

# W. J. BRYAN'S LIFE HAS BEEN FILLED WITH SENSATIONS

WAS POWERFUL ORATOR AND FOR 30 YEARS HAS BEEN IN NATION'S EYE.

Virtually dominant in the Democratic party for nearly sixteen years, William J. Bryan was three times nominated and defeated for the Presidency. Then, like Elijah of old, he cast his mantle upon the Elisha of Princeton and exerted a potent influence in bringing about Woodrow Wilson's first nomination for the office to which he, himself, had vainly aspired.

Known in his youth as "the silver-tongued boy orator of the Platte," it was Mr. Bryan's eloquence in his famous "cross of gold" speech at the Democratic national convention in Chicago in 1896 that made him the choice of his party. He polled more than 6,500,000 votes in his first campaign.

His career has been likened to that of Henry Clay who also was three times nominated for the Presidency and as many times defeated. Clay, too, became Secretary of State. Friends of Bryan insisted that, like Clay, he was too conscientious for a politician and that the famous Whig's declaration "I would rather be right than be President" well described the Bryan in Nebraska.

The former Secretary of State was born in Salem, Ill., March 19, 1860. His father was Silas Lillard Bryan, a native of Culpepper County, Virginia, a lawyer and judge. The son, after graduating from Illinois College in 1881 and Union College of Law, Chicago, in 1883 entered the law office of Lyman Trumbull, former United States Senator. Subsequently he removed to Jacksonville, Ill., where he practiced law until 1887 when he settled in Lincoln, Neb.

During the Presidential campaign of 1888 young Bryan's speeches in behalf of the Democratic ticket attracted attention and in 1890 he accepted a nomination for Congress in the First Nebraska District, a Republican stronghold. "Because no one else would have it," he said, since it was believed no Democrat could win. He was elected and served from 1891 until 1895. He was made a member of the important Ways and Means Committee in his first term.

Two speeches in this period gave Mr. Bryan nation-wide prominence, one against the policy of protection, delivered on March 16, 1892, and the other against the repeal of the silver purchase clause of the Sherman Act on August 16, 1893. In the latter he advocated "the free and unlimited coinage of silver, irrespective of international agreement, at a ratio of 16 to 1," a policy with which his name was afterwards most prominent associated until he entered the cabinet of President Wilson.

The first nomination of Mr. Bryan for the Presidency at the Democratic national convention in Chicago on July 10, 1896, has since been characterized as one of the "miracles" of American politics. The nominee, after serving in Congress, had run for the United States Senate and been defeated by Senator John M. Thurston, of Nebraska. Abandoning the law, Mr. Bryan became editor of the Omaha World-Herald and championed the cause of bimetallism as vigorously with the pen as he had upon the forum. He had been beaten for a third term in Congress on the issue of "sound money" and when the time came for the national convention this question was rending both big political parties. There were Free Silver Republicans as well as Democrats, but the nominee of the former, Henry M. Teller, of Colorado, threw his support to Bryan when the Nebraskan won the nomination at Chicago.

The "cross of gold" speech by Bryan, which has been quoted oftener, perhaps, than any other of his words, and which made him a rival of William McKinley for the Presidency—came at the close of a debate on the floor of the convention in advocacy of a free silver plank. Men nationally prominent in the party had preceded him, and opposed the plank unless it should provide for bimetallism by international agreement. The situation was tense when the Nebraskan, then only 36 years old—one year more than the Constitutional requirement for a President—rose to speak. Everybody was tired; everybody seemed ready for compromise. Not so the delegates from Nebraska. There was fire in his eye when he began to speak:

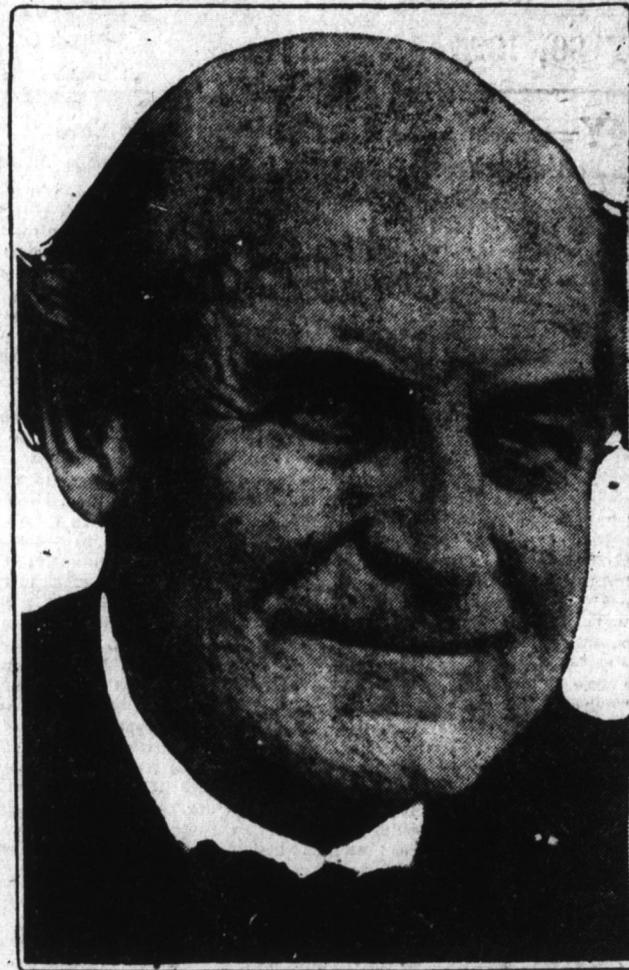
"I would be presumptuous, indeed, to present myself against the distinguished gentlemen to whom you have listened," he said, "if this were a mere measuring of abilities; but this is not a contest between persons. The humblest citizen in all the land, when clad in the armor of a righteous cause, is stronger than all the hosts of error. I come to speak to you in defense of a cause as holy as the cause of liberty—the cause of humanity."

Then charging the evils of the day—the idle mills, the social unrest and low wages—to the scarcity of money and the "idle holders of idle capital in Wall street," he continued:

"The individual is but an atom; he is born, he acts, he does; but principles

## Nation Mourns His Death

William Jennings Bryan Died Suddenly Sunday at Dayton, Tenn. Great Commoner Has For Many Years Been an Outstanding American Political Leader and Orator.



are eternal; and this has been a contest over a principle. Having behind us to producing masses of this nation and the world, supported by the commercial interests, the laboring interests, and the toilers everywhere, we will answer those who demand a single gold standard by saying:

"You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns. You shall not crucify mankind upon this cross of gold."

The convention was stampeded for Bryan, who was nominated over eight other candidates on the fifth ballot, following a speech by a Georgia delegate in which the eloquent young orator was referred to as "Saul come to the Israelites to battle." Subsequently Bryan received the nomination of the People's and the National Silver parties.

The nominee broke all speaking records in his first campaign, travelling more than 15,000 miles and making about 600 speeches in 27 States. He polled 6,502,925 votes to McKinley's 7,104,779 and received in the Electoral College 175 votes to his opponent's 271. Although defeated, Mr. Bryan remained the leader of his party and, after the Spanish-American war in 1898, in which he commanded the Third Nebraska Infantry as its Colonel, he opposed the permanent retention of the Philippines Islands by the United States.

In 1900, when again nominated for the Presidency, he made "anti-imperialism" the paramount issue but refused to omit an explicit party declaration in favor of free coinage of silver in the party platform. This time he was defeated with a popular vote of 6,558,133 as against 7,207,922 for his opponent. He received 155 electoral votes to McKinley's 292.

Mr. Bryan returned to Lincoln, and started the publication of a weekly political journal called *The Commoner*. Four years later, 1904, although not actively a candidate for the nomination, which eventually went to Judge Alton B. Parker, he vigorously opposed Democracy's "conservative" attitude.

