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LEADS ALL NORTH CAROLINA DAILIES IN NEWS AND CIRCULATION.

Mr. Bryan Reviews Croker in His Outline of the Campaign of 1900.

The Leader Defines the National Democratic Policy as Did Mr. Croker in an Exclusive Interview Published in the New York Journal August 13.

THE DEMOCRATS WILL SUCCEED IN 1900

Fed and Fattened by the Trusts, the Republican Party Will Not Now Dare to Disobey the Injunction, "Remember Thy Creator."

DEMOCRATIC PROSPECTS ARE BRIGHTENING.

Declaring Unequivocally for the Ratio of 16 to 1, Mr. Bryan Exclaims, "The Question is Not What is Expedient, But What is Right."

By JAMES CREELMAN.

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Lincoln, Neb., August 21.—A little more than a week ago I was walking the deck of the steamship St. Paul with Richard Croker, listening to the tribute to Mr. Bryan's power and integrity which has stirred the country. And here I am today, with Mr. Bryan himself, the most stubbornly sincere and convincingly convinced political leader I have met in the whole world.

I have known Mr. Bryan for many years, and in the campaign of 1896 I traveled nearly eighteen thousand miles with him, although I did not support him with my vote. He is today the same sober, deliberate, intense American he was in those blistering days of roaring multitudes and political upheaval. There is not a shadow of turning or evasion in his conversation. Unlike Mr. McKinley, he does not shift his ground to suit the occasion.

I came to Lincoln to see Mr. Bryan because Mr. Croker said that many of the Democratic leaders in the Eastern States believed it to be desirable that the ratio should be omitted from the financial plank of the national platform next year, and that the question of the relationship of silver to gold in our currency should be left to Congress. The interview with Mr. Croker was the result of a statement made to me by him nearly a year ago in London. He said then that he believed Mr. Bryan to be the greatest statesman in America, if not in the world.

Mr. Bryan looks older. In a few months he will be forty years old. He is stouter and weighs 203 pounds. Since the last campaign he has bought a farm of twenty-five acres just outside of Lincoln, and every two or three days the black charger which bore him as a soldier carries him to his scented fields of clover, green corn, ripe melons, fruit trees, potatoes and tomatoes, over which broods of white chickens go clucking contentedly. The Democratic leader is a good carpenter and makes his own chicken houses. I saw him today carry an armful of melons from the field to his buggy while his wife and children strolled about the scene of plenty and beauty.

STORIES OF BRYAN'S GREAT WEALTH ARE PREPOSTEROUS.

I have taken the trouble to investigate the story that Mr. Bryan is the richest man in Lincoln. It is preposterous. Mr. Bryan's wealth does not exceed \$200,000, and half of that is in real estate. His first profits from his book amounted to \$34,000. Of this he gave \$17,000 to various free silver clubs. He also gave \$4,500 to found prizes for essays on the science of government in eighteen colleges. His house in Lincoln cost him \$6,000. He could not probably sell it for more than \$5,000. His farm near Lincoln cost him about \$4,000. He also owns a farm of eighty acres near his birthplace, Salem, Ill., and a small house which his mother occupied in her last years. The story that Mr. Bryan is rich sprang from the fact that he is one of the few citizens of Lincoln who have honestly declared their personal property for the purpose of taxation.

At this moment Mr. Bryan stands at the very center and heart of the Democracy, in daily, almost hourly, contact with the people and the leaders in all parts of the country. He rose from obscurity to this commanding position by sticking to principle regardless of consequences. As he stood on the lawn in front of his simple home this morning, the incarnation of manly strength and courage, proud of his Americanism and glorying in the rough righteousness of the masses, I could not help contrasting him with another figure I saw in the yellow gaslight of a London night only a few weeks ago—William Waldorf Astor, thrilling in the presence of an English duke. These two men represent the two extremes of present tendencies on this continent.

UPON THE OLD AND UPON THE NEW ISSUES DEMOCRACY WILL WIN.

"Democratic success in 1900," he said, "is becoming more and

more certain. On the old issues we are stronger with the people than we were in 1896. The sentiment in favor of arbitration and an income tax is stronger. The opposition to government by injunction is stronger. The people better understand the necessity for bimetalism and better understand the danger of a national bank currency which places the control of the paper money in the hands of the banks.

