

THE DEMOCRACY OF WILLIAMS JENNINGS BRYAN

By C. E. S. WOOD

I HAVE been asked to express my appreciation of Mr. Bryan. I state this in self-defense, because conscious of my inadequacy and lack of leisure, I would not do so unless I were sure that I do not realize how unsatisfactory this sketch will be. The fact is, one man's view of a public character is no better than another's, unless he has had the special opportunity of studying his subject, and to that I cannot pretend.



William Jennings Bryan

When the "Boy Orator" waked a frenzy, believed to be hysterical, with his "You shall not pass down upon the brow of labor a crown of thorns nor smother him upon a cross of gold," it was appealing to a feeling eternal in the hearts of men—the feeling for justice, for equality, for the rights of the individual and of the crowd.

It is not easy for the masses to see that what is wrong is legalized special privilege, and so they finally take hold of a straw. This very decided truth that the masses were and are drifting into the slavery of a law-protected plutocracy gave life to the convention and campaign of 1896. It was not hysteria; nor was it fanaticism. It has been hypochondria which produced his nomination. Many who were incredulous then now believe he was the fit man.

Sanity and Character. In that moment when the convention of 1896 was undoubtedly hysterical with the blind common impulse felt in every crowd, Mr. Bryan showed that sanity and balance and the broad unselfishness of the people. He was sane and sane character, and insisted that the nomination must be calmly made for good reason, because if it could not last over night it certainly could not endure a campaign.

Struck at Money Monopoly. What I did not see until it was too late was that Bryan, admitting Mr. Bryan's candidacy stood for a financial heresy in particular, it struck at a decided evil (money monopoly) in a fashion of its own and in general it stood for the rights of the common man and the impulse toward justice and reform. The general impulse and design being far more important than any mere particular could possibly be.

that was right. It is right today. The remedy proposed was free and equal coinage of silver at 16 to 1. I feel that with legal tender laws in force, with national banking laws in force and the legal abolition of all notes of issue not based on government bonds—still in force, the coinage at 16 to 1 would result in enforced discount or practical repudiation such as we saw on this coast, known as "greenbacking," and in driving out of gold under the force of what is called the "free-shing law." Had the Democratic party abolished all legal tender acts and private monopolies in notes of issue and allowed free coinage of silver and any other suitable metal at such value as it would be accepted at under a free and unrestricted monetary system it would, in my opinion, have been right, and I believe Mr. Bryan is more far-seeing than his hostile critics when he persists in declaring that the money question is not settled but only temporarily lulled.

Political precedent was nominated a second time. This showed not only the vitality of the issues but the good quality and large capacity of the man. It is the self-seeker, the fixer of political fences and obligations for his own benefit, who falls forever when his intricate platform crumbles under him. The man who is truly for the people, in whose honesty the people have confidence, and who has brains enough to lead, not follow, cannot fail to permanent disaster. It is as if he were in a boat on a rising tide. He leads it, but it continually supports him, and grows steadily stronger. So in the St. Louis convention of 1896, when the trimmers and compromisers, the "blindfold" and "gumshoe" men took flight at the defeat of 1896 and were for suppressing allusions to that platform, especially on the money question—Mr. Bryan telephoned if they did so they could consider some other candidate. In other words, his convictions, his self-respect were not to be bartered for the presidency. This was called at the time "despotic dictation," but when Judge Parker—himself a most estimable and likable man—telegraphed to the St. Louis convention in 1896 that he would consider "that he ran on a gold standard platform," this was called "honorable sincerity and frankness"—the difference in the situations being that Mr. Bryan had not been nominated and the convention was free to abandon him after he spoke, but Judge Parker did not, and the convention was committed to him and also committed to the position of neutrality on the money question.

He is trying to enforce in a partial way those principles which Mr. Bryan's personal integrity wrote into the Democratic platform long ago—control of those great arteries of commerce and natural monopolies, the railroads, investigation and control of the trusts. If Mr. Roosevelt would only add to his reports a radical revision of the protective tariff and economy in the naval and naval expenditures and then have at his back a helpful and applauding party instead of a party in a rage and gnashing its teeth in outer darkness, he might be compared to Mr. Bryan as an instrument for the people and trust reform. But Mr. Bryan is more calm and profound than Mr. Roosevelt, and will have a willing party behind him—the overwhelming majority of the people—for "Roosevelt Republicans" ought to be and will be "Bryan Democrats."

He really considering the relative positions of candidate and convention, Mr. Bryan was honorable, frankness and Judge Parker's was dictation, for he himself wrote in a plank the convention had expressly refused.

By Mr. Bryan's attitude toward the convention in 1896 the people, to their surprise, saw a man willing to take the office in order to serve the people and not hunting it for himself, and not willing to keep his mouth shut and stultify himself to get it. His tremendous strength in that campaign and the tremendous financial efforts to defeat him were well known—the insurance company disclosures are only additional evidence. The people were drunk at this time, too, with glory—world power and imperialism—against which he raised his warning protest. It is said that since his travels abroad he has changed. I do not understand it so. As I read the reports of his Fourth of July address in London, he simply says that there is indeed a "war" between the Orient and the West; that all men are brothers and no one liveth to himself alone, and he of the white skin and English tongue living among his Oriental brethren has grave responsibilities, responsibilities not to be met by armies, or navies, or commerce, but by teachers and the gentleness of peace. If this be imperialism by force of arms and conquest, in blood and terror and against the consent of the people, then Christ must have preached conversion by the sword.

Older and Wiser. Mr. Bryan says he has not changed, and I have sufficient confidence in his knowledge of himself to believe him. It would be a poor tribute to his mentality to say he is the same man that he was in 1896. He has grown older, and 12 years wiser, but fundamentally he is still the champion for the people against unequal privileges. He believes the sore is in the same spot. In that sense he has not changed.

But others have. Many who saw only a crazy fanatic in the long-whiskered, bucolic gentleman labeled a populist now know that though some of his parables may have been wrong according to our notions, yet in his general aim he was right. He strove for the people against legal and enfranchised privilege. The name populist is received today with a respect in marked contrast to the contemptuous derision of years ago, just as before long the word socialist will be respectfully received in spite of what seems to me, in the limited light vouchsafed me, radical objections to the particulars of the creed.

complain. No one sets a fox to catch and devour her own cubs. The Republican party gets a great deal of strength today because it is the party of Lincoln. Yet anyone who studies ideas—no names—must feel that if Lincoln were alive he would be hand in hand with Bryan. Each is a great commoner, a plain man of the people, each stands for human rights, human equality before the law, and against any form of slavery and legalized tyranny. Each is a missionary in a great cause, not a personal seeker after spoils or fame. Each has an honest sincerity which could if necessary lead him on to martyrdom, as it did lead the great abolitionist. And each has a shrewd worldly wisdom and political sagacity which can secretly guard the great principles, and yet not despise fact, suavity and minor concessions and combinations. To me one of the most interesting traits common to the two men is the highest and truest scorn of senseless trafficking in their own principles, their own self-interest, and yet the alert interest in the popular pulse, partly to defer to it, but principally to guide it—to diagnose from it.

No one who knows Mr. Bryan can doubt his sincerity, which he insists that it is the party, the people—not the man—that are to be considered and no pledges nor nomination now made ought to be considered as hampering the contention when the time comes for actually choosing a candidate. For the party is entitled to the best man it can find on the eve of the campaign.

This view is so sensible it appeals to every one as a further mark of sincerity, unselfishness and sanity. It is like his aiming the frenzied convention in 1896 with the remark that unless his nomination would outlast their excitement it was worthless, and yet in his actual campaign Mr. Bryan, like Mr. Lincoln, will show an astuteness and vivid interest the opposite of indifference.

Personally I do not believe that Mr. Bryan's particular theory of the state ownership and management of railroads is so democratic or so economically sound as is the plan to create competition on their own tracks by a law authorizing the attorney-general, of his own motion or on relation of any one aggrieved, to oust the existing owners from ownership and control and install other so-called owners or managers. However, I am through with desisting a great movement because I cannot agree with every detail.

