

BRYAN BECAME PARTY LEADER AND IDOL OF MILLIONS WHEN ONLY 36 YEARS OLD

In all the history of American politics there are few names which carry that brilliant lustre of spectacular effort which has become a part of the memory of William Jennings Bryan.

His life for almost 50 years was a panorama of national sensations, piled one upon the other. At 36 he became almost overnight not only the leader of his party but the idol of millions. Three times he carried the party standard as its choice for the highest office of the land, in another presidential year—1912—he reaped much of the credit for placing Woodrow Wilson in the White House and in almost every other national Democratic convention in a generation he was in the very center of every storm that came.

As a recognition, many said, of his long leadership, President Wilson made him secretary of state—a post from which he resigned two years later under the most sensational of circumstances because he felt the nation was verging toward participation in the European war. World peace always had been his passion in his earlier years, just as in his later days he made the espousal of religion his all absorbing concern and turned his talents to an attack on evolution.

Throughout all his active years his followers clung to his standards in unswerving devotion for the man and his ideals, while his enemies reviled and hated him, calling him ignorant and misguided in both his economic and his religion. His great power of eloquence, which first brought him to a place of national prominence, remained unimpaired for many years but toward the last his old time brilliance on the platform and stump began to dim perceptibly.

Although he found time for many venturesome excursions into other fields, politics was his forte, and the story of his life work is almost a history of the national political campaigns that began when the Chicago Democratic convention of 1896, stumped out of a deadlock by his "cross of gold" speech, made him its candidate for President.

Bryan went to that convention as editor of the Omaha World-Herald and a former member of the house but entirely unknown to any considerable portion of the rank and file of his party. Nevertheless, he took with him an unflinching faith in his destiny, and as the leading candidates—now forgotten—began to muster their strength for the fight, he turned to some of his intimate friends in the press stand and remarked that he himself would be the nominee of the convention. None of them believed him and very few of them believed that he was speaking seriously.

It was but a few hours later that he set the convention wild with his speech for free silver and that night a group of delegates hired a band and went to serenade him at the old South Street hotel, where he was staying. He arose from bed, slipped

on a pair of trousers over his night shirt, and in bare feet, received his visitors with a warm hand clasp and a smile that soon enough was to become famous throughout the world over.

His first campaign against McKinley was epochal for its fiery earnestness, and not until the votes had been counted did he believe it possible he could be beaten. In 1907 with McKinley again for his opponent, he adopted "Imperialism" for his paramount issue and for a second time stamped the country in a vain effort to reach the great goal of his ambition.

After this second failure many of the leaders within his party turned away, and the nomination four years later of Alton B. Parker, was a bitter disappointment to him. In that convention he made a spectacular fight against the forces that he declared were handing over the party to Wall Street, delivering a speech which was regarded almost universally as the swan song his career. Yet in another four years the pendulum had swung back again and he was nominated as the opponent of William H. Taft.

The part he took in the Baltimore convention of 1912 was of a piece with the spectacular strain that ran through and through his whole career. Rising on the convention floor at a time when his long time friend Champ Clark was within reach of the nomination he denounced the Clark forces for accepting the support of Tammany, and declared Wall Street was trying once again to fasten its talons on the Democratic party. The reaction by Mr. Wilson who had been running well behind, was instantaneous, and Mr. Bryan was one of the first to be named to the Wilson cabinet. The breach between Bryan and Clark never was bridged.

As secretary of state, he came under attack many times, was ridiculed by many, both at home and abroad for his policies, but always loyally supported by his friends and finally made his exit from the cabinet rather than sign a note to Germany, prepared by Mr. Wilson himself on the submarine outrages.

It was after a long talk between the President and the secretary that the resignation was announced. Summoned to the White House on a bright June morning Mr. Bryan entered the president's private office un ruffled, apparently believing that by throwing his powers of persuasion on to the scale, he could convince his chief that the note should not be sent. After they had talked alone for an hour, Mr. Wilson pressed a button on his desk and a negro usher entered to find the president calm and silent and the secretary nervous and voluble.

"Mr. Bryan want a drink of water," said Mr. Wilson.

