

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN HAD LONG BEEN BEFORE THE PUBLIC

(By The Associated Press)
Virtually dominant in the Democratic party for nearly sixteen years, William J. Bryan was three times nominated and defeated for the presidency. Then, like Elijah of old, he cast his mantle upon the Elisha 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, 1860. His father was Silas Lillard Bryan, a native of Culpeper county, Va., a lawyer and judge. The son, after graduating from Illinois College in 1881 and Union College of Law, Chicago, in 1883, entered the law office of Lyman Trumbull former United States senator. Subsequently he removed to Jacksonville Ill., 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 until 1895. He was made a member of the important ways and means committee in his first term.

Two speeches in this period gave Mr. Bryan nation-wide 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 10, 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 bi-metallism 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.

The "cross of gold" speech by Bryan, which has been quoted oftener, perhaps, than any other of his words, and which made him a rival of William McKinley for the presidency, came at the close of a debate on the floor of the convention in advocacy of a free silver plank. Men nationally prominent in the party had preceded him and opposed the plank unless it should provide for bi-metallism by international agreement. The situation was tense when the Nebraskan—then only 36 years old, one year more than the constitutional requirement for a President—arose to speak. Everybody seemed ready for compromise. Not so the delegate from Nebraska. There was fire in his eye when he began to speak:

"I would be presumptuous, indeed, to present myself against the distinguished gentleman to whom you have listened," he said, "if this were a mere measuring of abilities; but this is not a contest between persons. The humblest citizen of all the land, when clad in the armor of a righteous cause, is stronger than all the hosts of error. I come to you in defense of a cause as holy as the cause of liberty—the cause of humanity."

Then charging the evils of the day—the idle mills, the social unrest and

low wages—to the scarcity of money the "idle holders of idle capital in Wall Street," he continued:

"The individual is but an atom; he is born, he acts, he dies; but principles are eternal, and this has been a contest over a principle. Having behind us the producing masses of this nation and the world, supported by the commercial interests the laboring interests, and the toilers everywhere, we will answer those who demand a single gold standard by saying:

"You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns. You shall not crucify mankind with this cross of gold."

The convention was stampeded, for Bryan, who was nominated over eight other candidates on the fifth ballot, following a speech by a Georgia delegate, in which the eloquent young orator was referred to as "a Saul come to lead the Israelites to battle." Subsequently Bryan received the nomination of the People's and the National Silver parties.

The nominee broke all speaking records in his first campaign, traveling more than 13,000 miles and making about 600 speeches in 27 states. He polled 6,502,925 votes on McKinley's 7,504,779 and received in the Electoral College 176 votes to his opponents 271. Although defeated, Mr. Bryan remained the leader of his party, and after the Spanish-American war in 1898 in which he commanded the Third Nebraska Volunteer infantry as its colonel, he opposed the permanent retention of the Philippine Islands by the United States.

In 1900, when again nominated for the presidency, he made "anti-imperialism" the paramount issue, but refused to omit an explicit party declaration in favor of free coinage of silver in the party platform. This time he was defeated with a popular vote of 6,358,133 as against 7,207,923 for his opponent. He received 155 electoral votes to McKinley's 292.

Mr. Bryan returned to Lincoln and started the publication of a weekly political journal called The Commoner. Four years later, 1904, although not actively a candidate for the nomination, which eventually went to Judge Alton B. Parker, he vigorously opposed Democracy's "conservative" attitude.

The interim between this period and the next presidential election of 1908 was occupied by Mr. Bryan now known by many of his followers as "The Peerless Leader," in several enterprises that kept him in the public eye. Notable among these was his trip around the world on which he started September 21, 1905. Accompanied by his wife, son and a daughter, Mr. Bryan first went to Japan and China, where he was hospitably entertained and made numerous addresses, one of which, entitled, "The White Man's Burden," was commended by the Japanese-American Society. The Bryans were presented to the emperor of Japan and were everywhere accorded the honor of foremost Americans. Later the party went to the Philippines, where Mr. Bryan's views on Filipino independence were welcomed. During this visit the savage Moros of Mindanao Island created the Nebraskan a "datto" or chief of one of their tribes.


