

BRYAN, NOT JOHNSON, IS THE LOGICAL CANDIDATE

Strong Tribute to the Great Nebraskan by an Oregon Democrat Who Believes No Other Standard Bearer Can Lead the Party to Victory.

To the Editor of The Journal—The fairness with which The Journal treats all questions of public interest and importance has given it great power in the molding of public opinion, not only in Oregon, but measurably throughout the country, while the kindness of its editorial management toward critics among its readers is no less noteworthy. Its habits of tolerance toward such influences me to offer some observations respecting the nomination the Democrats should make for president next year, inasmuch as that is a subject of interest now.

Norwegian Vote Elected Johnson.

Governor Johnson lives in a state which was settled by largely by Norwegians, who are, quite naturally, very clannish—they stick together. Most of them came to America while the slavery question was the leading issue of the day. Having come to a "free" country, they disliked slavery, and in common with the Germans and Swedish immigrants of that time they became attached to the Republican party, which was brought into being to defeat the extension of that curse to American civilization. Governor Johnson is, if I am correctly informed, a son of one of those Norwegian families and came into public life as a representative of that element of the population of the state. He is unquestionably a man of strong personality and great intellectual resources, and far be it from me to disparage his powers. Of late years the Republican politicians of that state have come jealous of the claims of the Norwegians in the politics of the state and tried to ignore them, which fact aroused great resentment among that element, and while that feeling was at its strongest Johnson was taken up for governor by the Democrats and elected. He presented, was elected by an overwhelming majority—while Roosevelt carried the state by more than 100,000.

Bryan's Life Purpose.

William J. Bryan was the son of a rather ordinary parents. His father was an Illinois farmer, who rose to the distinction of a county judge. He was esteemed more by his neighbors for his unquestioned honesty and integrity and for right living than for superior talents. His mother was a woman of rare good judgment and homely common sense. As a boy Mr. Bryan lived and worked on the farm and was determined to give his father a chance to secure more than a common school education. But he was a boy who early in life displayed traits far in advance of the ordinary farmer's boys—a determination to make a career for himself in the life—had this man show it came about, as I had it from his own lips, "When about 14 years of age I was for one day in one of my father's fields. The sun was warm, and as the plow handles jerked my arms back and forth, the sweat ran from my forehead down over my face, and I got to reflecting on the fearful struggle which the great mass of people were compelled to make against poverty and wretchedness, that the rich people had shown through the laws, while the poor had none; and I then and there made up my mind that if I lived to man's estate I would enter public life, and do all that I could to equalize the burdens of life, to elevate the plane of the common man, to make him a partner in the plow handles, the blacksmith at his forge, the carpenter at his bench, the mechanic, and the day laborer, the men who do the work of the world, and as

much as possible relieve them from the almost hopeless grind to which they were then subjected in their struggle for life.

This statement substantially he made to me the evening before he was to make his first speech in congress, March 18, 1892. And that resolve then made, he continued, "is the reason why I am here in congress today, and why I have prepared this speech for you now."

An Unequalled Leader.

Who I would ask, among our public men, has begun life with a higher purpose or a nobler ambition? To elevate the condition of the common man? And in the years since I have known him, since two years before he was first nominated by the Democrats of his district for congress, that nobler inspiration seems to me to have been the guiding star of his every public act. It was that purpose which thought which followed him through his years of schooling, his adoption of the law as a further means of preparation, and his study of rhetoric as a means of reaching the hearts and confidence of the people—that has given him an impassioned eloquence of speech unsurpassed among the men of his time, and made him a peerless debater on the stump. It has, too, kept him from making such mistakes in his public utterances as Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, Lewis Cass and James G. Blaine made at critical times in their careers, which barred them from the acme of their ambition—the door of the presidency. And I think it more than possible, that he had that boyhood determination in mind when he uttered that startling peroration to his great Chicago convention speech in 1896: "You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns; you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold."

Since his first entrance into the halls of congress, Mr. Bryan has moved rapidly forward as a forceful, constructive statesman, not by means usual with politicians, but by sheer force of character and ability, with an enthusiasm for correct principles that is all-pervading, a courage undaunted by temporary failure, an honesty that is unassailable, a heartiness that is magnetic and which meets a ready response among the people, a geniality which draws all men to him, a warm friend of mankind, and with a statesmanship broad and deep, which makes for the betterment of the affairs of public life and for the uplifting and bettering of the conditions of life throughout his country and the world. His keen perception of the needs of the nation has enabled him to formulate platforms of principles so apt and profound as not only to command the adoption by his party, but has forced their adoption by strong men of other parties—and even by a president elected by the party opposed to him. He has found them to be the chief elements of his popularity.

Unwise to Put Forward Another.

Is it a part of wisdom, in view of these things, to suggest or consider a man—a model and exemplar of the statesmanship of his time—to stand aside for the nomination of another, a man, but little known by the people, who has taken no part in shaping the policies of his party, or in the struggle which has brought that party up to its present high standard of political and moral ethics? No matter what Mr. Bryan may think of such advice, but let it be fair and honest with the people? Should they not have something to say regarding such a reactionary proposition? Have the masses, who have found in Mr. Bryan as perfect a leader as the country has ever had in 50 years, nothing to say in this matter?

