

HE WAS FOR BRYAN.

But is Now Bitterly Opposed to His Nomination.

EUGENE V. BREWSTER TALKS

On His Abandonment of His Friend From the Plate—Not in Touch With "The Proletariat"—Fallacies of Free Silver Idea—Bryan Takes the Wrong View of Militarism—A Refreshing Interview.

New York Sun: It was announced some time ago that Eugene V. Brewster, who was one of the original, unconditional Bryan Democrats in these parts during the campaign of 1896, had deserted Bryan, repudiated the Chicago platform and declared himself for Debs and Harriman, the candidates of the Social Democratic party for president and vice president. Mr. Brewster's change of political faith was not accomplished without some pang over the severing of old ties, and, incidentally, without something of a family row.

Mr. Brewster has decided to support Debs, for whom he claims over a million votes will be cast.

"Well, if Debs polls a million votes and Barker some and the Socialist Labor folks some, all of which votes will be drawn from Bryan rather than McKinley, how is Bryan going to be elected?" asked the reporter.

"Elected?" exclaimed Mr. Brewster. "Why, Bryan don't stand the least possible show of being elected. At the election of 1896, Bryan's vote was a little over 6,000,000 and McKinley's a little over 7,000,000. This, I mean, of course, was the popular vote. Each will lose some of the votes this year which he polled in 1896. There will be some Democrats who will vote for Bryan this year who voted for McKinley in 1896. Mightily few Republicans, however, will desert their candidate, and the majority of the Gold Standard Democrats will vote for McKinley. But many, very many, of the Democrats and Populists who voted for Bryan in 1896 will vote for Debs this year. Therefore, how can you figure Bryan as having any chance of an election?"

"And when you come to think of it, seriously and honestly, why should Bryan be elected? He appeals particularly to the common people. We will admit that. At least, he doesn't in the least appeal to the classes, and it wouldn't do him any good if he did. Now let's see what Bryan stands for. He stands, first, for all he stood for in 1896, including free silver. Besides these, he is against trusts and against what he calls militarism or imperialism. Now let's see whether those things which Bryan favors and opposes are or are not, for the best interests of the common people, or to be scientifically correct, the proletariat.

Bryan's Hard Times Cure.
"Take free silver first. Notwithstanding what Bryan says, you and I and the rest of the American people know that that issue is dead beyond the possibility of resurrection. But suppose it isn't. In 1896 Bryan insisted that free silver was a cure for financial depression or hard times. If it was a cure for hard times then, it must be a cure for the same ill now. But there isn't any hard times to cure. The country never enjoyed, in all its history, such wonderful prosperity as it is enjoying to-day. In 1896 Bryan appealed to the workmen, to the common people, by iterating and reiterating the argument about the free and unlimited coinage of silver compelling a rise in prices. He insists that free silver is as much an issue in this campaign as it was in 1896. As the champion of the common people, would he have any higher prices than prevail to-day? He cannot convince a single wage earner that anything which will produce a rise in the prices of necessities can be a good thing for the man who toils. With prices as they are at present, Bryan, in order to catch the labor vote, must figure it out in some way that free silver will tend to lower prices.

"But again, Bryan declares that free silver means double the volume of money and hence double the prices, according to his quantitative theory. Now if this be true, it is also true that the capital of this country is invested largely in land, machinery and commodities. But if free silver is to double the price of all these, how on earth is free silver going to benefit the laboring man who has to have and use all these? Furthermore, suppose we admit that free silver means rising prices. Everybody knows, and, therefore, I suppose Bryan will admit it, that the rate of wages is always the last price to rise. I would like to know when labor is going to get the benefit of free silver and how much more of the higher priced necessities the laboring man will be able to purchase with his increased wage. I can't tell, I know no

laboring man can and I don't believe Bryan can.

"Another strong argument Bryan advanced in 1896 in favor of free silver was that it would always favor the money-borrower rather than the money-lender. We're now trying to find out, remember, how free silver is going to benefit the plain, hard-working, common people. Therefore, it now becomes pertinent for us to ask, is the wage-earner a money-borrower or a money-lender? He can't well be a money-lender and still be a wage-earner, because the statistics show that the wage-earner seldom if ever makes more than a bare living. But if a man can't earn more than a living, he can't be a money-borrower to any extent. Therefore if the wage-earner is neither a borrower nor a lender, how is free silver going to be of any benefit to him? Maybe Bryan can answer this question. I can't.

