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MORE RADICAL THAN IN 1896.

W. J. Bryan Discusses Questions—Has Nothing to Withdraw on Economic Questions London, Eng., Dispatch, 12th.

William J. Bryan having had the opportunity of reading American newspapers, consented to-day to discuss some of the questions which have been raised since he has again become prominent as a Presidential possibility.

"I notice that I am described as a conservative, and in order that there may be no misunderstanding on that subject permit me to say that in one sense I always have been a conservative. The Democratic politics are conservative in that they embody old principles applied to new conditions. There was nothing new in principle in either of the platforms on which I stood. We were accused of attacking property when in fact the Democratic party is the defender of property because it endeavors to draw the line between honest accumulation by honest methods on the one side and predatory wealth and immoral methods on the other.

"The only question we discussed in 1896 upon which there has been any apparent change is the silver question. We contended for more money and urged the free coinage of silver as the only means then in sight of securing it. The increased production of gold has brought in part the benefit we expected to secure from the restoration of silver. The per capita volume of money in the United States is almost five per cent. greater now than it was in 1896, and the benefits brought by this increase have not only vindicated the quantitative theory of money but have proven the benefits of the larger amount of money. No advocate of the gold standard can claim the triumph of his logic.

"I believe in bi-metalism, and I believe that the restoration of silver would bring still further prosperity, besides restoring par in exchange between gold and silver-using countries; but I recognize, as do all other bi-metalists whom I have met abroad, that the unexpected and unprecedented increase in gold production has for the present removed the silver question as an issue.

"While the money question has waned in importance, other questions have been forging to the front and to those questions we must apply the same principles we applied to the money questions, and seek to secure the greatest good to the greatest number by legislation which conforms to the doctrine of equal rights for all and special privileges to none.

"On the new questions many will act with us who were against us on the money question, for notwithstanding the discussion of that question, millions did not understand it and were frightened into opposition. We cannot expect the support of any one who is interested in taking advantage of the people either through trusts or through any other illegitimate form of business. Our efforts should be to distinguish between those corporations which are legitimate and those aggregations of wealth which are organized for purposes of public plunder and appeal for support to those only who are willing to have the government protect each person in the enjoyment of his own earnings.

"The newspapers have been trying to create friction between what they call old friends and new friends in politics. Those are friends who are working towards a common end, and each campaign brings to some extent a new alignment. In 1896 the party lost many Democrats and was recruited by a great many who had been Republicans up to that time and we welcomed them. In 1900 some came back who were against us in 1896, and we did not shut the door against them. I have no idea that the party will require tickets of admission in the coming campaign. Usually parties are so anxious to secure recruits that past differences are not emphasized if there is a sincere agreement on present issues. I do not know that we can find a better plan than the Bible plan, which admits the eleventh hour comer to a place in the vineyard, and to share the reward with those who began earlier. I think this is sound politics as well as sound religion provided the new recruit comes

to work and not to interfere with the others laborers. But of course when an overseer has to be selected experience cannot be left out of consideration. The worker who came late would, if honest, be too modest to assume an attitude of superiority over those who had toiled during the earlier hours. While the question is one of purpose a man who recognizes the dangers that threaten our country and is anxious to avert them will not find it difficult to establish friendly relations with those who saw dangers at an earlier date.

"If the differences between the sincere and the pretended friends of reform cannot be discovered before they will become apparent when the platform is written; for if present indications count for anything that platform is likely to be so plain that no one can mistake it and so strong that no enemy of Democratic principles will be drawn to the party."

Mr. Bryan added that he would discuss the trust, tariff, railroad and labor questions, imperialism and other issues at length when he reached America.

BIG DRAINAGE UNDERTAKING.

The Department of Agriculture Interested in Improvement of Coast Land. A step that will doubtless mean much for the coast sections of North Carolina and Virginia within the near future has been taken by E. S. Mead, chief of the bureau of drainage and irrigation of the Department of Agriculture. He has just sent a force of skilled engineers to Charleston, S. C., to begin active work surveying lands that need draining in that section, and these engineers have already commenced operations.

For many years efforts have been made by Representatives in Congress from Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina to effect some practical results in the matter of draining swamp lands. The first two States have so far received no tangible results from the work done, but South Carolina has taken the initiative in the matter recently with the results that her swamp lands are soon to be opened and made fit for agricultural purposes.

During the session of Congress just ended Representatives from both Virginia and North Carolina introduced bills looking to draining of swamp lands in the respective States and Representative Small, of North Carolina, endeavored to pass a bill appropriating \$3,000,000 for drainage of the Dismal Swamp. It is believed that this would have received favorable consideration had not other appropriation bills been larger than in years past. The scheme has the endorsement of the Department of Agriculture, and Chief Mead believes that the plan is one entirely worthy of careful consideration by Congress.

Discussing the matter of drainage generally, Mr. Mead said: "The Department is very much interested in the drainage question and we have just commissioned and put in the field near Charleston, S. C., a corps of skilled engineers. They will work in the vicinity of Charleston until they have finished the work there, then they will go to other places that may hereafter be assigned them.

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