"On the new questions sentiment is developing rapidly. Many Republicans who did not recognize the menace of the trusts in 1896 are becoming alarmed. They now see the dangers which threaten the nation when an industrial aristocracy can arbitrarily control the price of raw material, the rate of wages and the price of the finished product. The Republican party is impotent to destroy the trusts because the trusts are largely responsible for the success of the Republican party in the last campaign. While that party is not framing its politics along religious lines, it will not disobey the injunction, 'Remember thy Creator.'"

"Republican hostility to the masterly inactivity displayed by the Administration on the trust question will manifest itself as soon as a clear cut issue is presented by the platform. The Republican party will thunder against the trusts with generalities when the Democratic party will point out specific remedies.

"On the question of imperialism the opposition within the Republican party is already manifesting itself, and will grow as the determination to fasten its imperial policy on the country becomes more apparent. There is no real attempt being made to defend the President's policy. Some say that it is too late to discuss this question, because of ratification of the treaty of peace, but the Mc-Energy resolution openly disputes this. Others say that we cannot tell what to do until the Filipinos lay down their arms. But the Republicans cannot long evade the direct issue between the European idea of force which supports a war of conquest and the American idea of government by the consent of the governed. When this issue is presented there can be no question where the American people will stand.

"We are strong in the new questions just where we were weak in the old ones. We could not reach our foreign-born citizens with our literature on the money question, but the foreign-born citizens are, because of their past experience, if anything quicker than the American-born, to recognize the dangers of imperialism and militarism. The reports from all sections bear out what I have said about Democratic prospects. If any one is inclined to be despondent, let him compare the outlook now three years after defeat with the outlook four years ago after three years of victory."

PROSPERITY WILL NOT BLIND THE PEOPLE TO THEIR NEEDS.

"But, Mr. Bryan," I said, "it is said that business is booming, the country is rolling in wealth, and people don't want to have a change when they are getting rich."

"That," said Mr. Bryan, "is based on the theory that men think in their stomachs and not in their heads; that men do not study public questions except when they are starving. A few may refuse to consider these questions save when pressed by hunger, but the reform forces are attempting to apply well settled principles to public questions and they cannot be driven by accidental conditions.

"The Republican party cannot claim credit for the bountiful crops, and it will hardly claim credit for the famine in Europe, which caused large exportations of breadstuffs at an increased price. The increasing supply of gold from the Klondike, the importation of gold to cover trade balances and the expenditure of \$200,000,000 of borrowed money, taken in connection with the large crop, has brought a temporary advantage, but instead of strengthening the gold standard, an increasing supply of money proves the quantitative theory that more money means better prices. There were variations in the conditions during the

entire period from 1873 to 1896, but the general tendency was always downward. Each new fall in prices was lower than before, and each rise was less pronounced."

"And now came the question suggested on the deck of the St. Paul by Mr. Croker's statement to the Journal.

"Mr. Bryan, you are a practical man," I said. "You must see the importance of moderating at least the outward form of the party's position on the money question. Why would it not be wiser to stand upon a single declaration in favor of the remonetization of silver, leaving the ratio to be determined by Congress. Would that not be more expedient? Would it not instantly reunite the Democracy?"

Mr. Bryan did not hesitate a moment. His voice rang with earnestness.

HE WILL AGREE TO NO ABANDONMENT OF THE RATIO OF 16 TO 1.

"No, you cannot decide public questions upon the basis of expediency," he said.

"The rule with the party is the same as with the individual, because a party is only an aggregation of individuals. The question is not what is expedient, but what is right. That which is right will ultimately triumph, and that which is wrong will ultimately fail.

"If the Democratic party does what is right, it can go before the country and rely upon the justice of its cause to win success, but if it does what seems to be expedient it has no promise of success, either temporary or permanent. I am only one member of the Democratic party, and you cannot tell what the party will do until you know what a majority of the members of the party want. As a member of the party I have said and still say that an abandonment of the ratio of 16 to 1 would be equivalent to an abandonment of the money question, because no free coinage law can be adopted until a ratio is agreed upon, and, since the 16 to 1 ratio has been agreed upon, an abandonment of it would mean either that the ratio is wrong or that, although it is right, we are afraid to advocate it. If the ratio is wrong we ought to select another ratio and stand upon it. I do not believe the ratio to be wrong, neither is the ratio believed to be wrong by those who made the fight to insert it in the Democratic platform. To leave out all mention of a ratio

would be to return to the ambiguous and deceptive phraseology which characterized the financial platforms of both the Democratic and Republican parties for several campaigns.