The interim between this period and the next Presidential election of 1908 was occupied by Mr. Bryan, now known by many of his followers as "The Peerless Leader," in several enterprises that kept him in the public eye. Notably among these was his trip around the world on which he started September 21, 1905.

About this time Mr. Bryan came out for world disarmament, an ideal which is said to have prompted his drafting in 1923, when he became Secretary of State, of the particular form of peace treaty between the United States and foreign nations "by which all disputes were to be submitted to an impartial investigating commission for a year before hostilities could begin."

In 1908 Mr. Bryan was again named as the Democratic standard bearer. The campaign was waged on the principal issue of opposition to "trusts" and for a third time the Democratic nominee suffered defeat.

Mr. Bryan and Mr. Wilson held many ideals in common. When Mr. Wilson was elected President he appointed Mr. Bryan Secretary of State.

The two years Mr. Bryan occupied a place at the head of Mr. Wilson's cabinet were years of perplexity and stress. The Mexican embroilery, the Japanese anti-alien land controversy in California and the correspondence with Germany and Austria-Hungary, antecedent to America's entrance into the war, were problems that gave the

## WILLIAM J. BRYAN DIES WHILE ASLEEP

HAD BEEN DEAD HALF HOUR OR MORE WHEN DOCTORS ARE CALLED.

### MRS. BRYAN NEAR BY AT TIME

Family Chauffeur, Whom She Had Sent to Awaken Husband, Finds Life Gone.

Dayton, Tenn.—William Jennings Bryan, three times presidential nominee of the democratic party and known the world over for his eloquence, died here at the age of 65.

The end came while the great commoner was asleep and was attributed by physicians to apoplexy. He had retired to his room shortly after eating a large dinner to take a short rest. Mrs. Bryan sent the family chauffeur, Jim McCartney, to wake him and it was learned then that he was dead.

Dr. W. F. Thomason and Dr. A. C. Bryoles, who examined the body, expressed the opinion that Mr. Bryan had been dead between 30 and 45 minutes before they arrived. The death occurred in the residence of Richard Rogers which had been assigned to the Bryans during their stay here.

Mr. Bryan's death came on the eve of another crusade he had planned to carry before the American people—a battle against modernism. He returned to Dayton after having made addresses at Jasper and Winchester, Tennessee, and after having completed arrangements for the early publication of the speech he was to have made in closing the trial of John T. Scopes, who recently was found guilty of violating Tennessee's anti-evolution law.

Despite the strenuous program Mr. Bryan had been following as a member of the prosecution staff in the Scopes case and as leader of the fundamentalists, he appeared in excellent health.

Shortly before Mr. Bryan entered his room to rest he told his wife he had never felt better in his life and was ready to go before the country to wage his fight in behalf of fundamentalism.

Abtu 4:30 o'clock Mrs. Bryan said she felt her husband had slept long enough, so she sent the chauffeur, who also was his personal attendant, to wake him. McCartney shook Mr. Bryan twice before he noticed the latter was not breathing. The physicians and A. B. Andrews, a neighbor, then were summoned hurriedly.

Mrs. Bryan accepted the shock bravely and remained calm.

"I am happy that my husband died without suffering and in peace," she said.

Mrs. Bryan received a message from her son, William Jennings Bryan, Jr., stating he was leaving Los Angeles immediately for the east. Mrs. Bryan stated that she would inform him of the arrangements for the funeral en route.

Mrs. Bryan was preparing to leave Idaho in the next day or so for Idaho where she expected to spend the summer with her son. Mr. Bryan was to leave Dayton Tuesday for Knoxville, where he would deliver two speeches, then go to Nashville for a similar engagement, before going to Florida. He expected to join Mrs. Bryan in the fall.