Leaving the Philippines, the party went to India, the Holy Land, Turkey, Austria-Hungary, Germany, Russia, Italy, Norway, Sweden and other European countries, finally arriving in London on July 3, 1905. Meanwhile Mr. Bryan had "interviewed" King Edward VII, the Emperor of Russia and other potentates, and Count Leo Tolstoin and had made numerous speeches all of which were reported in the American press and which inspired a desire on the part of Democrats at home to give him a great reception, which was done upon his return to America the following September.

About this time Mr. Bryan came out for world disarmament, an ideal which is said to have prompted his drafting in 1913, when he became secretary of state, of the particular form of peace treaty between the United States and foreign nations "by which all disputes were to be submitted to an impartial investigating commission for a year before hostilities could begin. This has been regarded as Mr. Bryan's greatest achievement, for thirty foreign nations, including the Central Powers, and representing three-fourths of the populations of the earth, became signatories to the document. About a year later the World war broke out in all its fury.

In 1906 Mr. Bryan was again named as the Democratic standard bearer. The campaign was waged on the principal issue of opposition to "trusts" and for a third time the Democratic nominee suffered defeat, polling 6,409,104 votes to Taft's 7,678,908 and

(Continued on last page.)

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SEALED TIGHT KEPT RIGHT

Child Died From Burns.
Little Don, the two-and-one-half year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Colon Davis, of East Chesterfield, died in the Florence Infirmary Sunday morning at 7:20 o'clock from burns received at home the preceding Friday.

A large bucket of boiling water had been brought into the house for cleaning purposes and set on the floor of a room in which the child was playing. He was seen by his father to be stepping backward toward the bucket, but before Mr. Davis could reach him he had fallen backward into the water.

Medical aid was quickly summoned and the unfortunate child was rushed to the hospital, where everything possible was done to alleviate his suffering and save his life. The attending physicians, however, offered little hope from the first, as more than one-third of the skin of the little fellow's body had been destroyed.—Chesterfield Advertiser.

Mt. Pisgah High School Opened.
Mt. Pisgah High School opened Monday morning, 13th inst., with the following teachers present: A. F. Holley superintendent; Mrs. Ira B. Gardner principal of high school; Mrs. B. D. McDonald and Miss Thelma Thomas, assistant teachers.

The following grammar school teachers were all present: Miss Annie Fulmer, Miss Susie Gregory, Miss Ellen Rampey, Mrs. Groton Gardner, Mrs. Lula Bowers, Mrs. Bowers, Mrs. J. F. Funderburk; and Miss Genevieve McDonald.

The enrollment was more than was expected, being more than 300. The high school department alone having 65.—Kershaw Era.

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Sisters Beaten To Death.
Hudson, N. H., July 28.—Two elderly maiden sisters were found beaten to death this afternoon in the home they occupied alone here. They were Miss H. Georgianna Gillis, 77, and Miss Helen Gillis, 80.

Although the crime apparently was committed yesterday, it was only late today that the bodies were found by neighbors. The body of Miss Georgianna was crumpled in the pantry among broken dishes, her skull crushed by blows from a club.

Her sister, apparently, had been struck down in the kitchen, for blood had spattered the floor and her torn cape was found near the sink. The body, however, was found on a couch in the living room.

No instrument that had caused the deaths were found in the house by the

police and no stranger was reported seen in the vicinity. The house appeared not to have been robbed or ransacked.

Boxer Killed During Match.
Louisville, Ky., July 21.—Mickey Shannon, Chicago, lightweight boxer, was killed during the fourth round of a boxing match here tonight with Carey Fay, of Louisville, when Fay knocked him against the ropes so that he fell and struck his head against the floor. Physicians said death was almost instantaneous. Fay was arrested on a charge of manslaughter.

W. A. Anderson, former vice president of the Anderson Motor Co. at Rock Hill, will leave in a few days for Lakeland, Fla., where he will organize a real estate firm.

Uneasy Tight Feeling

"I used Theford's Black-Draught first for constipation," said Mrs. C. E. Buntin, of R. F. D. 5, Starkville, Miss. "I would feel dull, stupid, and have severe headaches, even feverish. I had an uneasy, tight feeling in my stomach. I read quite a bit about

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