

SKETCH OF THE CAREER OF WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN



Without holding any official position to lift him to public view, it is nevertheless a curious fact that the personality of William Jennings Bryan has prominently impressed itself on the country. To be great is easy for the man who succeeds. But there is the man who failed, and has grown great and more great. Only a ruler or a general has received more public attention than he. Princes and potentates have entertained him. Yet he is only an American private citizen.

William Jennings Bryan is a native of Illinois, having been born in that State on March 19, 1860. He received his early education in the public schools and Whipple Academy, was graduated in 1881 at the Illinois college, Jacksonville, and was the valedictorian of his class; received the degree of A. M. from the same in-

and has had distinguished consideration shown him in Japan, China, Russia, Continental Europe and England. At the request of King Edward he had an audience with that famous British ruler. The Lord Chancellor of England praised him before the Inter-parliamentary Conference; that distinguished assemblage cheered his speech and adopted his international peace resolution.

Mr. Bryan lives in a substantial red-brick house four miles out of Lincoln, at a little settlement called Normal. The trolley will take you there; tall sunflowers brushing the car window as it passes through. In the little country church just at the edge of his own cornfield, he worships on Sunday. Sometimes he preaches there. His wife and daughter teach in the Sunday-school. It is a Methodist church, but it is nearer than the

English breakfast custom prevails. That is, the family does not breakfast together as a rule. Mrs. Bryan usually is the first to enter the dining room, which is handsomely furnished in heavy black mahogany manufactured especially for her. Neither she nor Mr. Bryan drinks coffee or tea. Nor do the children. Unless, therefore, there are guests in the house the cook never prepares either of these



Mr. Bryan and His Grandchildren, Ruth and Bryan Leavitt.

beverages except for herself. Each member of the household orders appropriate dishes demanded by the morning appetite. Guests do the same.

Mr. Bryan seldom takes a walk around the estate before breakfast. A cold bath is indulged in as soon as he rises. Then he hastily prepares his toilet and descends to the basement dining room for a hearty breakfast of eggs, usually scrambled, beefsteak or broiled chicken, hot corn cakes and milk fresh from his own dairy. After this he plunges into the work of the day. He receives his mail by rural free delivery. He goes over the first batch before Mrs. Bryan has put her household affairs in shape to join him in his workroom. Then he begins dictating to her. Mr. Bryan is a rapid talker, but his wife, although knowing none of the established stenographic systems, is able to keep pace with his dictation. She uses a method of abbreviations of her own contrivance. He also dictates to her most of his editorials for The Commoner. Mrs. Bryan understands the political situation in detail almost as well as her husband. For years she has been traveling with him, meeting the men who confer with him and taking part in the discussions. She now has a most capable private secretary and handles a heavier correspondence than Mr. Bryan. She receives herself a great many letters and all get answers. She also answers a great many letters of her husband's. He indicates the answers and she dictates the replies.



WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN.

stitution in 1884, and from the Union College of Law at Chicago, in 1883.

In October, 1884, Mr. Bryan was married to Miss Mary E. Baird, of Perry, Ill. He practiced law at Jacksonville, Ill., from 1883 to 1887, since which time he has practiced his profession at Lincoln, Neb., where he has made his home.

He was a member of Congress from the Lincoln (Neb.) district from 1891 to 1895. In 1893 Mr. Bryan received the Democratic vote for the United States Senatorship, and in 1894 he was nominated in the Nebraska State Democratic Convention for U. S. Senator, but was defeated by the Hon. John M. Thurston.

During 1894 to 1896 Mr. Bryan was editor of the Omaha World-Herald.

Presbyterian church where he and Mrs. Bryan hold their membership. She was brought up a Methodist anyhow, and when they moved to Normal she said, "Will, I've gone to your church ever since we were married. Now let's go to mine." So later the children, Grace and William, joined there. William J. Jr., is eighteen years old, and a freshman in Nebraska State University.



MRS. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN.