He was taken to Dayton Sunday morning by A. W. Lessly, owner of the Ross hotel, and they reached there about 9:30 a. m. Mr. Bryan stayed at home during the morning and made arrangements for the speech to be delivered at the courthouse in Dayton. Another engagement of importance was one at the Hotel Aqua when he would meet with the Progressive Dayton club and lay plans for the Bryan college, a movement which was to be definitely launched with the dinner meeting.

He had planned to leave Tuesday morning for Knoxville.

Mrs. Bryan was said to be entirely composed and bearing up wonderfully under the terrible blow.

*Wife Calmest of Them All.*

Sue K. Hicks, who was associated with Mr. Bryan in the recent trial, and Mr. Andrews remarked upon Mrs. Bryan's courage as she took charge of arrangements.

"During all the excitement, Mrs. Bryan was the calmest person in the house," Mr. Andrews said.

"She took complete charge of affairs and showed more nerve than I have ever seen in a woman—and she is an invalid, too."

George W. Rappleyea, who instituted charges against Scopes in order that the anti-evolution law might be tested, was among those who called to express sympathy to Mrs. Bryan. Hundreds of telegrams and long distance calls of love and sympathy were received at the home.

School teachers paid by taxation should not be permitted to teach under the guise of science or philosophy anything that undermines faith in God, impairs belief in the Bible or discredits the Son of God and the Savior of the world. Evolutionists rot the savior of the glory of the virgin birth, the majesty of His deity and the triumph of His resurrection. They weaken faith in the Bible by discarding the miracles and the supernatural and by eliminating from the Bible all the conflicts with their theories. They render the book a scrap of paper."

As for Dayton it found it almost impossible to realize that the commoner was dead. During the morning many of the citizens had seen him at the southern Methodist Episcopal church and had heard him lead in prayer. He appeared in excellent health and his friends expected him to place in his battle against modernism all the vigor and eloquence which

Milestones in Bryan's Career  
Dayton—Milestones in the life of William Jennings Bryan are:  
March 19, 1860—Born at Salem, Illinois, 1870, entered public schools 1875—entered Whipple Academy.  
1881—Was graduated from Illinois College, Jacksonville, Ill., being valedictorian of his class.  
1883—Graduated from Union College of Law, Chicago, and began practice in Jacksonville.  
1884—Married to Miss Mary E. Bair at Perry, Ill. Removed to Lincoln, Neb.  
1888—Elected delegate to State convention.  
1890—Elected to Congress in nominally Republican district and started fight for tariff reform.  
1892—Attracted attention by his tariff speech.  
1893—Opposed the repeal of Sherman Silver purchase act.  
1895—Choice of Nebraska Democrats for United States Senator.  
1896—Editor of Omaha World Herald.  
1896—Nominated for President at Chicago after his famous "Cross of Gold" speech.  
1898—Colonel of Nebraska volunteers in Spanish-American War.  
1900—Nominated for President at Kansas City convention.  
1901—Established "The Commoner."  
1905-06—Made tour of world with family.  
1908—Nominated for President third time.  
1913—Named secretary of State by President Wilson.  
1915—Retired from Wilson Cabinet.  
1920—Pleaded for prohibition enforcement before Democratic convention at San Francisco.  
1925—Became chief figure in prosecution of Scopes evolution case and made passionate defense of religious faith at Dayton, Tenn.

marked all his campaigns since the famous "cross of gold" speech.

*Spoke With Unusual Vigor.*

In his addresses at Jasper and Winchester, Mr. Bryan spoke with unusual vigor, as he was encouraged by the applause of the hundreds who heard him. He returned to Chattanooga and while there completed arrangements for the early publication of the speech which was to have been delivered during the Scopes trial.

He joined A. W. Lessly, Vernon Keith and Miss Bettie Harms at breakfast before leaving for Dayton. Mr. Lessly accompanied him to Dayton and while en route Mr. Bryan talked on various topics of the day and of the appeal to be made by Scopes to the Supreme court.

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The commoner expressed his determination then to "see the case through." Mr. Bryan showed no signs of illness but Mr. Lessly said he told him he was suffering with diabetes.

