

# BRYAN AS PROPHET FAILS TO QUALIFY

Disasters He Foretold Never Come to Pass.

OPPORTUNITIES ALWAYS TRUE.

Gold Standard Does Not Slay, Nor Does It Write Future in Blood.

As a prophet William Jennings Bryan has never been a success. The calamities which he has foretold would have brought unlimited disaster to the country if they had ever been realized, but they never came to pass. The harrowing pictures which he painted were merely figments of his imagination, based on absolutely no foundation whatever.

It is well to have Americans remember that prophecies uttered by the orator of the Platte must be discounted fully 100 per cent, for all signs indicate that he feels the fates once more are about to begin prophesying again. A male Cassandra, Mr. Bryan, by this time have learned that the 2 recent of evil will never be belied by those who have found that the past his vaticinations have been empty air.

"Driving Country to Ruin."

For instance, when Mr. Bryan was a member of the House of Representatives in 1892 he was absolutely certain that protection was driving the country headlong to rack and ruin, and in his speech delivered March 16 of that year he drew the following agonizing pictures:

"Protection has been our cannibal tree, and as one after another of our farmers has been driven by the force of circumstances upon that tree and has been crushed within its folds his companions have stood around and shouted, 'Great is protection!'"

Thus in every State, so far as the statistics have been collected, the proportion of home owning farmers is decreasing and that of tenant farmers increasing. This means but one thing, it means a land of landlords and tenants, and, backed by the history of every nation that has gone down, I say to you that no people can continue a free people under a free government when the great majority of its citizens are tenants of a small minority. Your system (protective tariff) has driven the farm owner from his land and substituted the farm tenant."

How far this picture portrays the America of to-day or the America of any year since he made that speech our American can answer. Even in Mr. Bryan's own State he can find an answer right at his doors, for the farm lands of Nebraska have doubled in value.

"Murderous Gold Standard."

But during the four years succeeding that speech Mr. Bryan's agitation grew no less nor did the demon which he had raised in his own imagination hide with diminished head, for in 1896 he again saw destitution threatening the country. He had a remedy for it, a panacea, a fetch which he held up for worship—free silver. Here are some of the things Mr. Bryan said would happen if the gold standard were continued:

"I reply that if protection has slain its thousands the gold standard has slain its tens of thousands."—From speech at Democratic National Convention, July, 1896.

"Do not let the Republicans beguile you about the future. The future is written in blood crushed out of you by gold."—From speech at Erie, Pa., August, 1896.

"Ah, my friends, there is another reason why people have gone into the cities and left the farms. It is because your legislation has been causing the foreclosure of mortgages upon the farms. \* \* \* Mark my words! If the gold standard goes on and people continue to complain, the gold standard advocates instead of trying to improve the condition of the people will be recommending that you close your schools so that the people will not realize how much they are suffering."—From speech at Monmouth, Ill., October, 1896.

But whom has the gold standard slain? What future did it write in blood? What district schools did it close? Again the condition of the country makes a calm reply confuting the impassioned orator.

Campaigning again in 1900 Mr. Bryan decided that imperialism was another danger to the country. If it were continued the Fourth of July would be forgotten by all Americans and the "Spirit of '76" would become a thing of the past. Speaking at Lincoln, Mr. Bryan said:

Sees Death of Patriotism.

"The fight this year will be to carry out the sentiment of that song we have so often repeated, 'My Country, 'Tis of Thee.' If we lose our children and our children's children will not succeed to the spirit of that song, and celebrations of the Fourth of July will pass away, for the spirit of the empire will be upon us."

Is there any spot in these United States where the spirit of 1776 is dead

and forgotten and the Fourth of July a meaningless date on the calendar?

One of the most ridiculous of these prophecies was contained in a speech Mr. Bryan made in support of Judge Parker during the campaign of 1904, when he attacked President Roosevelt bitterly. This prophecy had it that military despotism was sure to follow the decrease in the size of the standing army. In this speech Mr. Bryan also emphasized the fact that he was then and always would be a firm believer in the principle of free silver. He summed up his position on this question in the following sentence:

"I believe to-day in the principles set forth at Chicago and Kansas City (16 to 1) and shall continue to fight for those principles."

## THE VERMONT ELECTION.

Result of Victory Indicates Undiminished Majorities for Republicans in November.

Raymond, the Washington correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, who is regarded as one of the most reliable political writers in the country, regards the result of the Vermont election as presaging absolute victory for Mr. Taft. In a recent special dispatch to the Tribune Raymond said:

"Practically speaking, the result of Tuesday's election is more favorable to the Republicans than they had any right to expect, because there has been no determined campaign for the purpose of making a good showing in Vermont and few of the big guns of the party have been put on the stump there this year.

"There is, of course, a slight falling off in the vote of both Republicans and Democrats, as compared with four years ago, but this was entirely to be expected, because at that time Roosevelt was the nominee of his party for President, and the result in Vermont in that year was merely a forerunner of the tremendous landslide which took place all over the country.

"As it is, the plurality of over 20,000 at yesterday's election is taken to be an indication that, while the campaign this year is not to be a sensational one, the election of Mr. Taft is foreshadowed by a safe majority.

"If Vermont can be taken as an index of the condition of public opinion throughout the country, it means that in the November election, whatever strength the Independence League develops in the other States will come almost exclusively from Bryan and not from Taft.

"The Vermont Democrats, while few in number, are extremely rockribbed in their sentiments. They make a point of going to the polls year after year and carry on a hopeless fight merely because they want to set a good example to the Democrats in other States. In 1896 they repudiated Bryan and the free silver heresy, and they did it largely by staying at home on election day. The result was a plurality of a little over 40,000 for McKinley, which has been a record in Vermont elections. In the State elections of 1900 and 1904 the Democratic vote was practically stationary."

## Taft's Religion.

A Consistent Christian with No Spot Upon His Record of Private Conduct and Public Service.

To dispose of questions which should not be asked as speedily as possible let us say that Mr. Taft is a member of the Unitarian church. That was the church of his parents, and he has never separated himself from it. His wife, however, is an Episcopalian, and he worships more often beside her in her church.

These are the facts, which are utterly and absolutely unimportant. The matter of a man's religion has no rightful place in consideration of his fitness for the presidency. The constitution of the nation, ordained and established "to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity," expressly places the very suggestion of such thought outside the pale of patriotism. No words can be clearer than those from our country's fundamental law, "No religious test ever shall be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States."

The numerous queries about Mr. Taft's religious belief shows simply the extent to which his enemies have gone to rouse some prejudice against him. Since there was no spot upon his whole clean record of private conduct and public service to which they could point to Taft's detriment they displayed their willingness to descend to any depth of petty, cowardly, contemptible attack that might do him harm.—Philadelphia North American.

## Union Labor Vote.

Hon. William H. Buchanan is one of the leading union men of western New York and in 1907 was the Democratic candidate for assemblyman in Chautauque county. This is what he has to say of the effort of Mr. Gompers to turn the labor vote over to Mr. Bryan:

"I am a union labor man, and I want to say further that no man can carry the labor vote into the Democratic camp. I know how union labor men feel in this city, and three-fourths of them will stand by the Republican party because only in that way have they the assurance of freedom from the business disturbance that Mr. Bryan promises for at least four years if he can be elected. We workmen can't say wages if statesmen are put in office to disturb business and make trouble."

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