation. And I want to remind the people of this county that they should distinguish between the interest of the brewers and the interests of those who are merely desirous that the saloon shall remain that they and their friends may use it. The brewers are interested in defeating county option. Why? Because they want to sell in counties whether the people want them to sell or not. But that is not true of the other people of Douglas county. You are not interested in forcing liquor upon Lancaster or upon Pawnee or upon any of the other counties in this state. All you ask is that you shall have the right to control your own affairs and decide that question for yourselves. County option gives it to you. But when you array yourselves against county option, what ground can you stand upon when you are opposed to state prohibition?

If the liquor interests insist that this whole state shall be a pasture for their business, then they must not complain if the people who are opposed to the saloon become convinced that they are violating no rights when they attempt to take liquor away even from Douglas county.

I am not here to warn you. You did not invite me here. I came on my own invitation. But I feel interest enough in you to tell you that you are going to have enough to do to keep your own saloons, and you

(Conitnued on Page Six.)

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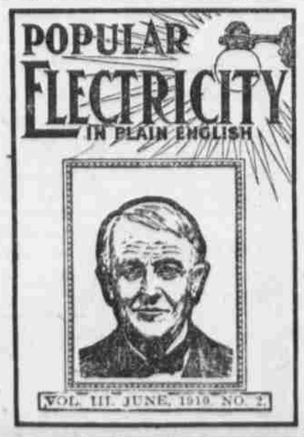

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