It is said Mr. Roosevelt will be forced to run against Mr. Bryan as the only Republican Democratic enough to oppose him. But he will not run, and if he does he will be defeated. He has heard suggestions that the great corporations and property interests would throw their support to Mr. Bryan against Mr. Roosevelt.

Undoubtedly Mr. Bryan is not so impulsive, so sensational and emotional as Mr. Roosevelt. Mr. Bryan is more calm, more judicious, more truly just. Yet, if the Democratic vote is made, entrenched privilege would allow Mr. Roosevelt with all the party chains upon him, rather than give up their whole camp to the conspicuous, clear-headed leader of the people, which Mr. Bryan is. Against Roosevelt's courage they would have to match Bryan's; against his honesty, Bryan's; against his respect for the people's rights, Bryan's long, luminous ethical courage, which has led in Bryan they would see a quiet determination, a clear conception and unflinching execution more to be dreaded than dramatic ostentation.

World's Greatest Friendly Society



By Maynard Evans. In a room over the Bird in Hand, a small saloon in London's Long Street, 12 men met one night in July, 1884. They were sturdy British working men and had as leader John Hadley, a carpenter. The men formed themselves into a sick benefit club—the "Hearts of Oak" in which they could draw money in case of illness. They called it "Hearts of Oak"—that was the general term of the period for the British sailor. Arnold in his "Death of Nelson" immortalized the term: "Our ships are British oak, and our hearts are oak our men."

The society is affiliated with 46 convalescent and seaside homes of all descriptions and denominations, and the members can go to these homes free of charge for two or three weeks free, and have his traveling expenses provided. In case of fire, and his tools or other necessaries are destroyed, the society reimburses the member up to \$500. Members who lose their positions, and whose families are in want or who find the bill for knocking at their doors with a distress warrant, may apply for help, which is given promptly. On the other hand, if a member can go to the thorough investigated afterward and more permanent help given. When an affluent member wants to buy or build a house, he can borrow 90 per cent of its value from the society at 4 1/2 per cent for leasehold and 4 per cent for freehold property. When the workingman becomes too old and infirm to work, he gets practically an old age pension in the form of permanent sick benefit pay.

Practical Help Given. The society is affiliated with 46 convalescent and seaside homes of all descriptions and denominations, and the members can go to these homes free of charge for two or three weeks free, and have his traveling expenses provided. In case of fire, and his tools or other necessaries are destroyed, the society reimburses the member up to \$500. Members who lose their positions, and whose families are in want or who find the bill for knocking at their doors with a distress warrant, may apply for help, which is given promptly. On the other hand, if a member can go to the thorough investigated afterward and more permanent help given. When an affluent member wants to buy or build a house, he can borrow 90 per cent of its value from the society at 4 1/2 per cent for leasehold and 4 per cent for freehold property. When the workingman becomes too old and infirm to work, he gets practically an old age pension in the form of permanent sick benefit pay.

Headquarters of the "Hearts of Oak" building on the magnificent groundwork of Evan Evans, brought the membership to near 150,000 before death took him so suddenly. In 1885, the Greek street premises were found too small and a block of houses in Charlotte street, Fitzroy square, was purchased and reconstructed. All this cost about \$100,000. The membership, when the new building was occupied in 1876, had reached 150,000, and in 1894 was 250,000, and again the premises were found too small.

Patronised by Royalty. So a new site was purchased on the Euston road, a block in depth, and the society started in to build its own