"Fairview" the Bryans call their place that covers two hundred acres. Land around there is worth from \$200 to \$500 an acre. So it can be figured that Mr. Bryan is comfortably well-to-do. Those that have less might call him a rich man. What he has, he has made from his lectures and his books and from The Commoner, published in a plain country newspaper office in Lincoln.

Before the Bryans had as much as they have now, they lived in a little frame house on a muddy street in Lincoln, on his country lawyer's income of \$1800 a year. You just naturally speak of them as the Bryans, for through all of the man's career, the woman has kept step at his side. "We always do everything together, my wife and I," he says with a pride that has never waned. Long ago, just after their marriage, she studied law and was admitted to the bar. She did it not to practice law, but to be able "to help Will." She has read her way through all the political economy that he teaches.

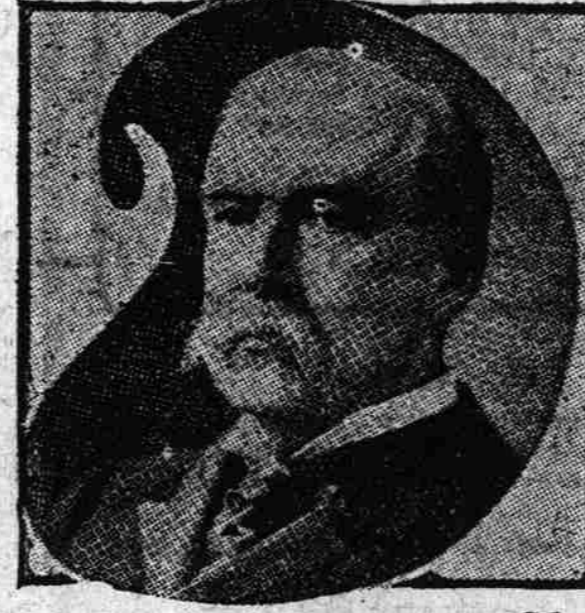
There is neither pomp nor ceremonial at Fairview. By 7 o'clock every morning life is astir there. Half-past 7 is the breakfast hour. The

Two interesting personages of the Bryan household are the grandchildren, Ruth and Bryan Leavitt, aged four and three. They are the children of Homer and Ruth Bryan Leavitt.

Mr. Bryan has no office in the shop in Lincoln where The Commoner is published, but occasionally he drops in to see how the paper is getting along. This is a typical country newspaper office. It smells of benzine and printer's ink. Old piles of exchanges are in the corner, and the man who gets a chair with a whole bottom in it is fortunate. Cartoons and prints decorate the walls, and scraps of reprint are pasted here and there. The files feed on the flour paste and the inkwells clog up with ants. The smoking pipes of the printers are older than the town and stronger than the uplift movement in the office of a reform magazine.

It is interesting to note that this is the headquarters of the whole Bryan movement. There are no smart head clerks and liveried messenger boys.

It is said that The Commoner pays its editor about \$200 a month and others "get a good living." It is a fairly prosperous property, but no strain is made to pile up big profits. That is immediately plain to any experienced newspaper man who watches the way of doing things. Mr. Bryan is apparently content to have it disseminate his doctrines, to pay its own way and support its workers, and give fair returns.



JUDGE GEORGE GRAY, Of Delaware.

Notes of the Diamond.
Manager Jim McGuire has the Boston hustling until the last man is out.

The Cleveland Club has reinstated pitcher Jake Thielman, who was recently laid off without pay owing to lack of condition.

Good old George Van Halgren is still in harness, and is guiding the destinies of the Oakland team in the Pacific Coast League. The leg he broke at Pittsburgh when a Giant never bothers him, and he is hitting the ball with a vengeance.

In 1896 he was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention at Chicago; he wrote the "silver plank" on the platform, and after making a notable and stirring speech he was nominated for the Presidency. During the campaign he traveled over 38,000 miles, and made speeches at almost every stopping place; he received 176 electoral votes against 271 for the late William McKinley.

In 1897-8 he lectured on bimetallism, and in May, 1898, he raised and organized the Third Regiment Nebraska Volunteers, infantry, for service in the Spanish-American War, and became colonel of the regiment.