The Journal well says that Mr. Bryan is "undoubtedly the first choice of a great majority of the rank and file of his party. How can it, then, be the part of political wisdom, or indeed, of moral ethics, to ignore that fact, to go out after 'well-oiled wheels' in search for someone who, possibly, has no 'anathemas' within his party? It strikes me that the wisdom and force of character that the world has never known in a man who has made Mr. Bryan a leader of his party also force upon him a responsibility which he has no right to evade, and which cannot be minimized with safety or propriety. The result of a presidential election is always a matter of doubt—this is well illustrated by the \$5,000,000 raised by Mr. Hanna's 'hurry-up call' 10 days before the election in '96, but for the use of which, it is believed that Bryan would have been elected. Four years ago Bryan's opponents in the party thought to bury him when they obtained a mastery of the St. Louis convention—but the result was he came out of the struggle stronger than ever. An eastern man was nominated, and never liked judgment—"for the sake of success," as was said at the time, and the country knows the results.

That same influence is still at work only in another direction. Mr. Watterson, the great Louisville journalist, whose accomplishments are as brilliant as they are varied, has never liked Bryan very well since he won the nomination in 1896 and became the accepted leader of the Kentucky Democrats over his own head. Watterson is the chief sponsor of the Johnson movement, and is worth observing that his political preference is not to be relied upon. In the Chicago convention of 1892 he strongly inveighed against the nomination of Cleveland, and loudly prophesied defeat. He was a bad prophet. In 1894, under the leadership of Mr. Cleveland, at that time backed up by Mr. Watterson, the party was worse beaten in the congress election than for a generation. It was from that "slough of despond" that Mr. Bryan in 1896 lifted it, and came so near carrying the country. Perilously near, Mr. Watterson would again like to wrest the party leadership from its acknowledged leader, to place it in his own hands, under the insidious plea that possibly, "under all circumstances," somebody else "could poll a heavier vote than Bryan."

I, for one, do not share in such a misgiving spirit. To me such action has the appearance of cowardice, and "God hates a coward." Mr. Bryan stands for the exaltation of politics and for the elimination of all the evils and giant wrongs which afflict our body politic. He has brought the party up to his standard. Would you have him relinquish that standard in the face of the enemy? But as for the reactionary features, it is safe to say that the result of such a movement would be problematic, to say the least. We know how the "safe and sane" movement of four years ago terminated. Shall the same experiment be tried again? I hope not. The party should put its real leader in the forefront of its battle line and thus meet the foe.

Zank and Fife Demand Bryan.

Mr. Bryan has very many elements of strength which no substitute could possess. One of the chiefest of these is the confidence of "the rank and file" who have to furnish the votes. They know just where he stands on every public question, and he has never betrayed that confidence, and not that alone, but he has stood a wall of adamant as the defender of the people's rights and interests always. The exploiters of privilege, the railroad looters, the tariff robbers, organized greed, the trusts and the exploiters of every form of graft, the only enemies he has made in his battle for the people's good. A plea for him to stand aside is like asking a favorite general who has led his well-disciplined army up to an enemy's entrenchments—where the men are all ready for the charge—giving over the command to an entirely leader, whom "the rank and file" did not know. In all probability it would result in utter defeat. It is bad policy to change leaders in front of the enemy,

as it is to "change horses in crossing a stream." Mr. Bryan and he alone can keep the ranks of the Democracy closed, and in the coming battle lead to a well-deserved victory. So it seems to yours truly, CHARLES K. SHERMAN. Daily, Or., Oct. 11, 1907.

NEW COMMITTEES AT TEMPERANCE SESSION

Eugene People Offer White Ribboners Royal Welcome During the Convention.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Eugene, Or., Oct. 17.—The twenty-fifth annual convention of the Oregon State W. C. T. U. now in session at the First Christian church in Eugene, is more largely attended than any previous convention for several years. There are over 80 delegates in attendance, and every section of the state is represented. The visiting delegates are being entertained in a royal manner by the people of the city and are shown every courtesy during their stay here. Free streetcar rides, invitations to attend the assemblies of the University of Oregon and the high school are offered, and everything possible is being done by the citizens to make the white ribboners feel at home.

The convention is ably presided over by State President Lucia F. Addison, and the business of the several sessions is greatly facilitated by her prompt rulings on all questions. Everything at the convention is harmonious, and a feeling of good will and fellowship pervades the convention hall at every session. Committees appointed yesterday were as follows: Resolutions—Mrs. Eva Wheeler of Lane, Miss Minnie of Yamhill, Mrs. Mary Allen of Jackson, Mrs. Hattie Wolf of Union and Mrs. Alice Hanson of Multnomah. Credentials—Miss Henrietta Brown of Linn, Mrs. Hammond of Polk, Mrs. Taylor of Josephine. Courtesy—Mrs. Norris, Mrs. Humbert and Mrs. Calkins, all of Eugene. Membership—Mrs. Lillian Smith of Multnomah, Mrs. O. A. Reed of Marion, Mrs. Streiber of Wasco, Mrs. Garrett of Linn. White Ribbon Review and Union Signal—Mrs. Ada Wallace Unruh, Miss Rose Davidson and Mrs. M. J. Hatfield. The standing committees will be named later.