"The men who oppose the ratio of 16 to 1 have no other ratio to offer. Their plan is to invite the people to have confidence in the party without the party taking the people into its confidence.

"Uncertainty in a platform indicates either ignorance or cowardice. If a party does not know what to do, it should not ask to be intrusted with power.

"If it knows what to do, but does not dare to avow its purpose, it does not deserve to be intrusted with power.

"Adhesion to the ratio of 16 to 1 is not intolerant. It is founded upon the belief that the ratio must be determined by the majority of those who favor bimetalism, and not by the minority. According to some, one man who doubts our ability to maintain the parity of silver and gold at the ratio of 16 to 1 ought to have more influence in making the platform than sixteen who believe in the power of our Government to maintain the present legal ratio.

No man could listen to Mr. Bryan as he said this and have any doubt of the hopelessness of a change in his attitude.

THE CHICAGO PLATFORM, HE DECLARES, IS AS BROAD AS THE UNION.

"But," I said, "considering the vastness of the stake at issue in the coming struggle for possession of the national Government of the very cross roads of our history, is it wise to rely only on the West and South and ignore the desires of the rich and populous East?"

"There is nothing in the Chicago platform which can be fairly criticized as sectional," he replied. "The doctrine of equal rights to all and special privileges to none is as broad as the Union. If it is less popular in the East than in the West and South, it is only because it has been more violated in the East, and that those who profit by class legislation are more influential there.

The plain people of the East are as much interested in the triumph of the Chicago platform principles as the people of any other section of the country, but they have not had the same opportunity to study them because the newspapers in the East have been opposed to the platform and we have had no

adequate means of reaching the people. Until the Chicago convention, for instance, the newspapers of the East told their readers that the silver question was dead. When the platform was adopted many of the leading Democratic newspapers bolted the ticket and assured their readers that the platform was an anarchistic declaration, emanating from the forces of lawlessness and disorder.

"In the heat of the campaign there was no opportunity to counteract this prejudice. During the three years which have elapsed since the election of a Republican President events have instructed the people in spite of the gold newspapers.

"The people have seen the President sending a commission to Europe to secure relief from the gold standard, and they have seen the Administration helpless to relieve the country of the gold standard because English financiers opposed bimetalism.

"They have seen the American financiers' plan to make all contracts payable in gold and to retire the greenbacks.

"They have seen trusts organized with greater rapidity than ever before, and that, too, under the very eyes of an Attorney-General selected from New Jersey, the hotbed of trusts.

"They have seen the National Administration embark upon a war of conquest and adventure in violation of the principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence.

"In 1896 the Republican party posed as the conservative element of the country. But it has become apparent in the past three years that the Democratic party is really the conservative party.

DEMOCRACY, SAYS THE LEADER, STANDS FOR THESE THINGS:

"It stands for a financial system which will furnish enough money for an independent financial policy. It stands for industrial independence and the overthrow of the trusts, which are the fault of our overgrown corporate power. It stands for a homogeneous republic against a heterogeneous empire. The business men of the East were arrayed against us in 1896. Every man engaged in legitimate business who is not simply a speculator or stock gambler will find it to his interest to favor the double standard, which will give a suffi-

cient volume of full legal tender money to form the basis for a safe commercial system.

"He will find it to his interest to assist in the overthrow of the trusts, which are driving the small business men out of business.

"He will find it to his interest to oppose a policy of imperialism with its accompanying militarism. The man engaged in legitimate business will find a large army an expensive luxury. He will also find that a colonial policy, besides endangering the doctrine of self-government at home, will involve the nation in frequent foreign complications and disturbed business conditions.

"The Republican party promised the business men of the country a business administration conducted on business principles and run in the interest of business men, but it furnished an administration which has put the dollar above the man, and has sacrificed the interests of small property owners to the demands of the great corporations. It is aggregated wealth against the plain people, whether they are engaged on the farm, in the workshop or in the store.