When it was brought Bryan's hand was so unsteady that he upset a part of it as he raised it to his lips. He demonstrated later in many ways that he had been cut to the quick by his failure to avert what he believed was a warlike gesture by his country and by his parting from the man he had helped lift up into a greater leadership than he himself had been able

to attain. He did not oppose Mr. Wilson's re-nomination in 1916, but the party candidates of 1920 and 1924 were chosen over his opposition. He went on a vacation trip the most of the campaign of James M. Cox but he took the stump for John W. Davis in 1924.

At San Francisco in 1920 however most of his energies were directed toward the writing of a platform rather than the choice of a candidate. His fight this time was for a bone dry plank, and he took the speaker's stand in its espousal. In old-time form, his face shining and his eyes alight, he sent his rounded periods rolling and rolling through the great convention hall and when the speech was ended the delegates gave him an ovation that lasted for an hour. His intimates say that until the vote was taken he firmly believed that once more he had stamped a national convention, but it was only the tribute of a party for an old and tried friend, for the plank he advocated was lost overwhelmingly.

Even more spectacular was his part in the New York convention of just a year ago. A member of the sub-committee which drafted the platform he was in the thick of the fight over the league of nations and the Ku Klux Klan. At the end of one fugal all-night session of the sub-committee when the members had agreed to separate for a few hours' rest, he rose in his place at the committee table and asked his colleague to remain for a

moment while he led in prayer. Then with bowed head, he asked Providence for guidance in the dark hour of discussion and bitterness.

Later he took the floor before the convention on one occasion to defend William G. McAdoo.

MEAT CAMP

Dr. W. A. Deator preached at the Mount Zion Lutheran Church last Sunday.

Mr. Noah Winebarger went to Statesville last week and accompanied his daughter, Mrs. Frank Greene who underwent an operation there for appendicitis, home.

Mr. Charles Moretz, business man of Charlotte and wife, visited relatives here Sunday last.

Mrs. Cara Jefferson of Boone and Mr. Sheppard of Blowing Rock were visitors here last Monday.

Mrs. Edna Moritz of Boone was a visitor on Meat Camp Sunday. Miss Mae Wilson of Beaver Dam, now a student at the A. S. N., spent the week end with her sister Mrs. Arlene Wilson.

Mr. John Beach has exchanged his property here, consisting of saw mill, planer and work shop, also some real estate and residence to Mr. V. M. Presnell of Vilas for a farm there, and while we hate to see Mr. Beach leave, we welcome those who come.

Mr. B. F. Laney of Lenoir has taken contract to manufacture another million feet of lumber from the big lumber of the Lenoir Lumber Co. on Long Hope. Mr. Laney has the best and most systematic outfit that has ever been in this section, taking the timber from the stump and putting the lumber in pack.

This vicinity has not had a fruitful run at this writing for almost a month and the corn crop is suffering very much and all their vegetation accordingly.

While Catawba county, it is said, by school authorities, has one of the finest crop of teachers in the state, the interest taken in summer training at Boone would seem to indicate that the teachers are not satisfied with their certificates but are continuing their training and raising the standard of the work done.

CATAWBA COUNTY WELL REPRESENTED AT BOONE

(Hickory Times-Mercury) Catawba county was well represented

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BOONE, N. C. SAT. 2 P. M. AUG. 15

On the above day and hour we will sell one two-story brick building located on Depot Street almost in the heart of Boone's business district, known as the W. E. Shipley building. This building is being sold by Mr. F. C. Ward, trustee for W. P. and A. P. Moody and will be sold at your price. A wonderful opportunity for the speculator. Immediately after this sale we will sell the old Muster grounds located on the Boone Trail Highway just a couple of blocks from the hub center of the prosperous and progressive town of Boone. This property is being sold at the request of the County Board of Education, and has been subdivided into a number of high class ideally located home sites, and is known as one of the best subdivisions ever put on in Boone. We are sure the subdivision will meet with your approval and we invite you to look this property over; as this property belongs to every citizen of Watauga county we want to solicit your cooperation in making this sale a splendid success. Located on Boone's only paved street and in one of the best residence sections of the town, and every lot as beautiful as human eye ever visioned. Absolutely the ideal spot to live, close in, and we wish to appeal to every home seeker and investor to look this property over before the sale and make your selections as we are sure every dollar invested in Boone will double, treble or even more in the near future so we invite you to tell your friends and everybody to meet us on the grounds on the day of this sale as it being public property should create public interest. REMEMBER THE DAY AND HOUR.

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