

'One cannot but admire him both as a man and a politician. Under a great leader he is undoubtedly competent to render great and valuable services to the country, but Lloyd George has yet to make manifest any real insight into the social question, as well as the possession of those higher moral qualities necessary to the making of a truly great Liberal statesman.

As was expected, Winston Churchill, one of the hardest workers and keenest and most active minds in the political arena, succeeded Lloyd George at the Board of Trade. The Tories hate him; most Liberals believe in him, and we social reformers suspend our judgment, though there is reason to believe that he was, at all events for a time, profoundly influenced by the inspiring leadership of the late Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. Verily, despite Mark Antony, the good that men do lives after them—so, alas! does the evil.

Other changes need no special mention, though the Ministry has undoubtedly been strengthened by the appointment to minor offices of many young rising Liberals. Altogether the political atmosphere is more healthy and invigorating than it has been for many years. The presence of a strong, able and active Labor party seems to me to be having a very wholesome and beneficial effect. Outside the House they are the most enthusiastic, self-sacrificing and deadly-earnest party in the country. Their leaders in the House have no interests opposed to those of the masses of the industrial population, and in every respect compare favorably with the rest of the members. What hampers their usefulness is that for the most part they are inclined to what you, Mr. Editor, would term "artificial," bureaucratic and enslaving socialism rather than to natural socialism—voluntary co-operation under equality of opportunity, which is the aim and aspiration of the true Progressives amongst the English speaking races of the world. But there are many signs that closer acquaintance with practical politics and with officialdom is serving to incline many of them more and more in this direction. However this may be, their presence in the House certainly helps to purify and elevate the political atmosphere.

L. H. BERENS.

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## NEWS NARRATIVE

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To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

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Week ending Tuesday, July 7, 1908.

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### The Democratic Convention.

The national Democratic convention met at Denver (p. 323) at 12:25 o'clock on the 7th. Thomas Taggart, chairman of the outgoing national committee, called it to order, and Bishop Keane, of Wyoming, pronounced the invocation,

Theodore A. Bell, of California, was then introduced as temporary chairman. His keynote was this sentence: "Against the evils of special privileges, we urge the benefits of equal opportunities."

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Before the convention met there had been much newspaper gossip as to its possible outcome. At first it was vigorously reported that Governor Johnson of Minnesota would be nominated in spite of Bryan's overwhelming majority, admitted to exceed by 100 or more the necessary two-thirds vote. Johnson's managers themselves claimed this. But on the 5th they abandoned the field. It is now explained that the Johnson campaign was never intended to be anything but a play for position in 1912. The next diversion of the newspaper gossips grew out of the announced purpose of Alton B. Parker, the Presidential candidate of four years ago, to offer at the convention a tribute to the memory of ex-President Cleveland which should reflect upon Bryan, or, as Walter Wellman expressed it, should unsheath "a knife for the living behind each word of praise for the dead." This diversion, also, was soon sidetracked, at any rate in the newspaper reports. The remainder of the gossip, except the Guffey incident noted below, has related to the nomination for President, to the platform, and to the nomination for Vice President. The situation in all respects seems at this writing to have been best reflected by Walter Wellman in his correspondence from Denver of the 3d:

This is one of the proudest days in the career of William J. Bryan. It is the day which marks the beginning of the end of his enemies. Out of the East came to-day the big men of Democracy who have the mighty "interests" behind them, the interests which for ever so long have been doing all in their power with skill and brain and money to make the nomination of Bryan impossible. There came Tammany and its boss, men from Standard Oil and Pennsylvania, the representatives of Tom Ryan, the respectable Judge whom they together sacrificed upon the Democratic slaughter table four years ago. And what do they find? Bryan in complete possession of the field, master of the situation. The convention his, to do what he likes with, and hardly a possibility of breaking down his rule. The national, the broad, the historic, the hopeful significance of it is this: Plutocracy has been overwhelmed by the tenaciousness with which the people have stood by the man who in their belief represents principles. Men have beaten dollars. The idolatry of the Democratic hosts for one man has proved a greater power than organized and aggressive wealth, with all its resources and hired cleverness. There remains nothing for the men from Wall street and from the "interests" to do but make as graceful a surrender as possible. And during the next few days much of the news will pertain to the manner and method of this inevitable bowing of the knee by plutocracy to the plowboy of the Platte. Here are the heroics, here is the drama of the hour. A man has conquered

mammon. A man, with nothing but people behind him. No American should be ashamed that it is so.