Although severely criticized by special writers and some modernists during the trial Mr. Bryan had not apparently been affected by this during the past several days. Several times during the trial, however, he was vexed by annoying questions.

*Threats Against Life.*

In Chattanooga Captain Marion Perkins, of that city's police force, who was in charge of a squad of officers here during the trial, said many threats had been made against the life of Mr. Bryan.

Clarence Darrow, chief of Scopes defense counsel and who figured in a bitter clash with Bryan during the closing hours of the trial, was among the first to come forward with a tribute to the commoner.

"I have known Mr. Bryan since 1896 and supported him twice for the presidency," he said.

"He was a man of strong convictions and always espoused his cause with ability and courage. I differed with him on many questions, but always respected his sincerity and devotion. I am very sorry for his family and for his friends who loved him."

Other tributes came from members of counsel of both sides of the case, Newton D. Baker, who served in President Wilson's cabinet with Mr. Bryan, who was secretary of state, Gov. Alfred E. Smith, New York; Vice President Charles G. Dawes and many senators and representatives.

*Family Widely Scattered.*

The death of Mr. Bryan found his family widely separated. William Jennings Bryan, Jr., who came here to assist his father in the Scopes case, had returned to Los Angeles, Calif.; Mrs. Francis M. Baird, his eldest sister, was in her home at Lincoln, Neb.; Mrs. Ruth Bryan Owens, a daughter, was in Mount Vernon, O., to all a chautauqua engagement.

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The commission is building quite a few miles in these two counties. When the Pageard leaped from the concrete stretch between Sanford and Carthage, it became almost necessary to stop the chariot and introduce the fellow commissioners to the smelly road now being oiled.

There are on file now more than 2500 prints of State Prisoners.

*Commissioners See Roads Oiled.*

Highway Commissioners J. Elwood Cox and A. M. Kistler rode with their chairman, Frank Page, over many miles of the asphaltic oil roads of Lee and Moore counties and the three could almost decree that the state highway commission has found the secondary road for North Carolina.

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*No Pay for More Than 48 Drills.*

No Federal payment will be made for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1925, for any armory drills in excess of 24 drills per unit in the first half of the year, and 12 drills per unit in each of the third and fourth quarters, or a total of 48 drills per unit for the year, according to an order issued from the office of the adjutant general, J. Van B. Metta. The annual armory inspection is included in the 48 drills. These orders are issued pursuant to instructions from the Militia Bureau.

*Thirty Counties Benefited.*

When loans by seventeen counties to the State Highway Commission already approved are executed, the State Highway construction fund will have been supplemented by \$12,313,600 and thirty counties will either have benefited or will be in way of receiving benefits of road construction which otherwise they might have waited years for in the pro rata distribution of bond money.

Thirteen counties have already loaned the State commission \$6,964,620.

## STATE FIRE LOSS TAKES BIG JUMP

FIRE LOSS IN FIRST HALF 1925 AHEAD OF LOSS IN SAME PERIOD 1924.

Raleigh.

Fire loss in North Carolina during the past six months was \$3,453,146 or an increase of more than \$600,000 over the loss during the first six months of 1924 which was \$2,804,285, according to report made public by State Insurance Commissioner Stacey W. Wade. At the same time the number of fires decreased from 1,247 in 1924 to 995 in 1925.

There were 629 dwelling house fires during the first six months of 1925 with a loss of \$600,895 while in the same period in 1924 there were 697 such fires with a loss of \$821,981.

Total fire damage in North Carolina in June was \$202,174 with property at risk valued at \$1,563,100, according to the monthly report made public at the same time. There were 114 fires reported during the month with an insurance of \$1,030,898 involved.

Considerably more than half the loss of the entire state during June was caused by five fires, two in Winston-Salem aggregating \$32,000 and three in Charlotte totaling \$91,250. There were only three other fires in which the loss was greater than \$5,000. They were a ferry boat and terminal at Edenton, \$20,000; a lumber plant at Wilmington, \$13