

# GREAT COMMONER CALLED BY DEATH AT DAYTON, TENN.

(Continued from page one.)

Mr. Bryan expressed a desire to answer. "The reason I am answering is not for the benefit of the court," he stated. "It is to keep these gentlemen from saying I was afraid to meet them and let them question me. I want the Christian world to know that any atheist, agnostic, unbeliever, can question me at any time as to my belief in God, and I will answer him."

Despite the fact Mr. Darrow and Mr. Bryan figured in numerous bitter verbal exchanges during the trial, they also engaged in a like number of friendly conversations. Mr. Darrow was one of the first to come forward with a tribute to Mr. Bryan, when the news of the latter's death was received.

**Darrow Pays Tribute.** "I have known Mr. Bryan since 1896 and supported him twice for the presidency," Mr. Darrow said. "He was a man of strong convictions and always espoused his cause with ability and courage. I differed with him on many questions, but always respected his sincerity and devotion. I am very sorry for his family and for his friends who loved him."

George W. Happersley, who brought charges against Scopes in order that the anti-evolution law might be brought to a test, was one of the first of Dayton's citizens to call at the Bryan home after the commissioner's death. He revealed that he had been invited to call at the commoner's home last night for a talk. During the day Mr. Bryan told Mr. Rogers that he appreciated the tribute Mr. Happersley had paid him during the closing moments of the trial.

**Life Was Threatened.** During the Scopes trial, it was not generally known that Mr. Bryan's life had been threatened. In Chattanooga last night, Captain Marion Perkins, who was in charge of a squad of Chattanooga police here during the trial, stated that many threats had been made against Mr. Bryan's life. Most of the threats came from northern cities, he said, and the authors were thought to have been fanatics.

The fallen champion of religious orthodoxy lay this morning on a couch by the front window of the Rogers home, a silk-like covering over his classic features. A breeze stirred the covering as a few friends viewed the body. Peaceful and serene, as though in a happy slumber, Mr. Bryan never looked more life-like than he did today. His lips were set in the accustomed determined little lines with a slight suggestion of a coming smile. The gently closed lids over the eyes which burned piercingly when the great man was in action, was added to the effect of perfect contentment.

In the front room, across the hall, Mrs. Bryan rested in bed. Her attendants said she slept little, if at all, during the night, although she lay quietly most of the long hours.

It was in the room just in the rear of where his widow lay today that the commoner breathed late yesterday, his last breath, unwatched by the eye of man. Later he was removed to where he reposed today, in the parlor of the simple home.

**Children Are Called.** Definite plans for the removal of the body and the final services still were lacking this morning. Attendants reported that Mrs. Bryan waited further information from her children, the first of whom, Mrs. Owen, is expected to arrive in Dayton tomorrow morning. It was the belief of her friends that the funeral party would not leave Dayton until tomorrow and more probably not before Wednesday when the movement would be begun toward Washington.

The national colors were displayed throughout the town's business portion today, flying at half staff in honor of the dead.

Every protection and comfort were being given to the widow by a group of her chosen attendants, who forbade callers to speak with the bereaved and invalid woman.

**Bryan's Famous Utterances.** "You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns. You shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold."

From speech in Chicago convention in 1896 which won the first of three presidential nominations.

"My heart is in the grave with our cause. I must pause until it comes back to me."

Comment after defeat of 1920 dry plank.

"I would rather have the anathemas of those misguided democrats than have to answer on judgment day for a duty disregarded and a trust deserted."

From speech in New York convention of 1924 against platform on the denunciation of the Ku Klux Klan by name.

estimated to total 10,000: "The humblest citizen of all the land when clad in the armor of a righteous cause is stronger than all the hosts of error." "American civilization will imprint itself upon the hearts of all who long for freedom." "Awake, oh, ancient law-giver, awake." "Break forth from time unmarked sepulchre and speed thee back to cloud-crowned Sinai." "Millions for defense, but not one cent for conquest." "Truth will vindicate itself, only error fears free speech." "The people who in 1776 rejected the doctrine that kings rule by divine right, will not, in this generation, subscribe to the doctrine that money is omnipotent."

**WINCHESTER, Tenn., July 27.—**(A. P.)—Before leaving here Saturday after delivering an address, William Jennings Bryan who died suddenly in Dayton yesterday made the following statement to a reporter: "If I should die tomorrow, I should feel that much has been accomplished in the greatest cause for enlightening humanity ever known. I can believe that on the basis of the accomplishments of the past few weeks, I could truthfully say, well done."