STEAMER RUTH'S MATE MARRIES DAYTON GIRL

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Dayton, Or., Oct. 17.—William Lumm and Miss Lena Wambagan were married yesterday at noon at the home of the bride's parents in Dayton. They left on the evening train for a month's trip to Portland and the coast, after which they will be at home to their friends in Dayton, Oregon. Mr. Lumm is mate on the steamer Ruth of the O. R. & N. line, plying between Portland and Dayton. He is well and favorably known here. The bride is the youngest daughter of Louis Wambagan, a leading stockman of this place. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Mr. Bowersox of Portland, Oregon.

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Watterson Hostile to Bryan.

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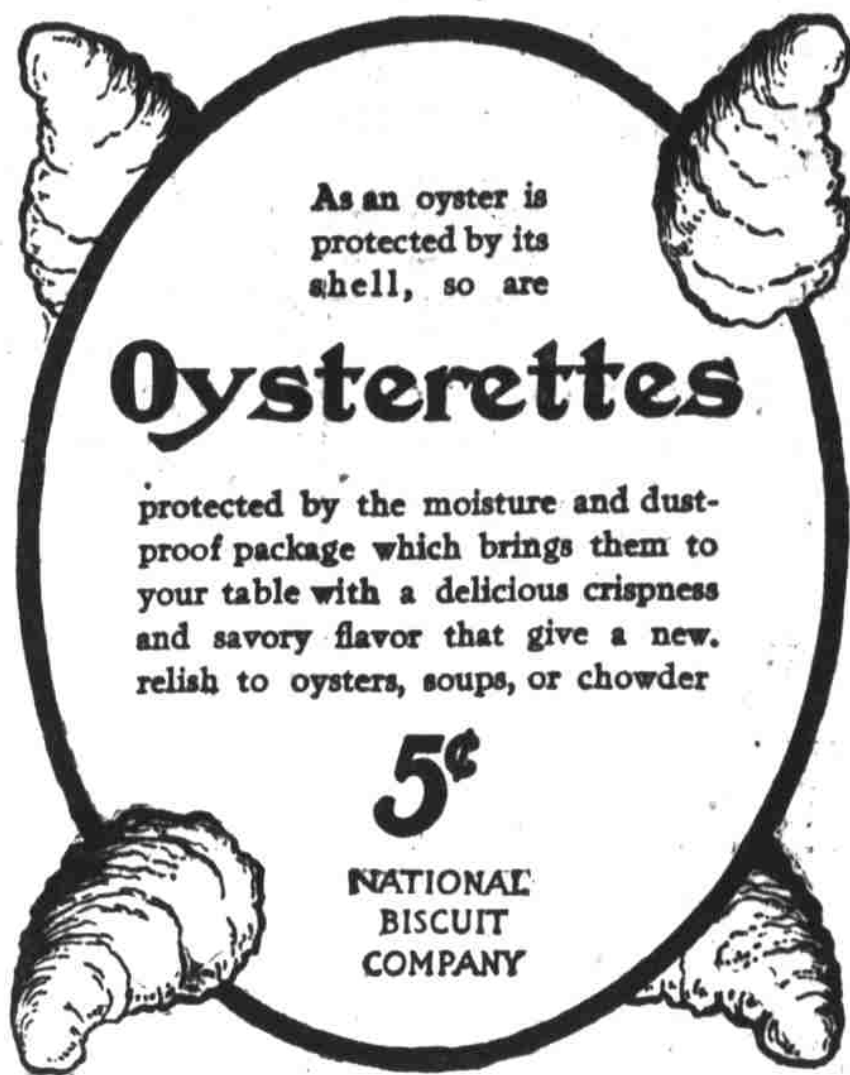
SPEEDER IS WRECKED BY SIGNAL TORPEDOES

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Astoria, Or., Oct. 17.—Superintendent John McGuire of the Astoria and Columbia River railroad had occasion to go up the road on a motor-sprinter to examine a portion of the track that needed some repairs last Monday. He directed the men to place "slow down" signal torpedoes on the rails so as to warn approaching trains. After McGuire had given the instructions to return forgetting all about the torpedoes

and just as soon as he got the speeder started the torpedoes exploded and the speeder, McGuire and his men went over into the ditch. However, no one was injured.

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Broadcloth and Fancy Mixture Suits, in the fashionable long and short coat styles, all colors and sizes, regular \$30.00 values, Friday and Saturday,

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Friday we will offer you another opportunity to secure a stylish, pretty hat at a popular price. We've just received a big new shipment of all the popular new shapes and colors, and we place them all out on sale Friday at

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A special showing this week of school suits at \$4.35—Double seats and knees—made of strong worsteds and chevrons—the kind that will be a credit all round, to the boys, the parents and to our store.

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