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The latest and most sensational episode is the one alluded to above as the Guffey incident. Bryan began it with a pronounced repudiation of the Pennsylvania leadership in the Democratic party of James M. Guffey, the Democratic agent of the Standard Oil trust, who has co-operated, as Walter Wellman says, with Thomas F. Ryan and others of like interests to hold the Democratic party in a plutocratic leash. At the Pennsylvania primaries overwhelming instructions for Bryan were given, but a majority of the State delegates, acting under Guffey's influence, bolted their instructions from the rank and file and sent an un-instructed delegation to Denver, a majority of which was composed of Guffey men. That action was proclaimed as treachery by the Bryan Democratic League of Pennsylvania, and a delegation from this League, including anti-Guffey delegates, which waited upon Bryan at Lincoln on the 4th, was addressed by him in a speech of which this excerpt concerns the Guffey incident:

If I properly understand the signs of the times, the overshadowing issue in this campaign is simply this: "Shall the people run their own government or shall the masses be exploited by those who are raised to power by predatory corporations?" The twelve years during which I have been in national politics I have avoided interference with the politics of the various States. I have abstained scrupulously from taking part in these controversies between individuals, and I have done it for a reason. I believe in the right of each community to attend to its own business. I believe that the people of a community know better what they want than any outside person can know. And the only reason why I expressed an opinion in your own State (I have expressed an opinion in that State in regard to the national committeeman who is to help manage the campaign) is this, that Mr. Guffey, your present national committeeman, who aspires to be committeeman again, deliberately and wilfully conspired to defeat what he knew to be the expressed will of the Democrats of Pennsylvania. A large majority of the voters in the Democratic party in Pennsylvania expressed their desire that I should be nominated, and recorded themselves in favor of the delegates who promised to go there and favor my nomination. It is not for me to say whether those Democrats were wise or foolish, but if I understand what democracy means, those men are the ones to determine what Pennsylvania says on that subject. When a political boss, whether he calls himself a Democrat or a Republican, assumes to defy the expressed will of his party, he shall never be in the party organization except over my protest. And as I have tried to be honest in politics, I have notified Mr. Guffey that wherever my opinion has been asked I have stated that I would regard his selection as unfortunate and his membership upon the committee as an embarrassment. Now, my friends, I shall not discuss the question further. I have been in politics for some time. I have taken the people

into my confidence ever since I have been in politics. I have discussed questions frankly. Nobody is in doubt as to what I believe or where I stand. When this campaign came on I stated that while I did not know whether I ought to be nominated or not, if the people said that they thought I ought to be nominated I would take it for granted that they meant what they said, and that when they nominated me they wanted to elect me and that no bush-wacker would be put into my counsels to betray me.

Mayor Johnson of Cleveland, a guest of Mr. Bryan at the time, was called upon by the Pennsylvanians for a speech and responded briefly to this effect as reported:

It is men like Guffey who have betrayed the Democratic party and will betray it again. We have got to drive them out. We are not going to gain votes by trying to placate the men who want to make the Democratic party so near like the Republican party that no matter which wins you lose.

The delegation that listened to these speeches was represented as spokesman by James Kerr, who had denounced the leadership of Mr. Guffey as being for the corporations instead of the party. When Mr. Bryan's speech of this occasion came to Mr. Guffey's ears, he published a long address, which has been treated sensationally by the anti-Bryan press. Vituperative throughout, it centers upon the point that Bryan is an ingrate for opposing men who contributed money to the campaigns in which he was a candidate, summing up this accusation of ingratitude as follows:

In 1896 and 1900 the late Senator Jones many times declared there were just three men upon whom he never called for financial assistance in vain. One was the late Marcus Daly, another was William Randolph Hearst, the third was myself. Through his friend and manager Mr. Bryan not only accepted gratefully but beseechingly sought our aid, and we gave freely thousands and thousands of dollars. Mr. Bryan knew then and knows now that I was as much of a "corporation man" in 1896 and 1900 as I am in 1908, but did he "scruple abstemiously" to use our money to help his canvass? Let him answer at his leisure. And what followed? After his defeat Mr. Hearst became his patron and paid him thousands of dollars, only to be turned upon without a qualm, though now, when again a candidate, Mr. Bryan fawns upon him in hope of gaining his support. I reap my reward in a vicious, brutal attack from the man who professed to be my friend. Mr. Daly died soon enough not to feel the ingratitude of one who accepts a man's assistance and, at the first refusal to serve a selfish purpose, spits in his face.

Mr. Bryan has refused to reply through newspaper interviews to Mr. Guffey's attack.

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#### Socialist Labor Party Convention.

There are two socialist parties in the United States. They are the Socialist party, which nominated Eugene V. Debs for president (p. 178) at