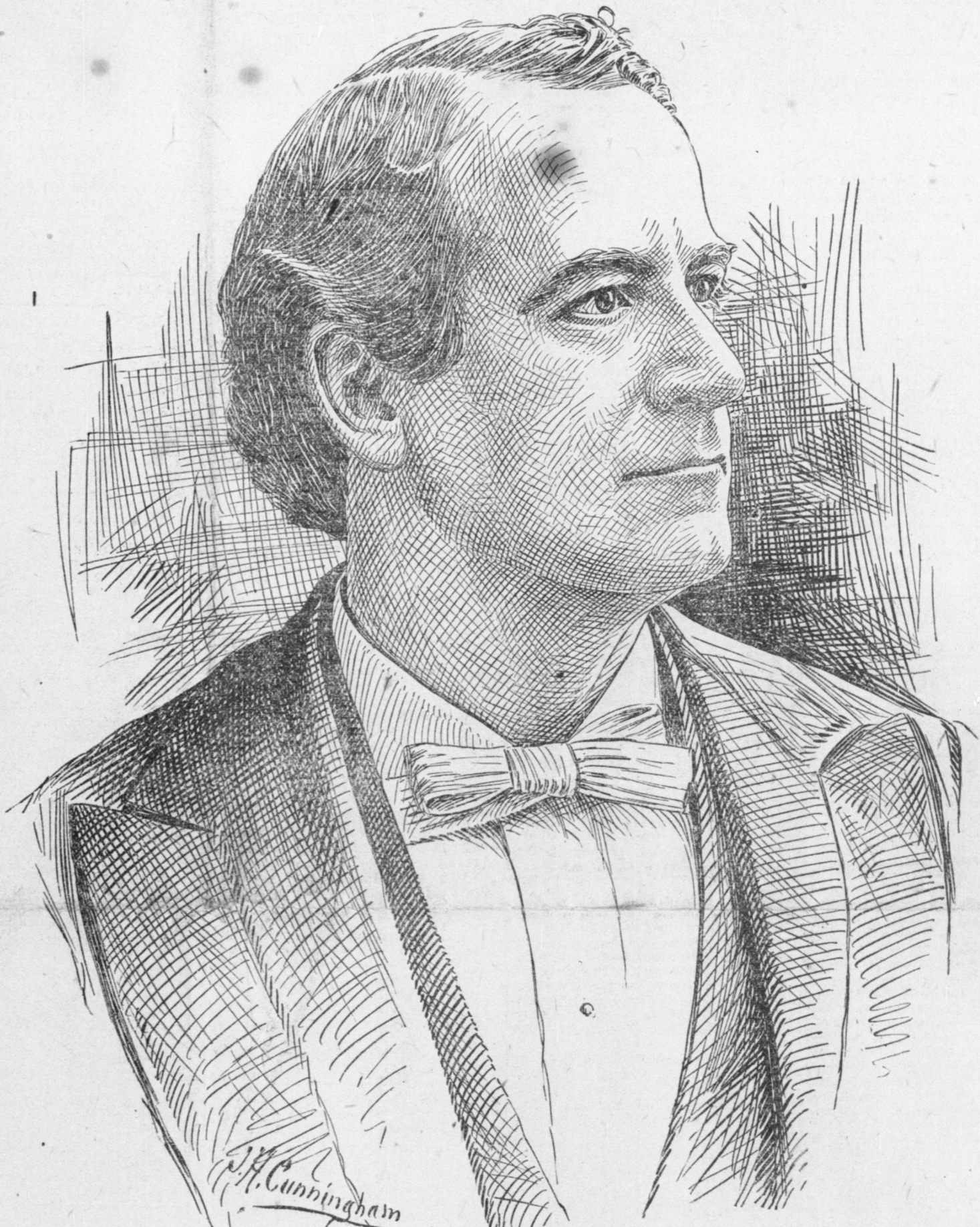
"But how do you suppose a gold Democrat can return to the party?"

"The door is as wide open and it is as large as it was when the gold Democrats went out.

"Some will come back because they have been converted to Chicago platform principles; others will come back because of the new issues. All that is asked of those returning is that they shall remove their pistols from their hip pockets before entering the door.

"Men support a platform as a whole, often dissenting from particular parts. To a large majority of the party the platform will be entirely good; to some it will be better on the whole than the Republican platform. In a battle those are on our side who are aiming at the enemy.

"Just now the Democratic party is resisting a policy ruinous to legitimate business. We are exchanging the certainty of peaceful progress, prosperity and continued development along legitimate and reasonable lines for the uncertainties of a policy of spoliation and adventure. I believe that liberty, individual, civil and religious, is the crowning idea of civilization, and for this section of force and conquest is to reverse the Bible phrase and make the immortal put on mortality."



WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN.