

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHALLENGED TO DO BEST, SAYS BRYAN

By William Jennings Bryan
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Chicago, June 14.—The convention is over—the tumult and the shouting cease. The platform is full of invective against the president and full of boasting of Republican accomplishment, but that is not unnatural. It is the custom of parties to "point with pride" to all they do and to "view with alarm" all that the opposition has done or proposes to do.

The platform is a compromise, but what else could it be when the Republican party is rent with division and held together by party name rather than by agreement upon principles? In 1912 more than half of the voters of the Republican party bolted—an unprecedented thing. Even then a majority of the leaders were reactionary and the percentage has increased until it is safe to say that three-fourths, if not four-fifths, of the prominent men in the party are distinctly reactionary.

On some questions the pronouncements were clear and unequivocal. For instance, on the private ownership of railroads, telegraph lines and telephone lines, the attitude of the party is unmistakable. On the subject of profiteering the evasion of the issue was apparent and in the interest of the exploiters.

On the subject of the soldiers' bonus

the party's position was not due to hostility to the soldiers or to lack of appreciation for their services. The Republican leaders would be glad to give a bonus if they could do so without offending Republicans, who, though few in number, have more influence with the leaders of that party than all the service men combined.

SUFFRAGE PLANK CHANGED
Appropriations have to be provided for and Republican leaders could not find a way of raising money that would not arouse violent opposition. To tax all the people would offend a larger number than the bonus would please; to issue bonds would depress the price of the bonds outstanding and that would create antagonism; to put it on stock dividends and war profits would irritate the capitalist class, so the soldier boys get compliments instead of cash. Their labors are to be held in "imperishable remembrance." The leaders certainly did "saw it with flowers."

The woman's suffrage plank underwent a material alteration in the full committee. In the report of the committee that was published the governors of states that had not ratified were urged to call special sessions for the hastening of ratification.

SOME ONE LOST PLANK
Is the platform as finally published the governors were not mentioned but legislatures that had not ratified were urged to do so. This seems like a very slight change but it may mean the delay of ratification until after the election.

The history of the lost prohibition plank would make a side-splitting comedy. Some said it was in; some said it was not. Some claimed that it was put in and lost out and ought to have been read when it wasn't. One member of the committee wrote out a minority report and then went off to his hotel instead of presenting it to the convention. He sent it by an outsider to a delegate who was afraid to present it because he was going to make a nominating speech and feared he would hurt the candidate.

STANDS FOR CAPITALISTS
"They all with one accord began to

make excuses." No one seemed disposed to do the natural and easy thing, namely, bring it into the convention and have the mistake corrected. And this is the convention of a party that has claimed a monopoly of high purposes and conscientious endeavor.

I have already called attention to the ambiguity of the plank on the League of Nations. It says anything on nothing or both, according to your pleasure. Call for anything you want and you will find it there.

A number of the farmers' demands were included in the platform and several planks suggested by the women, but labor received a scant hearing. The line between the corporation and its employes is too clearly drawn to permit the party to straddle the issue, and, being compelled to choose, it could not take either than the employer's side.

WANTED BASTARDY MAN
The candidates are men of ability and will prove acceptable to a large majority of the party. Senator Harding, while entirely pleasing to big business, cannot be attacked as successfully elsewhere as Governor Lowden might have been. The campaign expense scandal did not involve him to anything like the extent that it did General Wood and Governor Lowden. He will make a stronger candidate than either the governor of Illinois or the soldier aspirant.

As a campaign orator Senator Harding will be a great asset to his party. He brings to the party the best equipment in this respect of any candidate in recent years. He has a fine presence, a genial manner, and a wife who will grace the White House if her husband reaches that goal.

Governor Coolidge will strengthen the ticket in the East. Ohio, while east of the center of population, is considered so western by those on the Atlantic coast that they could not think of going to Kansas or Wisconsin for the second man.

Governor Coolidge became famous in the policeman's strike and has added to his popularity in the West by vetoing a bill authorizing beverages containing a

higher alcoholic content than the federal law permits.

The governor's veto message was published only a few days before the supreme court decision which would have invalidated the law had it been signed. The platform and the nominees of the Republican convention are a challenge to the Democrats to do their best. They present a clear cut issue. If the Democrats accept as boldly as the Republicans have presented it, the people will be able to vote with intelligence and choose their policies as they choose their president.

WALL STREET'S TACTICS
The Democrats could not ask more than the Republicans have done to insure a lively campaign—unless the Democrats confess judgment in advance by attempting to crowd into the same seat. It all depends upon what is done at San Francisco. If the influences which were

controlling here, dominate the convention at San Francisco—which God forbid—will have a repetition of 1904 when Wall Street picked out our candidate for us and then threw him overboard.

If Wall street takes charge of the Democratic party this year it will be not for the purpose of electing the candidate, but to save themselves from the necessity of making a campaign.

Drillers Take Chance
Wichita, Kan., June 14.—(C. N. S.) Albert L. Grubb, a tool dresser, took a chance on death here recently for \$125. Grubb needed the \$25 and a driller

wanted a string of tools for which he had fished vainly for weeks. In order to salvage the tools, Grubb permitted himself to be lowered 250 feet down a

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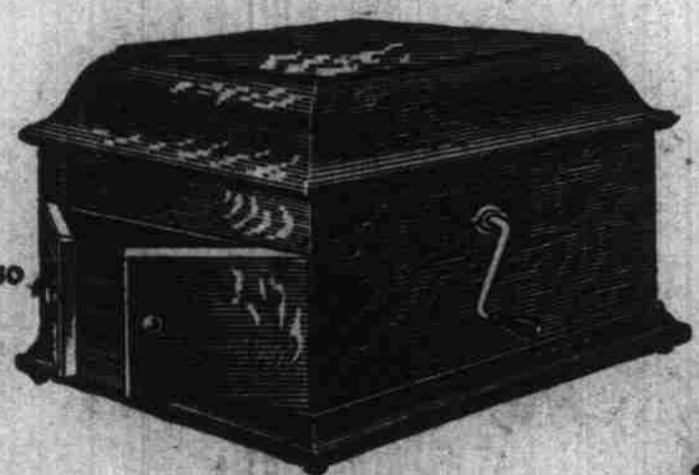
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