

# Mr. Bryan's Speech at Nashville, Tenn.

A subscriber sends us a dispatch that was sent out generally as a report of Mr. Bryan's speeches in Kentucky, containing this paragraph:

"The speeches were in favor of the alignment of the poor against the rich rather than in favor of free silver."

Our correspondent, Mr. W. J. Teague, of Greensboro, makes this comment on the above dispatch.

"I do not believe it. Can you give any light on it in your excellent paper?"

Happily we can "throw light" on the continued misrepresentation of Democracy's foremost champion. Mr. Bryan made three or four speeches in Kentucky on his return from the Nashville Exposition, where he made an elaborate address. The speeches in Kentucky were exactly along the same line as the one in Nashville. We give below a synopsis of Mr. Bryan's Nashville speech, which does not contain a syllable that can be distorted by a fair-minded man as being "in favor of the alignment of the poor against the rich."

We feel sure that every reader of this paper will enjoy the speech, the full notes of which are as follows:

"I want to say to you that events are coming to our rescue, and that the platform is stronger to-day than it was a year ago; and I prophesy that it will be stronger a year from now than it is now. We are not apologizing. We are not on the defensive. We are on the aggressive. We are still pressing the battle along those lines and our enemy of last year is furnishing us proof that we are right. Therefore, to-night, I am going to spend my time laying down propositions for our opponents to meet."

"In the first place I assert that our plank in regard to arbitration is stronger now than it was last year, and you can challenge any Republican to dispute that proposition."

"But that is only one plank. We denounced government by injunction and some said that we reflected upon the courts. We did not. We simply insist that even a judge is a servant of the people, and the people have the right to limit the jurisdiction of their courts, as they have the right to declare that a man charged with crime shall be tried by a jury and not by a judge."

"It is for the people themselves to say what jurisdiction their judges shall exercise and what shall be the methods of trial. The difficulties growing out of the coal strike have called the attention of the people to the dangers that lurk in government by injunction."

"Let me call your attention to another thing: We opposed the trust last year. We denounced the trust. We insisted that it was hostile to the genius of our institutions. We insisted that a government like ours must be great enough to suppress a trust organized to drive out competition and then plundering the public after competition had been destroyed. The opposition to trusts is stronger than it was last year, because the people have seen what it was to have the trust draw a tariff bill in the pretended interest of the rest of the people. That tariff bill, more than any other tariff bill that has ever been drawn, was drawn by the trust and for the trust. One of the members of Congress called attention to a recent decision of a German court in which the court held that the trust was in keeping with the idea of protection, that if you gave a tariff to a manufacturing industry, you expected the industry to take advantage of it, and if it becomes necessary to form a trust in order to get the advantage of that tariff law, then the trust must have been in contemplation of those who framed the law. That is not the exact language, but if you will read the quotation from the German court you will find that he sustains our contention, that it is absurd to give a trust the protective tariff and then complain that they did not mean to take advantage of it."

"My friends, the tariff bill has been written. Congress met. Congress did not have time to abolish government by injunction, but Congress did have time to turn over the taxing power of this nation to a syndicate of the United States."

"A Republican in Nebraska was asked last Monday whether he thought the Dingley bill had anything to do with the rise in wheat. 'Well,' said he, 'it was at least a striking coincidence.' Now, I don't know whether you have anybody in this State who sees a striking coincidence in the rise of wheat just about the time the Dingley bill was passed, but if there is I want to call that person's attention to another striking coincidence. Wheat has fallen 10 cents from the highest point it reached. It was up to a dollar one day in Chicago; I think it is down to something like 90 cents. It has been as low as 88 cents, and what worries me is how can the Republicans account for the fact that after the Republican party raised wheat to a dollar, it let it go down again? It is a striking coincidence. Now, if it is a good thing to have wheat at a dollar, and the Republican party put it there in the first place, how can it excuse itself for letting it go down again?"

