BRYAN FORMALLY ACCEPTS HONOR

Great Crowd Hears Speech of Democratic Nominee at Lincoln.

CITY IS IN GALA ATTIRE

Nebraskan's Friends From Far and Near Throng State Capital to Witness Notification Ceremonies. Candidate Given Ovation.

LINCOLN, Neb., Aug. 12.—Under the burning rays of an almost tropical sun and in the presence of a vast assemblage, the greatest in this city's history, which cheered him to the echo, William J. Bryan today received from Henry D. Clayton, of Alabama, chairman of the committee, formal notification of his nomination for the Presidency of the United States. Thrice honored by the Democratic party as its standard-bearer, Mr. Bryan plainly exhibited the pleasure it gave him to once again proclaim the principles for which he stood.

His nomination for a third time, he declared, in his speech of acceptance, could only be explained by a substantial and undisputed growth in the principles and policies for which he, with a multitude of others, had contended.

His Faith Is Renewed.

"As these principles and policies," he said, "have given me whatever political strength I possess, the action of the convention not only renews my faith in them, but strengthens my attachment to them."

The ovation accorded Mr. Bryan as he rode through the streets of Lincoln on his way to the Capitol, where the exercises were held, was non-partisan in character. It was the homage of the Western city to a distinguished citizen. Almost the entire Republican administration was represented, Governor George L. Sheldon and many state officers lending their presence, both in the parade and on the platform. Before coming to Lincoln from his home at Fairview, four miles distant, Mr. Bryan received over 1500 visitors. To one and all he extended a cordial greeting.

Besieged by Admirers.

His arrival shortly after 12 o'clock at the Hotel Lincoln, where he and John W. Kern, the Vice-Presidential candidate, were the guests of honor at a luncheon to the committee on notification, was the signal for an outburst of applause. He immediately was surrounded by a great crowd and was kept busy for some time shaking hands.

Never before had Lincoln's streets and buildings presented such a gala appearance; never before had such a profusion of banners, streamers, bunting and photographs flashed forth to dazzle the eyes of the myriads of visitors. O street was a riot of color.

See Battered Taft Banner.

Around the mutilated Taft banner a crowd of curious visitors was clustered. With a notoriety almost National, the banner was the first point of interest visited. The route of the parade carried Mr. Bryan directly under the banner, but no notice was taken of the fact by him or his party.

The state house grounds were a solidly packed mass of humanity, and Mr. Bryan's appearance on the platform was greeted with vociferous cheers and handclapping. The ceremony of notification was conducted on the north front of the Capitol building. The balconies and every window were jammed to overflowing. Not a single incident occurred to mar the proceedings.

Troops Assist Police.

The police arrangements were excellent. Realizing that the force was not sufficient to cope with the great crowd, the adjutant-general of the state, at the request of Mayor Frank Brown, ordered out Captain Lum's company of the Second Nebraska Regiment, and with their assistance perfect order, not only along the line of march, but within the Capitol grounds was maintained.

Before the notification and acceptance speeches were delivered, Norman E. Mack, chairman of the Democratic National committee, who acted as presiding officer, called upon John W. Kern, the Vice-Presidential nominee, to make a speech.

Kern Makes a Speech.

Mr. Kern responded with a few felicitous remarks, in which he gave unstinted praise of the non-partisan character of the exercises.

For an hour preceding the arrival of Mr. Bryan at the Capitol building, the McKinley Memorial chimes in the belfry of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, located near the State House, pealed forth "America," "Dixie" and "Marching Through Georgia."

On the platform, besides the members of the notification committee, Mayor Brown, the committee on arrangements, the members of the National Committee, Governor Sheldon and other state officers were the following:

Guests on the Platform.

Mrs. W. J. Bryan, Mrs. Charles W. Bryan, Mrs. Ruth Leavitt and Miss Grace Bryan; Bishop John Robinson, missionary bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church for Southern Asia; Dr. C. M. Boswel, assistant corresponding secretary of the board of home missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church; Rev. I. F. Roach, pastor of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church of this city; ex-Governor J. A. Pointer, Judge A. S. Tibbetts and George W. Berge, Democratic candidate for Governor.

It was long after 2 o'clock when Mr. Bryan made his appearance on the platform. His arrival was the signal for a great demonstration, the vast throng loudly cheering and waving flags.

After a short delay in seating the official party, National Chairman Mack, the presiding officer, who was introduced by Vice-Chairman P. L. Hall, rapped for order. Rev. Father John F. Nugent, of Des Moines, Iowa, delivered the invocation.

Cheers for Mr. Bryan.

Then Chairman Clayton delivered his speech of notification. The duty of reading the letter of notification devolved upon G. Humphrey O'Sullivan, of Lowell, Mass., secretary of the notification committee. The climax came when Mr. Bryan arose to respond. The crowd wildly cheered and it was not until he raised his hand for quiet that the demonstration ceased, and he was permitted to proceed.

Mr. Bryan read his speech. A burning sun beat down on his head and he was compelled to ask the indulgence of his audience in putting on his hat. Chairman Mack, however, quickly came to his side and put an umbrella over him until his speech was completed.

Toward the close of his speech a voice rang out: "Hurrah for Bryan." This was caught up by the crowd, including a number of men and boys who had crawled under the platform. Mr. Bryan was forced to pause until the cheering ceased. The delivery of the speech consumed exactly one hour.

Slaps at the Railroads.

Chairman Clayton brought further cheers from the crowd when he read a message from Chairman Mack who was compelled to leave before the ceremonies were over in order to catch a train for Chicago, saying at the first that he entertained deep regrets that the Western Passenger Association had not accorded reduced rates to Lincoln, but after seeing the gathering he did not know but that the railroads had accommodated him by refusing the reduction.

The speech of Mr. Bryan concluded the ceremonies and he and Mr. Kern retired to the Capitol building, where they held a public reception.

Tonight Mr. and Mrs. Bryan entertained the members of the notification committee at a dinner at their home at Fairview, the party being served by Mrs. Ruth Leavitt and Miss Grace Bryan, daughters of the host and hostess; Mrs. Spangler and Mrs. T. F. Allen, niece and sister-in-law respectively, of the Democratic candidate, and Mrs. Winger.

TEXT OF ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

"Shall the People Rule?" Keynote of Bryan's Address.

LINCOLN, Neb., Aug. 12.—Following is the text of the speech of acceptance delivered by William J. Bryan, today, to a great audience assembled on the Capitol grounds, responding to the speech of Henry D. Clayton, chairman of the notification committee, formally acquainting him with the action of the Denver convention:

Mr. Clayton and Gentlemen of the Notification Committee: I cannot accept the nomination which you officially tender without first acknowledging my deep indebtedness to the Democratic party for the extraordinary honor which it has conferred upon me. Having twice before been a candidate for the Presidency, in campaigns which ended in defeat, a third nomination, the result of the free and voluntary act of the voters of the party, can only be explained by a substantial and undisputed growth in the principles and policies for which I, with a multitude of others, have contended. As these principles and policies have given me whatever strength I possess, the action of the convention not only renews my faith in them, but strengthens my attachment to them.

I shall, in the near future, prepare a more formal reply to your notification and in that letter of acceptance will deal with the platform in detail. It is sufficient at this time to assure you that I am in hearty accord with both the letter and the spirit of the platform. I indorse it in whole and in part, and shall if elected regard its declarations as binding upon me. And, I may add, a platform is binding as to what it contains as well as to what it contains. According to the Democratic idea, the people think for themselves and select officials to carry out their wishes. The voters are the sovereigns; the officials are the servants, employed for a fixed time and at a stated salary to do what the sovereigns want done, and to do it in the way the sovereigns want it done. Platforms are entirely in harmony with this democratic idea. A platform announces the party's position on the questions which are at issue, and an official is not at liberty to use the authority vested in him to urge personal views which have not been submitted to the voters for their approval. If one is nominated upon a platform which is not satisfactory to him, he must, if candid, either decline the nomination or, in accepting it, propose an amended platform in lieu of the one adopted by the convention. No such situation, however, confronts your candidate, for the platform upon which I was nominated not only contains nothing from which I dissent, but it specifically outlines all the remedial legislation which we can hope to secure during the next four years.

The distinguished statesman who received the Republican nomination for President said in his notification speech: "The strength of the Republican cause in the campaign at hand is the fact that we represent the policies essential to the reform of known abuses, to the continuance of liberty and true prosperity, and that we are determined, as our platform unequivocally declares, to maintain them and carry them on."

Accepts Challenge of Taft.

In the name of the Democratic party, I accept the challenge, and charge that the Republican party is responsible for all the abuses which now exist in the Federal Government, and that it is impotent to accomplish the reforms which are imperatively needed. Further, I cannot concur in the statement that the Republican platform unequivocally declares for the reforms that are necessary; on the contrary, I affirm that it openly and notoriously disappoints the hopes and expectations of reformers, whether those reformers be Republicans or Democrats. So far did the Republican convention fall short of its duty that its Republican candidate felt it necessary to add to his platform in several important particulars, thus rebuking the leaders of the party, upon whose co-operation he must rely for the enactment of remedial legislation.

As I shall in separate speeches discuss the leading questions at issue, I shall at this time confine myself to the paramount question, and to the far-reaching purpose of our party as that purpose is set forth in the platform.

Our platform declares that the overshadowing issue which manifests itself in all the questions now under discussion is, "Shall the people rule?" No matter which way we turn, no matter to what subject we address ourselves, the same question confronts us: Shall the people control their own government and use that government for the protection of their rights and for the promotion of their welfare, or shall the representatives of predatory wealth prey upon a defenseless public while the offenders secure immunity from subservient officials whom they raise to power by unscrupulous methods? This is the issue raised by the "known abuses" to which Mr. Taft refers.

Quotes From Roosevelt.

In a message sent to Congress last January President Roosevelt said: "The attacks by these great corporations on the administration's actions have been given a wide circulation throughout the country, in the newspapers and otherwise, by those writers and speakers who, consciously or unconsciously, act as the representatives of predatory wealth—of the wealth accumulated on a giant scale by all forms of iniquity ranging from the oppression of wage-earners to unfair and unwholesome methods of crushing out competition and to defrauding the public by stock-jobbing and by manipulation of securities. Certain wealthy men of this stamp, whose conduct should be abhorrent to every man of ordinarily decent conscience, and who commit the hideous wrong of teaching our young men that phenomenal business success must ordinarily be based on dishonesty, have during the last few months made it apparent that they have banded together to work for a reaction. Their endeavor is to overthrow and discredit all who honestly administer the law, to prevent any additional legislation which would check and restrain them, and to secure, if possible, a freedom from all restraint which will permit every unscrupulous wrongdoer to do what he wishes unchecked, provided he has enough money." What an arraignment of the predatory interests!

Is the President's indictment true? And, if true, against whom was the indictment directed? Not against the Democratic party.

Mr. Taft says that these evils have crept in during the last ten years. He declares that during this time some "prominent and influential members of the community, spurred by financial success and in their hurry for greater wealth, became unmindful of the common rules of business honesty and fidelity, and of the limitations imposed by law upon their actions," and that "the revelations of the breaches of trusts, the disclosures as to rebates and discriminations by railroads, the accumulating evidence of the violations of the anti-trust laws by a number of corporations, and the overissue of stocks and bonds of interstate railroads for the unlawful enriching of directors and for the purpose of concentrating the control of the railroads under one management"—all these, he charges, "quickened the conscience of the people and brought on a moral awakening."

Republicans Alone Blamable.

During all this time, I beg to remind you, Republican officials presided in the Executive Department, filled the Cabinet, dominated the Senate, controlled the House of Representatives and occupied most of the Federal Judgeships. Four years ago the Republican platform boastfully declared that since 1860—with the exception of two years—the Republican party had been in control of all the branches of the Federal Government; that for two years only was the Democratic party in a position to either enact or repeal a law. Having drawn the salaries, having enjoyed the honors, having secured the prestige, let the Republican party accept the responsibility!

Why were these "known abuses" permitted to develop? Why have they not been corrected? If existing laws are sufficient, why have they not been enforced? All of the executive machinery of the Federal Government is in the hands of the Republican party. Are new laws necessary? Why have they not been enacted? With a Republican President to recommend, with a Republican Senate and House to carry out his recommendations, why does the Republican candidate plead for further time in which to do what should have been done long ago? Can Mr. Taft promise to be more strenuous in the prosecution of wrongdoers than the present Executive? Can he ask for a larger majority in the Senate than his party now has? Does he need more Republicans in the House of Representatives or a Speaker with more unlimited authority?

The President's close friends have been promising for several years that he would

Congressman Henry D. Clayton, of Alabama, Chairman of Committee Which Notified Bryan of His Nomination.

attack the iniquities of the tariff. We have had intimation that Mr. Taft was restive under the demands of the highly-protected industries. And yet the influence of the manufacturers, who have for 25 years contributed to the Republican campaign fund, and who in return have framed the tariff schedules, has been sufficient to prevent tariff reform. As the present campaign approached, both the President and Mr. Taft declared in favor of tariff revision, but set the date of revision after the election. But the pressure brought to bear by the protected interests has been great enough to prevent any attempt at tariff reform before the election; and the reduction promised after the election is so hedged about with qualifying phrases, that no one can estimate with accuracy the sum total of tariff reform to be expected in case of Republican success. If the past can be taken as a guide, the Republican party will be so obligated by campaign contributions from the beneficiaries of protection, as to make that party powerless to bring to the country any material relief from the present tariff burdens.

Republicans Protected Trusts.

A few years ago the Republican leaders in the House of Representatives were coerced by public opinion into the support of an anti-trust law which had the indorsement of the President, but which they refused even to consider the measure, and since that time no effort has been made by the dominant party to secure remedial legislation upon this subject.

For ten years the Interstate Commerce Commission has been asking for an enlargement of its powers, that it might prevent rebates and discriminations, but a Republican Senate and a Republican House of Representatives were unmoved by its entreaties. In 1900 the Republican National convention was urged to indorse the demand for railway legislation, but its platform was silent on the subject. Even in 1904, the convention gave no pledge to remedy these abuses. When the President finally asked for legislation, he drew his inspiration from three Democratic National platforms and he received more cordial support from the Democrats than from the Republicans. The Republicans in the Senate deliberately defeated several amendments offered by Senator LaFollette and supported by the Democrats—amendments embodying legislation asked by the Interstate Commerce Commission. One of these amendments authorized the ascertainment of the value of railroads. This amendment was not only defeated by the Senate, but it was overwhelmingly rejected by the recent Republican National convention, and the Republican candidate has sought to rescue his party from the disastrous results of this act by expressing himself, in a qualified way, in favor of ascertaining the value of the railroads.

Lawbreaking by Railroads.

Mr. Taft complains of the over-issue of stocks and bonds of railroads, "for the unlawful enriching of directors and for the purpose of concentrating the control of the railroads under one management," and the complaint is well founded. But, with a President to point out the evil, and a Republican Congress to correct it, we find nothing done for the protection of the public. Why? My honorable opponent has, by his confession, relieved me of the necessity of furnishing proof; he admits the condition and he cannot avoid the logical conclusion that must be drawn from the admission. There is no doubt whatever that a large majority of the voters of the Republican party recognize the deplorable situation which Mr. Taft describes; they recognize that the masses have had but little influence upon legislation or upon the administration of the Government, and they are beginning to understand the cause. For a generation the Republican party has drawn its campaign funds from the beneficiaries of special legislation. Privileges have been pledged and granted in return for money contributed to debauch elections. What can be expected when official authority is turned over to the representatives of those who first furnish the sinews of war and then reimburse themselves out of the pockets of the taxpayers?

So long as the Republican party remains in power it is powerless to regenerate itself. It cannot attack wrongdoing in high places without disgracing many of the prominent members, and it therefore uses opiates instead of the surgeon's knife. Its malefactors construe each Republican victory as an indorsement of their conduct and threaten the party with defeat if they are interfered with. Not until that party passes through a period of fasting in the wilderness will the Republican leaders learn to study public questions from the standpoint of the masses. Just as with individuals, "the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the truth," so in politics, when party leaders serve far away from home and are not in constant contact with the voters, continued party success blinds their eyes to the needs of the people and makes them deaf to the cry of distress.

Hot Shot in Publicity.