**Sketch of His Career.** Virtually dominant in the democratic party for nearly 36 years, William J. Bryan was three times nominated and defeated for the presidency. Then, like Elijah of old, he cast his mantle upon the Elshah of Princeton and exerted a potent influence in bringing about Woodrow Wilson's first nomination for the office to which he, himself, had vainly aspired.

Known in his youth as "the silver-tongued boy orator of the Platte," it was Mr. Bryan's eloquence in his famous "cross of gold" speech at the democratic national convention in Chicago in 1896 that made him the choice of his party. He polled more than 6,500,000 votes in his first campaign.

His career has been likened to that of Henry Clay, who also was three times nominated for the presidency and as many times defeated. Clay, too, became a secretary of state. Friends of Bryan insisted that, like Clay, he was too conscientious, consistent and scrupulous for a politician and that the famous Whig's declaration "I would rather be right than be president," well described the man from Nebraska.

The former secretary of state was born in Salem, Ill., March 19, 1856. His father was Silas Lillard Bryan, a native of Culpepper county, Virginia, a lawyer and judge. The son, after graduating from Illinois college in 1881 and Union College of Law, Chicago, 1888 entered the law office of Lyman Trumbull, former United States senator. Subsequently, he removed to Jacksonville, Ill., where he practiced law until 1887, when he settled in Lincoln, Neb.

During the presidential campaign of 1888 young Bryan's speeches in behalf of the democratic ticket attracted attention and in 1890 he accepted a nomination for congress in the First Nebraska district, a republican stronghold, "because, no one else would have it," he said, since it was believed no democrat could win. He was elected and served from 1891 to 1895. He was made a member of the important Ways and Means committee in his first term.

**Free Silver Advocate.** Two speeches in this period gave Mr. Bryan nationwide prominence, one against the policy of protection, delivered on March 16, 1892, and the other against the repeal of the silver purchase clause of the Sherman act on August 16, 1893. In the latter he advocated "the free and unlimited coinage of silver, irrespective of international agreement, at a ratio of 16 to 1," a policy with which his name was afterwards most prominently associated until he entered the cabinet of President Wilson.

The first nomination of Mr. Bryan for the presidency at the democratic national convention in Chicago on July 19, 1896, has since been characterized as one of the "miracles" of American politics. The nominee, after serving in congress, had run for the United States senate, and been defeated by Senator John M. Thurston of Nebraska. Abandoning the law, Mr. Bryan became editor of the Omaha World-Herald and championed the cause of bimetallism as vigorously with the pen as he had upon the forum. He had been beaten for a third term in congress on the issue of "sound money" and when the time came for the national convention this question was rending both big political parties. There were free silver republicans as well as democrats, but the nominee of the former, Henry M. Teller of Colorado, threw his support to Bryan when the Nebraskan won the nomination at Chicago.

## Clarence Darrow and William J. Bryan, Under Flag of Truce, Pose Together at Scopes' Trial



This photograph was taken during a lull in the tempestuous proceedings which marked the trial at Dayton, Tenn., of Professor John T. Scopes on a charge of having violated a state

law in teaching evolution. Torrid weather prevailed and Darrow, chief of counsel for Scopes, and Bryan, chief assistant in the prosecution, threw aside their coats in the sweltering court room.

democratic nominee suffered defeat, polling 6,409,104 votes to Taft's 7,678,808 and receiving 162 electoral votes to his opponent's 221.

Notwithstanding Mr. Bryan's reverses in politics, it is said, he was a "good loser." Of Presbyterian forbears, optimistic and of a religious nature, his setbacks failed to make him lose faith in his future. He refused to become discouraged. For the next four years, or until the campaign of 1912 which resulted in the election of President Wilson, Mr. Bryan continued to edit his newspaper and to attend the councils of his party.

In his first campaign his home in Lincoln was a Mecca for prominent democrats, where Mrs. Bryan, a scholarly woman, formerly Miss Mary E. Baird of Perry, Ill., who had greatly aided her husband in his political career as a charming hostess. The Bryans had three children, one son and two daughters.

Always in demand as a lecturer, especially at Chautauquus, Mr. Bryan's income was augmented by his writings for newspapers and magazines and his authorship of several books. The latter included "The First Battle," (1897); "Under Other Flags," (1904); "The Old World and Its Ways," (1907); "Heart to Heart Appeals," (1907). In addition to his Nebraska home, Mr. Bryan after his final defeat for the presidency, established residences in Asheville, N. C., and Miami, Fla.