In 1900 he was again nominated for President on the Democratic ticket, and also received the endorsement of the Populist and Silver Republican conventions. Mr. Bryan made another active canvass, but was again defeated, this time receiving in the electoral college 155 votes as against 233 for Mr. McKinley.

Soon after his last Presidential defeat Mr. Bryan established The Commoner, a weekly political journal, in which he has kept the public posted as to his views on political subjects. From this journal, lectures and books, "The First Battle," and "Under Other Flags," and from his numerous special articles written for other magazines and newspapers, Mr. Bryan has amassed a comfortable competency.

Within the past two years Mr. Bryan has made a tour of the world,

and has had distinguished consideration shown him in Japan, China, Russia, Continental Europe and England. At the request of King Edward he had an audience with that famous British ruler. The Lord Chancellor of England praised him before the Inter-parliamentary Conference; that distinguished assemblage cheered his speech and adopted his international peace resolution.

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BIRTHPLACE OF W. J. BRYAN, AT SALEM, ILL. (On this site a library will be built to mark the spot in the future.)

Jottings About Sports.
J. F. Taylor won the open golf championship of France, defeating Massey, Braid and Vardon.

E. J. Mills, with a fifteen foot rod, made the record cast of 140 feet in the annual flyand bait casting tournament at Harlem Mere, in Central Park, New York.

Miss Mary Sutton, the champion woman tennis player, sends word from Santa Barbara, Cal., that she challenges to a match in singles Maurice McLaughlin, champion in singles for the Pacific Coast.

Newsy Paragraphs.
A Pacific torpedo fleet of three flotillas has been organized.

H. M. Flagler resigned as a vice-president of the Standard Oil Company.

Dr. Darlington expressed the belief that New York City's decreased death rate indicated a return to normal living.

It has been decided to hold the Goshen races at Middletown, N. Y., this season, despite the enactment of the anti-race track gambling law. The purses will not be cut down.

AFTER THE FOUR



Shade of King George III.—"I Always Get Some Satisfaction Out of It."—Cartoon by De Mar, in the Philadelphia Record.

PRICE OF MEAT FORCED UP FOR PROFIT ONLY

Beef Trust is Really Reaching Out to Control the Retail Trade of Entire Country, Dealers Declare—High Price of Corn Not Accepted as Excuse—Advance of From 25 to 35 Per Cent. in Meat Forces Fish Dealers to Raise Prices.

New York City.—Without even the justification that the demand has increased or the supply fallen short, the advance in the price of meat by the powerful combination now reaching out to control the retail trade of the country has reached a point where hundreds of small butchers must be driven into bankruptcy because they are unable to sell at the exorbitant rate forced upon them, with the added burden of the exactions of the railroads in freight rates.

In Washington Market, the most famous mart of its kind in the country, trade has been cut almost fifty per cent. in a year. Butchers who needed six or seven big ice boxes last year get along now with two or three. The stalls that handled thirty or forty car-cases now handle from ten to twelve. Veterans in the business like Peter J. Hickey suddenly find themselves confronted with agents of the Beef Trust as rivals in attempting to gain hotel and steamship trade, offering the product at a lower price than it is sold to the butchers themselves.

There is not a retail butcher who is able to explain why he has had to pay more for his beef and mutton and pork and charge his customers more. All he knows is that the price is increased. The meat is ready for his inspection and purchase, and he can take it or leave it. The nearest to an explanation of the increase has been the price of corn, and next to that the shortage in supply.

Increase Instead of Shortage.

The organ of the Meat Trust in New York does not bear out the "shortage theory." In its last issue the receipts of live stock in Chicago were recorded as "336,180 head for the week, an increase of 60,573. Deliveries of cattle were 9,111 in excess of the receipts of the previous week, and 11,372 head greater than the same week last year."