An effort has been made to secure legislation requiring publicity as to campaign contributions and expenditures; but the Republican leaders, even in the face of an indignant public, refused to consent to a law which would compel honesty in elections. When the matter was brought up in the recent Republican National Convention the plank was repudiated by a vote of 880 to 94. Here, too, Mr. Taft has been driven to apologize for his convention and to declare himself in favor of a publicity law; and yet, if you will read what he says upon this subject, you will find that his promise falls far short of the requirements of the situation. He says:

"If I am elected President I shall urge upon Congress, with every hope of success, that a law be passed requiring the filing, in a Federal office, of a statement of the contributions received by committees and candidates in elections for members of Congress and in such other elections as are constitutionally within the control of Congress."

I shall not embarrass him by asking him upon what he bases his hope of success; it is certainly not on any encouragement he has received from Republican leaders. It is sufficient to say that if his hopes were realized—if, in spite of the adverse action of his convention, he should succeed in securing the enactment of the very law which he favors, it would give but partial relief. He has read the Democratic platform; not only his language, but his evident alarm, indicates that he has read it carefully. He even had before him the action of the Democratic National Committee in interpreting and applying that platform; and yet he fails to say that he favors the publication of the contributions before the election. Of course it satisfies a natural curiosity to find out how an election has been purchased, even when the knowledge comes too late to be of service, but why should the people be kept in darkness until the election is past? Why should the locking of the door be delayed until the horse is gone?

Why Keep It a Secret?

An election is a public affair. The people, exercising the right to select their officials and to decide upon the policies to be pursued, proceed to their several polling places on election day and register their will. What excuse can be given for secrecy as to the influences at work? If a man, pecuniarily interested in "concentrating the control of the railroads in one management," subscribes a large sum to aid in carrying the election, why should his part in the campaign be concealed until he has put the officials under obligation to him? If a trust magnate contributes $100,000 to elect political friends to office, with a view to preventing hostile legislation, why should that fact be concealed until his friends are securely seated in their official positions?

This is not a new question; it is a question which has been agitated—a question which the Republican leaders fully understand—a question which the Republican candidate has studied, and yet he refuses to declare himself in favor of the legislation absolutely necessary, namely, legislation requiring publication before the election.

How can the people hope to rule, if they are not able to learn until after the election what the predatory interests are doing? The Democratic party meets the issue honestly and courageously. It says:

"We pledge the Democratic party to the enactment of a law prohibiting any corporation from contributing to a campaign fund, and any individual from contributing an amount above a reasonable maximum, and providing for the publication, before election, of all such contributions above a reasonable minimum."

The Democratic National Committee immediately proceeded to interpret and apply this plank, announcing that no contributions would be received from corporations, that no individual would be allowed to contribute more than $10,000, and that all contributions above $100 would be made public before the election—those received before October 15 to be made public on or before that day, those received afterward to be made public on the day when received, and no such contributions to be accepted within three days of the election. The expenditures are to be published after the election. Here is a plan which is complete and effective.

Senate Center of Corruption.

Next to the corrupt use of money, the present method of electing United States Senators is most responsible for the obstruction of reforms. For 100 years after the adoption of the Constitution, the demand for the popular election of Senators, while finding increased expression, did not become a dominant sentiment. A constitutional amendment had from time to time been suggested and the matter had been more or less discussed in a few of the states, but the movement had not reached a point where it manifested itself through Congressional action. In the 52d Congress, however, a resolution was reported from a House committee proposing the necessary constitutional amendment, and this resolution passed the House of Representatives by a vote which was practically unanimous. In the 53d Congress a similar resolution was reported to, and adopted by, the House of Representatives. Both the 52d and 53d Congresses were Democratic. The Republicans gained control of the House as a result of the election of 1894 and in the 54th Congress the proposition died in committee. As time went on, however, the sentiment grew among the people, until it forced a Republican Congress to follow the example set by the Democrats, and then another and another Republican Congress acted favorably. State after state has indorsed this reform, until nearly two-thirds of the states have recorded themselves in its favor. The United States Senate, however, impudently and arrogantly obstructs the passage of the resolution, notwithstanding the fact that the voters of the United States, by an overwhelming majority, demand it. And this refusal is the more significant when it is remembered that a number of Senators owe their election to great corporate interests. Three Democratic National platforms—the platforms of 1900, 1904 and 1908—specifically call for a change in the Constitution which will put the election of Senators in the hands of the voters, and the proposition has been indorsed by a number of the smaller parties, but no Republican National Convention has been willing to champion the cause of the people on this subject. The subject was ignored by the Republican National Convention in 1900; it was ignored in 1904, and the proposition was explicitly repudiated in 1908, for the recent Republican National Convention, by a vote of 868 to 114, rejected the plank indorsing the popular election of Senators—and this was done in the convention which nominated Mr. Taft, few delegates from his own state voting for the plank.