A few months before the time for the 1912 democratic national convention, Mr. Bryan publicly announced he would not be a candidate, declaring he was "ready to enter upon a campaign in behalf of a true democrat with even more vigor than that with which I have fought at any time on my own behalf."

**Fought for Wilson.** Woodrow Wilson at this time was governor of New Jersey and had attracted the attention of the Nebraskan, it was said, by reason of his "progressive" legislation. The fight on the floor of the Baltimore convention, led by Bryan against the Tammany men in the New York delegation, is a matter of history. Despite the fact that Champ Clark, speaker of the house of representatives, led on 27 ballots for the nomination and had a clear majority of nine which ordinarily would have made him the party's candidate, the Nebraskan's eloquence and persistence against "domination of the party by Wall street" resulted in failure of the Missourian to get the necessary two-thirds of the convention and in the designation of Wilson.

Mr. Bryan and Mr. Wilson held many ideals in common. When Mr. Wilson was elected president he appointed Mr. Bryan secretary of state. The two years Mr. Bryan occupied a place at the head of Mr. Wilson's cabinet were years of perplexity and stress. The Mexican embargo, the Japanese anti-alien land controversy in California and the correspondence with Germany and Austria-Hungary, antecedent to America's entrance into the war, were problems that gave the Nebraskan statesman many sleepless nights.

During his term of office, because of an insult to the United States flag and the refusal of "Dictator" Huerta of Mexico to fire a salute as an apology, American troops were despatched to Vera Cruz, which was captured April 21, 1914. Subsequently the soldiers and warships were withdrawn, Huerta was deposed and a constitutional government under Venustiano Carranza, who was favored by the administration, was set up in its stead.

At the height of the anti-alien land controversy in California, Mr. Bryan journeyed to the Pacific coast, where he held several conferences with the governor and delivered speeches before the state legislature.

**Resignation a Sensation.** Mr. Bryan's resignation from the cabinet, which occurred on June 9, 1915, came as a thunderclap out of a clear sky. It was known there had been disagreements between the president and his chief cabinet officer, but that the breach had gone beyond healing was not realized by the public mind. Germany's aggressions and her ruthless Z-bomb policy were daily drawing the United States into the vortex of war. Mr. Bryan seemed pledged to peace. The time came when President Wilson's notes to Germany had to take a final tone and, with the sinking of another American ship and an ultimatum from the United States, Mr. Bryan, who had previously declared "There is nothing final between friends," sent his letter of resignation to the president. Mr. Wilson, deploring his action as a "personal loss," in reply, accepted his secretary's withdrawal from the cabinet stating that they both sought the same end, but by different methods.

The zeal of Mr. Bryan to bring

about world peace, led him in the excess of his enthusiasm, it was said, to public speech and acts that had brought upon him a great deal of hostile criticism. Before the United States entered the war the Nebraskan had pledged himself to accompany an expedition financed by Henry Ford, the Michigan manufacturer, to Europe for the purpose of "getting the boys out of the trenches." Mr. Bryan later changed his plans and did not go. Subsequently he was accused of unintentionally aiding the propaganda of the central powers by his speeches and writings. Early in the war he declared it was "fomented" by profit seekers. In an address in San Francisco he said that "for the United States to go to war with Germany would be like challenging a mad house."

Some time before this he was reported as being opposed to permitting the United States to make any loans to the belligerents. When the United States picked up the sage of battle thrown down by Germany, however, Mr. Bryan promptly declared "she must be defeated at all costs," and offered his services to President Wilson as a private soldier.

While secretary of state, Mr. Bryan was often absent from Washington as a lecturer and this subjected him to no little amount of rallery in the press. In a public statement he said the \$12,000 salary he received as a cabinet officer was insufficient to meet the ordinary household demands upon his purse and he felt obliged to supplement his income in other ways. One of his most popular lectures was "The Prince of Peace."

When he entered the cabinet, Mr. Bryan astonished Washington by announcing that grape juice would be substituted for alcoholic beverages whenever the secretary of state and Mrs. Bryan entertained the members of the diplomatic corps. Indeed, Mr. Bryan in his long advocacy of teetotalism was credited by many with having done more than any other American outside of the prohibition party, to force the adoption of the eighteenth amendment to the constitution making the United States a "dry" nation. From March 1918 he was president of the national dry federation.



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