What the President Costs the People

HOW much do you think it costs the people a year to maintain the president? Mr. Roosevelt's wages is about \$4,150.70 a month—enough to raise the price of the dignity of a salary. But the salary is really a very insignificant amount. Indeed, that it is hardly noticeable in the long array of figures that surround it. It costs every man, woman and child in the country six nights of a cent a day, or that trifling sum amounts to about \$500,000 in the aggregate. If compared with what it costs the king, czar or kaiser-ruled countries this is really a very insignificant amount. Possibly the largest item in the list is for keeping in commission for the use of the president two naval yachts. Of course, they were not built especially for the president, and may be used on any mission for the government, but in these peaceful times there is nothing for them to do but keep up steam for Mr. Roosevelt. It costs \$175,000 a year to do that. Presidents who use vessels belonging to the navy for pleasure have been criticized by the newspapers and in congress, and Mr. Roosevelt rarely uses the Mayflower or Sylph for visits that are not official in character. Mrs. Roosevelt and the children have more pleasure out of the yachts than has the president, and have been to Cuba and other points on them. A Floating Palace. The Mayflower, known as the "president's yacht," is a beautiful craft. It was the private yacht of Mr. Wood, and was purchased by the government at the outbreak of the war with Spain. Subsequently it was overhauled and refitted in legal fashion. Since then it has been used for the president's pleasure, and on its decks and in its cabins have been many notable social gatherings. The Mayflower played an important part in the international amities preceding the Russo-Japanese peace conference. The Mayflower is classed as a three-masted converted cruiser. She is of steel hull, with twin screws, has 2,500 tons displacement, with engines of 4,700 horsepower. Her armament consists of 600, of which over \$27,000,000 has been for sick benefits alone. In its new building, it is truly "Hearts of Oak" for all the wood used is oak. The offices are paneled half way to the ceiling with beautiful solid and massive wood, and the heavy furniture was specially made. The keynote of the society is "simplicity." It is a simple matter to get into the society, simply to pay the dues, to apply for the benefits, and simple to get them. There is no red tape, no monstrous delays. It is only a plain workingmen's society, run for them simply and—practically.

Table with 2 columns: Country and Amount. Includes Romania (201,000), Serbia (204,000), Denmark (227,775), Netherlands (250,000), Wurtemberg (403,400), Portugal (404,000), Belgium (640,000), Saxony (738,000), Bavaria (1,412,000), Spain (1,758,000), Great Britain (2,000,000), Italy (2,522,000), Prussia (German Kaiser) (3,872,770), Austria-Hungary (3,872,000), Turkey (7,600,000), Russia (10,000,000).

two guns in her main battery. When the Mayflower has her full complement there are on board nine officers and 141 men. Her assignments to her present duty she has been short of officers and half a dozen or so men. Her present commanding officer is Lieutenant-Commander Andrew T. Long. The payroll is about \$60,000 a year. The Sylph is much smaller, is classed as a four-masted converted gunboat, and carries a lieutenant and 18 men. It is understood that when the president or his family is aboard he pays the larger charges. President's Big Guard. There has been a large increase in the number of policemen at the White House since Mr. McKinley's day; 48 are on duty and they cost the people about \$40,000 a year. Of course, a band of secret service men guard the president whenever he sits abroad, and their wages is a considerable item. Years ago \$50,000 a year was considered a good salary, and presidents were able to save something out of it, and farther back when the salary was only \$25,000, the president had something left over at the end of the year. But times have changed and the \$60,000 that Mr. Roosevelt gets, even with the \$25,000 a year for traveling expenses, hardly makes both ends meet. The actual cost of maintaining the president is about \$475,000, but this is a small amount compared with what the rulers of other countries cost their personal use. It is hard to give the actual amounts that royalty costs its subjects, as there large expenses fall on the taxpayers aside from the sum voted directly to the ruler. What Monarchs Cost. Here, however, are the civil lists of some of the rulers of European states, which may be compared with the \$475,000 which it costs this country to keep the president: Romania ..... \$ 201,000 Serbia ..... 204,000 Denmark ..... 227,775 Netherlands ..... 250,000 Wurtemberg ..... 403,400 Portugal ..... 404,000 Belgium ..... 640,000 Saxony ..... 738,000 Bavaria ..... 1,412,000 Spain ..... 1,758,000 Great Britain ..... 2,000,000 Italy ..... 2,522,000 Prussia (German Kaiser) ..... 3,872,770 Austria-Hungary ..... 3,872,000 Turkey ..... 7,600,000 Russia ..... 10,000,000. High Mark in Chicago Marriages. From the Chicago Tribune. Marriage License Clerk Salmonson yesterday announced that June broke the record for any previous month. There were issued during the month 2,101 licenses, which were 1,094 more than the same month last year, when 3,007 certificates were issued. The records also show that this year's licenses exceeded those of last year to date by 914.