Why Not a Party Issue?

In his notification speech, the Republican candidate, speaking of the election of Senators by the people, says: "Personally, I am inclined to favor it, but it is hardly a party question." What is necessary to make this a party question? When the Democratic convention indorses a proposition by a unanimous vote, and the Republican convention rejects the proposition by a vote of seven to one, does it not become an issue between the parties? Mr. Taft cannot remove the question from the arena of politics by expressing a personal inclination toward the Democratic position. For several years he has been connected with the administration. What has he ever said or done to bring this question before the public? What enthusiasm has he shown in the reformation of the Senate? What influence could he exert in behalf of a reform which his party has openly and notoriously condemned in its convention, and to which he is attached only by a belated expression of personal inclination?

"Shall the people rule?" Every remedial measure of a National character must run the gauntlet of the Senate. The President may personally incline toward a reform; the House may consent to it, but as long as the Senate obstructs the reform the people must wait. The President may heed a popular demand; the House may yield to public opinion; but as long as the Senate is defiant the rule of the people is defeated. The Democratic platform very properly describes the popular election of Senators as "the gateway to other National reforms." Shall we open the gate, or shall we allow the exploiting interests to bar the way by the control of this branch of the Federal Legislature? Through a Democratic victory, and through a Democratic victory only, can the people secure the popular election of Senators. The smaller parties are unable to secure this reform; the Republican party, under its present leadership, is resolutely opposed to it; the Democratic party stands for it and has boldly demanded it. If I am elected to the Presidency those who are elected upon the ticket with me will be, like myself, pledged to this reform, and I shall convene Congress in extraordinary session immediately after inauguration and ask, among other things, for the fulfillment of this platform pledge.

Gag Rule in the House.

The third instrumentality employed to defeat the will of the people is found in the rules of the House of Representatives. Our platform points out that "the House of Representatives was designed by the fathers of the Constitution to be the popular branch of our Government, responsive to the public will," and adds:

"The House of Representatives, as controlled in recent years by the Republican party, has ceased to be a deliberative and legislative body, responsive to the will of a majority of the members, but has come under the absolute domination of the Speaker, who has entire control of its deliberations and powers of legislation.

We have observed with amazement the popular branch of our Federal Government helpless to obtain either the consideration or enactment of measures desired by a majority of its members.

This arraignment is fully justified. The reform Republicans in the House of Representatives, when in the minority in their own party, are as helpless to obtain a hearing or to secure a vote upon a measure as are the Democrats. In the recent session of the present Congress, there was a considerable element in the Republican party favorable to remedial legislation; but a few leaders, in control of the organization, despotically suppressed these members and thus forced a real majority in the House to submit to a well organized minority. The Republican National Convention, instead of rebuking this attack upon popular government, eulogized Congress and nominated as the Republican candidate for Vice-President one of the men who shared in the responsibility for the coercion of the House. Our party demands that "the House of Representatives shall again become a deliberative body, controlled by a majority of the people's representatives, and not by the Speaker," and is pledged to adopt "such rules and regulations to govern the House of Representatives as will enable a majority of its members to direct its deliberations and control legislation."

Tied to Gag Rule Gang.

"Shall the people rule?" They cannot do so unless they can control the House of Representatives, and through their Representatives in the House, give expression to their purposes and their desires. The Republican party is committed to the methods now in vogue in the House of Representatives; the Democratic party is pledged to such a revision of the rules as will bring the popular branch of the Federal Government into harmony with the ideas of those who framed our Constitution and founded our Government.

"Shall the people rule?" I repeat, is declared by our platform to be the overshadowing question, and as the campaign progresses I shall take occasion to discuss this question as it manifests itself in other

(Concluded on Page 7.)

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