"Well, then, there is another thing that, to my mind, is a striking coincidence. Now, the rise in wheat, unless it is followed by a rise in other things, might not be a universal blessing. Take my own case, for instance. My farm is in corn. I have five acres near Lincoln, which I had saved. I had saved the five acres for a dumping ground for the world's silver. (Great applause.) I had some Republican friends who seemed to be afraid that if we had free coinage our country would be used as a dumping ground for the world's silver, and so I just saved five acres, and if I had been elected I was going to surprise my timid Republican friends by offering it as a dumping ground for all the silver of the world—it would have held it all—so that the Republicans would not have been bothered by having it. But the election went against us, and I saw that for four years, at least, my land would not be needed for a dumping ground, and so I put it in corn. But it is just my luck. I am something like the man who, after a series of misfortunes, said it rained soup he wouldn't have any spoon. You see, I didn't know that Hanna had planned a famine in India. Now, my friends, I don't speak of it

with any feeling of sadness or disappointment, because I have no right to expect any inside information under this administration. But, as I cannot expect to get in on the ground floor when these famines are going to be scattered over the world's surface for the benefit of the poor people, I have made up my mind to do what every man must do when he has to take his chances. I am going to put a part of my five acres in wheat, part in corn, a part in oats, and a part in potatoes, and then Hanna can't have a famine anywhere but what I will be on top."

"But let me pass to another subject. We said last year that the gold standard was bad and we denounced the gold standard, said it was anti-American, said it was un-American, declared war against it, and announced to the world that it was a war which could not end until that gold standard was driven from the United States back to England. You heard Republican speakers say that the gold standard was the standard of civilization. You heard them praise it, and yet, my friends, the first act of the Republican present administration was to ask for an appointment of a commission to go to Europe and try to get rid of the gold standard, which the Republicans promised last fall."

"Republicans, you think a high tariff is a good thing. Don't you know that whenever you have a high tariff you always have some party denouncing it? Democrats, you think a low tariff a good thing. Don't you know that whenever you have a low tariff you generally find some party denouncing it? And yet we had bi-metalism for eighty-one years, and no party ever denounced it. That is a record which any party can be proud of. Ask your Republican friends what they have to say against so unanimous an endorsement of bi-metalism."

"But there is a harder proposition than that. We have abandoned bi-metalism and adopted the gold standard without any party in the United States asking for it. What do you think of that? Change the financial policy of a nation and go from a system universally commended for eighty-one years to an experiment, and no party asking that it be done. I affirm that the American people never adopted the gold standard. It was adopted for them by Congress. I affirm next that Congress did not know that it was adopting the gold standard when it did it. Why, the Speaker, as Mr. Gaines has suggested, did not know it when he signed the bill. Senators and members stated that after it was found out that they did not know that the bill changed the monetary system of the nation."

"Well, now, for twenty years we have had people say that it was impossible to get a bill through Congress containing an important provision without the knowledge of Congress. Republicans, did you know that events had robbed you of this argument that you have been making for twenty years? If any Republican tells you that it is impossible to get a bill through Congress containing a provision of which Congress is ignorant, you ask him who put section 22 into the Dingley bill."

"Let me lay down another proposition, and Republicans, this is the hardest of the three. We had the gold standard for twenty-three years and in all that time no political party in national convention praised it. What do you think of that? Do you know of any other policy that was ever bad that the people endured it for twenty-three years when it had no party defending it? It is true of the gold standard. Will any advocate of the gold standard explain why the blessings of the gold standard were so concealed that no party discovered those blessings for twenty-three years? My friends, this is not fiction; this is history. I want to ask your gold standard friends why it was that for twenty-three years every party held out the promise of abandoning the gold standard?"

"If you doubt that we were on the Democratic side last fall, read what some of the leading Democrats said after we had instructed a majority. They went to Chicago boasting that when the delegates found out how the delegates from New York felt about it that they would disobey their instructions—actual—boasted that in spite of instructions to the contrary they would still carry the convention; but they did not do it. My friends, it is bad to have those leave us who have worked with us, but of all the Democratic conventions to leave, I would rather have any pretended Democrat leave that convention than any other convention the party ever held, because he cannot go out and say he was a Democrat."

"According to the returns, seven millions and a little more favored the Republican platform. But did you ever read the Republican platform? That was not a gold standard platform, I believe it is the same as a gold standard platform. That platform declared for the double standard. It pledged the Republican party to do what it could to secure international bi-metalism, and Mr. McKinley, in his letter of acceptance, renewed the pledge, and when he was elected he started to carry out the pledge and recommend the appointment of a commission. Do you mean to say that it is a victory for the gold standard to elect a party pledged to get rid of it? And yet, my friends, that is just what the American people did. Six and a half millions of people voted for independent bi-metalism; seven millions for international bi-metalism; thirteen millions and one-half people voted to condemn the gold standard after twenty-three years of trial."

