

## BRYAN'S DAY

Slogan's fireworks, paeans on Tyw's daeg for Bryan and Tyw is the god of war—the young, fair Scandinavian god that the Vikings carved on the prow of their boats, when they sailed out to possess the land. Mr. Bryan excites an enthusiasm, a personal devotion that is a hard matter to explain and oppose. He has a way of picking out his friends in the crowds that line the streets of his progress and of giving to each one a friendly bow in a way that steadies a wavering allegiance. He believes he has his quarrel just and he believes in himself. A charlatan or a demagogue believes in neither himself nor his cause and he is able to fool some of the people for only a little while. Those who surround him the closest confess privately to intimates that their patron is a fraud and that they serve him only because they are paid for it.

The small circle of newspaper men who surround Bryan constantly are devoted personal friends though most of them are republicans and will vote for McKinley. They are paid for adverse criticism but criticism stops at the edge of the platform he stands upon. His personal character is unassailable and those who know him best admit it.

The following taken from "The Chicago Record" describes Bryan's day: "The continuous welcome which the people of Lincoln and large contingents from other parts of Nebraska gave William J. Bryan on his home coming today culminated this evening in a grand demonstration in honor of his formal notification of his nomination for the presidency of the national silver party. From the time Mr. Bryan reached this city at 11 o'clock in the morning, until the tired crowds retired from the streets at a late hour tonight, there was parading through the streets of the capital city by local and visiting campaign clubs, nearly all with brass bands in front. There was an escort procession from the Burlington depot; another that accompanied Mr. Bryan to his residence; a mass meeting in the state house grounds in the afternoon, and the third and greatest preceding the notification ceremonies. Mr. and Mrs. Bryan, George A. Groot, chairman of the notification committee, and Norris Humphrey of Lincoln rode together in the midst of the night parade. Men in white duck uniforms, carrying flambeaus, formed a picturesque part of the parade. Nearly, if not quite, 1,000 mounted men were in line, and these, with the silver caped organizations devoted to the free-coinage cause, fired off sky-rockets and roman candles as they proceeded. With the arrival of the torchlight procession the crowd gathered about the capitol was increased ten-fold. It seemed many times larger than the audience of 5,000 that listened to Mr. Bryan in the afternoon.

Norris Humphrey presided at the meeting and introduced George A. Groot of Ohio, chairman of the notification committee who formally notified Mr. Bryan of his nomination by the National silver party for president."

The parade was a beautiful sight as it turned up Fifteenth street from O. The spectacular effect of one thousand men with torches and cheering as they marched elicited admiration from the crowds who watched it from the capitol grounds.

The candidate looked somewhat haggard and his voice has lost sweetness from much exercise in the open air. It rings and carries as far as ever but it is not so pleasant to listen to. While he

was speaking the crowd was silent or responsive as he wished. His power over an audience is unmatched by anyone at the present time. Blaine and Henry Ward Beecher had the same personal following and the same magnetic control of an audience but they died and the scarcity of good speakers seems to show that the warning was effectual.

The insects were all goldbugs, attracted by the electric lights and the people they would have broken up anything but a populist meeting. They covered the bunting back of the speaker so that the red and white stripes were a solid brown. They filled up the electric globes to the depth of several inches, and the light was thrown out instead of down and the audience and speakers were in semi-darkness. The men on the platform covered their heads and necks with newspapers and handkerchiefs and the bugs buzzed on. It was after twelve before the speakers were willing to let the people escape. On their way home the democrats and populists said it was a grand meeting and a presage of coming victory. The republicans said it was a very small turnout, and was remarkable for the absence of representative people.

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