As the demand for the choicest cuts of beef falls off the price of the cheaper parts is increased by the butcher so that he can come somewhere near getting even with the wholesaler. In the populous east side, where a half cent in the price of meat means much, the cut for which there is the greatest demand is the brisket, which is divested of its bone before it is sold to the customer. One year ago the brisket was sold at from thirteen to fourteen cents a pound. This week the lowest price was twenty cents. Corned beef that sold for sixteen and fifteen cents a pound in June, 1907, now sells for twenty cents. Soup meat has gone up to twelve cents a pound on the east side and fourteen and fifteen cents a pound in Jefferson Market, an increase greater in proportion than for any other meat. Last January the price of soup meat was from ten to twelve cents a pound, and a year ago the highest price for the best quality was ten cents.

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TEXAS PRICES ARE HIGHEST IN YEARS.

Influx of Population and Occupation of Land Chiefly Responsible.

Fort Worth, Texas.—The present prices of cattle on the hoof in Texas—the highest in twenty years—are due principally to the influx of a million settlers in the past two years, the occupation of ranch lands and the sale of cattle to clear off the big pastures.

Best meal and grass fed steers now sell on the hoof at Fort Worth from \$5.75 to \$6 a hundred pounds; corn fed steers sold last week at \$7.25 and grass-fed steers have sold here this spring at \$6.75, the highest price ever paid in the history of Texas cattle raising.

A year ago the best steers brought \$4.70, and two years ago to-day nothing was offered that would bring as high as \$3 a hundred. In two years the price of cows on the hoof here has advanced practically two cents a pound.

Last year's receipts of cattle at Fort Worth exceeded 1,000,000, the majority calves and heifers, which presages a shortage for probably two years to come. Yearlings and two-year-olds sold this spring to feeders have been bringing from \$3 to \$5 a head more than last year, and it is believed they will go higher.

The past two seasons have been unusually favorable, the open range season much longer than usual. The loss from storms last winter was insignificant and the calf crop this spring unusually large. This may improve conditions within two years, but neither packers nor cattlemen anticipate much change in conditions before that time.

HARD TIMES PRODUCE MALE CHILDREN.

Dr. Frank Kraft Says Sex of Infants is Based on Law of Survival of Fittest.

Cleveland, Ohio.—Control of the sex of infants is a practical proposition, according to Dr. Frank Kraft, secretary of the American Institute of Homeopathy. Dr. Kraft says he has discovered no new principle, but has shown the practical application of one originating with the evolution theory. The principle, he says, is based on the law of the survival of the fittest. Dr. Kraft makes these declarations in a book just off the press.

It is well known to scientists, asserts the author, that savage races and races which exist where the conditions of life are hardest produce a preponderance of male children. From this fact he deduces that nature recognizes in the female the weaker sex. Thus, he says, in times of plenty females are likely to predominate. Some thinkers on the subject even go so far as to assert that hard times produce male children because the struggle for life is harder.

Omaha Drinks Mud—Consumes Thirty-one Tons Each Day.

Omaha, Neb.—That citizens of Omaha drink thirty-one tons of mud daily in the water from the Missouri River was the testimony in the Federal Court in Omaha in a water works case by the City Chemist.

The city makes the charge that the water company does not furnish undulcerated water and refuses payment of the city bill on that account. As drawn from a hydrant, a glass of Missouri River water cannot be seen through until it settles.

Market Price of Fingers Fixed at \$300 Each.

Columbus, Ohio.—Four Columbus men have offered a finger each for \$300 to A. C. Ballou, of Wheeling, W. Va., who lost his fingers in an ice cream freezer recently. He is in the hospital at East Liverpool, Ohio, and his brother, Joseph Ballou, made the offer of \$300 a finger on the suggestion of the surgeons. The men who have offered to have their fingers cut off are Robert E. Robbins, W. E. Thompson, O. E. Manberger and a man signing himself "D."

THE BALLOON

Aeronauts Face Death in the Chicago-to-Ocean Trial

LAND 800 MILES FROM CHICAGO.

All Balloons Accounted For—One Party Dragged For Miles Along the Surface of Lake Michigan Fielding Probable Winner.