"There was another platform vote. The bolting Democrats adopted a platform in which they declared that the gold standard was good. Well, my friends, if anybody wanted to vote for the gold standard there was a platform that expressed his ideas. They nominated their ticket, they went out and made their fight and they polled 132,000 votes, or a little less than 1 per cent of the votes of the United States."

"In that minority report you will find that the bolting Democrats declared that they were afraid of free coinage would interfere with the security of international bi-metalism, toward which they said every effort should be directed; so that you see at Chicago they wanted to get rid of the gold standard and they

were opposed to free coinage for fear it would interfere with the getting rid of the gold standard. Now, I do not know whether you have any gold standard Democrats in your town or not, but, my friends, I want a gold Democrat to answer this question: 'Did the gold Democrats believe in a gold standard at Chicago?' If they did, they tried to practice a fraud upon their companions in the convention, for there they were in favor of international bi-metalism."

"Peter Cartwright was once asked if he was sanctified, and he said, 'Yes, in spots.' The gold Democrat is honest in spots. He spends so much time in talking about honest money that he has no time to be honest in his efforts to get any kind of money. Now, my friends, you cannot evade the proposition. The gold Democrat was either a fraud and pretender at Chicago or he was a bi-metalist. But I do not want to dwell longer on this phase of the subject."

"Now, during the campaign some Republicans abused me. Some papers said hard things against me. If there are any Republicans here to-night I am going to convince them I am a better man than they gave me credit for. It is not worth while for a man to stand out on a cold night and talk to the people who went through the fight last fall without losing their integrity. I want somebody against me. My friends, I want to convince you that I am a better man than the Republicans thought I was, and a better patriot. I was proud of the manner in which our people bowed to the will of the majority. We did not know just where the majority came from, but we bowed to it. But, my friends, I am in favor of doing more than accepting defeat gracefully. I believe it helps them carry out every gold policy which they proposed. I believe in bi-metalism. From the bottom of my heart I want it. I am in favor of independent bi-metalism. I would not wait for one moment for the aid or consent of any other nation on earth to decide on the policy of our financial system. But it will be three years before we can get a chance to put our plans in execution. For three years we must wait, and in the meantime I am willing to help the Republicans get international bi-metalism, if there is any possibility of securing it. I know they will get the credit if they bring it, but if they bring it, they are entitled to the credit for it, and if they bring it I shall rejoice as sincerely, as emphatically, as any Republican who favors international bi-metalism. I believe that when they try to get international bi-metalism, until we can put our plans in operation, we ought to help them. I am in favor of helping Wolcott to try and scare those capitalists, and I am speaking twice a day to back him up. He says if they don't do something right away the free silver party will win, and I say so, too. He points out that the silver movement is growing, and I want to make it grow. Well, my friends, I am so earnest in this matter, I am so anxious to have bi-metalism, if the Republican party brings it I am willing to give the Republican party a plan which they can use to secure international bi-metalism and get the credit for it. I will tell you what my plan is. We have elections in several States this fall. Now, my plan is for all Republicans who believe in international bi-metalism to join with us this fall to make the vote for silver as large as possible. I want to carry every State where there is an election by an overwhelming majority for free silver. Then what? The news will go across the ocean; Wolcott will be waiting to get the news, and when he gets the message that everyone of these States have gone for silver, he will rush to the telegraph and say, 'Didn't I tell you so. If you don't hurry and send delegates to that conference the free silver party will win. You have got to have those delegates sent at once.'"

"Now, my friends, reforms come to get rid of abuses, and reforms are initiated and supported by the people who suffer from abuses, and every reform that has been achieved of great benefit to mankind has come in spite of and not because of the capitalist. And yet the Republican party would turn over the finances of this country—the future of our country and the welfare of our children, not to local but to foreign financiers. I denounce that platform as the most infamous one ever adopted and any man ought to blush to stand upon it."

"But enough of that. Let me call your attention to another fact that has been exploded in their argument. They said all we needed was confidence. We had an election and it went their way, and according to the headlines, they cannot complain of the size of their majority. They said confidence was restored. They said: 'Now prosperity would come,' and did for two months. Why, the trade papers told us how business was looking up. The boom lasted nearly a month; long enough for the people to spend the money the Republicans put in circulation on election day, and then it dropped again."

"Then times got worse. There were more banks that failed within the first six months after confidence was restored than there had been failures in the corresponding six months of the year before. More business houses failed in the first six months after the restoration of confidence than had failed during the same period of the year previous. Times got bad and they got worse, and then they got worse still until they got so bad that many people concluded that I must have been elected."

"But after about six months things began to look up. Do you know where the first ray of hope came from? It came from the Klondike. I read you a dispatch from London, and since the Republicans have transferred the legislative power to the hands of foreigners, London is the

place whence cometh their hope; and the first ray of hope came from the discovery of gold in the British possessions at Klondike. And they rejoiced and men who had been silent for six months actually laughed on the streets. Many men who had not been able to give an excuse for what they did last fall put on spring clothes and came down town. But what right did the Republicans have to rejoice over the discovery of more gold? Didn't they tell us there was enough gold in the world? If there was enough gold, any more would be too much. And yet the Republicans actually laughed to find out it was well to have more gold. We were not so particular about money as the Republicans were. They insisted that we had enough gold in the world and enough money in this country. We wanted more gold to be found and more silver to be found, and we had a right to rejoice in the discovery of more gold. We insisted that more money meant more happiness, and if you doubt it, see how happy the Republicans were when there was more gold found. 'Where did the next ray of hope come from? From the wheat field. What had gone up? Why, my friends, dollar wheat is on our side. We wanted dollar wheat. What the Republicans said we want is a dollar to buy more than it ever bought before. You read the pamphlets sent out to railroad sound money clubs, telling them what would be the effect on those who were working for wages to have the products rise, and yet you find them rejoicing in the rise of products, and thus they find their second inspiration. Take what the Republicans said last year about having money enough and what they are now saying about the advantage of rising dollars and what they now say about rising prices. They remind me of a man who was traveling in the mountains by a path that was so crooked that he often met himself coming back. (Laughter and applause.) I want to ask you, are not the Republicans meeting themselves coming back? Why don't they admit it? It is because they are so ashamed of what they said last fall that they will not recognize themselves face to face?"

"I submit to you that the Republicans are today answering their own arguments. Why, I noticed the other day up in Iowa a paper said to be patient, prices will rise, and so will wages. They said last year they would now. We wanted a general rise in prices and we insisted that the wages and all other things would adjust themselves to the new level, and yet now they are trying to get credit for the spasmodic rise in certain products, but tell the laboring man to be patient, that prices will rise, and his wages will rise, so he will not suffer anything. Well, they are learning. It is a slow process, but they are learning. Last year was the first year that they admitted anything was wrong. Before that they said they were contented with our lot. When we said anything was wrong, they would point to some other nation in Europe and say we were better off than they, and ought not to complain. Up to last year they said they were contented. I believe in contentment, but I think it can be carried too far."

"But my friends, I have now stood here in this night air and kept you here, calling attention to these evidences of the fact that we are right and our opinions are right. You tell me that the silver craze is going to die out; I tell you it will not die out as long as it is being vindicated as it is now. You cannot kill a thing by proving it is right, and the Republican party is admitting now nearly every important position we took on the money question last fall, and instead of being ended, the money question is just being begun. Those who began last year the warfare for financial independence are waging it this year, and I want to warn you, my friends, that this contest is not over when we secure merely financial independence. It will go on until that doctrine of equality before the law, of equal rights to all and special privileges to none, is inscribed upon the walls of every executive office, of every legislative hall, of every room where a court meets, from justice of the peace to the Supreme Court of the United States. It means that the people who constitute this nation, those described by Carlyle in 1878 as the ones who produce the wealth and pay the taxes of the country, can make their wants felt in legislation, and that the non-producers of this nation shall not longer have a monopoly on the production of laws. It means, my friends, better government, more economic administration of government, more justice in the levying of taxes; it means that this shall be a government of the people, for the people and by the people, and this government shall not perish from the earth."

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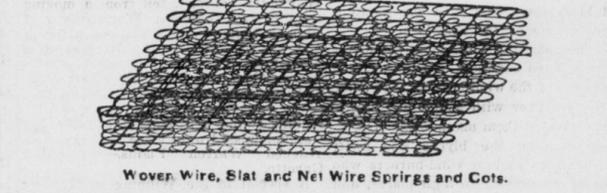
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