Chicago, Special.—The Chicago-to-ocean balloon race ended Sunday night, when the last of the nine contestants came to earth at West Shefford, Quebec, 800 miles from the starting point. This craft was the Fielding, owned by F. J. Fielding, of San Antonio, Texas. It covered approximately 100 miles more than its nearest competitor and is also believed to have captured the prize for the balloon which remained in the air the longest.

The nine balloons left Chicago on Saturday afternoon. The contest was marked by several thrilling escapes from death. The Ville de Dieppe dropped into Lake Michigan soon after the start, and for an hour or more Col. A. E. Mueller and Geo. Schoeneck, its pilots, were swept across the surface, finally arising with their craft to a height of 7,000 feet, from which they descended to Benton Harbor, Mich.

A similar experience fell to the lot of C. H. Ferrige, and J. L. Case, crew of the Illinois. While endeavoring to effect a landing near Lake Ontario their balloon fell into the Bay of Quinte. The aeronauts had donned life-preservers and managed to keep afloat until a yacht put off from Glenn Island and rescued them. The fate of their balloon is not known here, Ferrige's message to his family stating simply that he and Case are safe.

The third serious accident occurred near Clinton, Ont. The balloon Columbia could not be controlled by Capt. Peterson and C. H. Leichter and they were dashed against trees and dragged through barbed wire fences. Both men were severely injured.

The landing places of the nine balloons were as follows: Fielding, West Shefford, Quebec; America, Carsonville, Mich.; King Edward, Port Huron, Mich.; Chicago, Atwood, Ont.; United States, Pinkerton Station, Ont.; Columbia, Clinton, Ont.; Cincinnati, Covert, Mich.; Illinois, Glen Island, Ont.; and Ville de Dieppe, Benton Harbor, Mich.

SEVEN LIVES LOST IN A FIRE.

At Cleveland, O., Fireworks on Display Explode, Causing Panic Among Clerks and Shoppers.

Cleveland, O., Special.—Seven persons were killed, at least two others were fatally injured, and fully thirty more were severely hurt as the result of fire in S. S. Kresge's five and ten cent store on Ontario street Saturday. The dead: Emma Schumaker, 18 floor walker; Marie Wagner, 17, clerk; Anna Trefall, 24, clerk; Frieda Trefall, 17, clerk; Elizabeth Reis 18, clerk; Mary Hughes, 27, shopper; James L. Parker, four years.

The fire followed an explosion of fireworks on display in the store. Opinions differ as to the exact cause of the explosion. A woman who was at the fireworks counter said the stock was ignited by a spark from a device which was being demonstrated to her by a clerk. Fire Chief Wallace and the store manager were of the opinion that the pieces were ignited by an are light.

Immediately following the explosion an alarm of fire was sounded and a panic seized the hundreds of clerks and shoppers. A mad rush was made for the doors and windows.

IN QUEST OF NORTH POLE.

Undaunted by Former Trial, Commander Robert E. Peary Heads Another Expedition to Search for the North Pole.

New York, Special.—With the Peary Arctic Club's pennant fluttering from her main track and the Stars and Stripes at her mizzen, the Arctic exploitation steamer Roosevelt left her pier at East Twenty-fourth street Monday carrying Commander Robert E. Peary, who is to head another expedition in quest of the North Pole. Before the ship left Commander Peary said:

"I have done too much work in the Arctic regions to believe that I can make the pole without strenuous work. I am not foolish enough to say that I am going to do or die, but I am certainly going to put into this trip every bit of energy—mental, moral and physical that I have in order to succeed in my undertaking. I know my path will be hedged in by many trials and I am confident I will carry the American flag farther north than by any other explorer."

Two Men Burned to Death.

Philadelphia, Special.—Two men were burned to death and 10 others were injured Saturday in a fire following an explosion on the oil tank barge Shenango, which is undergoing repairs at Cramps' shipyard in this city. The dead are: Herbert Page, Walter Tyson. Joseph Biener is not expected to recover.