"Now, I think we've gone fairly well over the free-silver arguments of 1896. If they were sound then, mind you, they're sound now. If they supported a financial scheme which was good for the common people then, it's just as good for the common people now. But I think you will agree with me that we have raised serious doubts as to whether it is of any use whatever. Now, as a matter of fact, Bryan doesn't represent the common people at all. He represents the middle class—the farmer, perhaps, although this is very doubtful, with the prosperous times now enjoyed by the farmer—and the small tradesman. This middle class is almost as far removed from the common people, the toilers, at all. Therefore, why should the common people support their candidate any more than the candidate of the capitalist class? As between the two, the toilers might much better support the candidate of the capitalists, because they would then be voting in favor of a continuance of the present prosperity and a continuance of the privilege of earning a fair living under the present wage system, which, of course, we consider wrong. But Bryan is as much in favor of that as McKinley.

Bryan's Fallacious Trust Theories.

"Now let us consider for a moment some of the new issues of this campaign, some of the things which Bryan opposes. Take the trusts, for instance, which Bryan is reported to have said he considers the most important of all issues. He says that trusts are an evil and should be abolished or regulated according to a scheme of legislation which he has worked out. If he had thought and read a little more deeply on the subject, he would see that he cannot command the votes of the proletariat by advocating the destruction or the curtailing of trusts. We believe that amelioration of the condition of the common people, their salvation, in fact, is the extension and fostering of all trusts until every enterprise is in a trust and the nation is running them all. Therefore, when our people come to understand this, they can no better support a man who would destroy or regulate trusts than they can a man who advocates free silver. Let me explain.

The Trust is an Evolution of Commerce.

"You can no more destroy the trust than you can put a stop to the evolution of the human race. Now, the greatest trust in this country is the trust which controls the handling of the mails, which for the time being we will call the postoffice trust. Before the time of Cromwell, farmers, or citizens of England who had horses and travel frequently to some town carried the mails for their neighbors at a price agreed upon between them. In Cromwell's time a man named Hill conceived the idea of one person or company carrying the mails for everybody in England. He consolidated all the individual mail carriers and formed the first trust—a postoffice trust. Then the government took the job from Hill and governments have carried the mails ever since.

Government Ownership Problems.

"Now, why shouldn't this government take hold of other enterprises and run them? We assert there is no reason, but we admit that this can only come after years of development and education. It will all come around in time, and by and by this government will be running the railroads and the telegraph as well as the postoffice. That will be the next step and from that one utility will be taken up after another until this government will be conducting all the enterprises which to-day are under the control of trusts. Then the enterprises of the country will be all in one great trust, with the government as the great trust baron.

"But, as I said, this can't come in a minute. There could never be government ownership if there hadn't been first trusts, such as we have to-day. Therefore, we regard the trust as it is a development, an evolution in our social and economic system. Any attempt to annihilate or regulate trusts is to retard progress. We don't want so many that in the end not a few capitalists, but everybody will be making money out of a trust, and by everybody I mean the common people. Then we will have the ideal commonwealth. Everybody will be obliged to work. There

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will be no rich and no poor, and classes and masses will be merged into a brotherhood of man, which will make possible the federation of the world.

"Debs stands for all this, the only practical scheme for improving the condition of the masses. If he can't be elected this year, as he probably can't, then the best thing for the common people would be the election of McKinley, because that would better serve the end we would accomplish, because it means the further development of the trust and the continued evolution of our economic system. The election of Bryan would mean nothing but to retard the cause of the common people. If Bryan believes in eliminating waste and in doing away with useless labor, what does he want to destroy trusts for, which are doing this just as fast as they can. He finds a special fault with trusts, because, he says, they arbitrarily raise prices. Therefore he favors one thing and is against another which, according to his own statements, must accomplish the same thing. In the name of common sense, what does he want, higher prices or lower prices?"

Bryan's Anti-Imperialism is Bosh.

"Now Bryan says he is opposed to militarism or imperialism, which is equivalent to saying we have a good reason for opposition to militarism or expansion or imperialism—all these terms mean the same thing—and Bryan's reason is bosh. The without-the-consent-of-the-governed theory is nonsense. If we had made our history on that theory, we would never have been the nation we are to-day. Now the reason for our opposition to imperialism is sound and scientific.

"According to the present economic system the wage of the employed is not sufficient to buy back all that he produces. Therefore the difference between what is produced and what is consumed by all classes is surplus. If our industries are to be maintained a market must be found for this surplus. But if we can't consume all we produce then the market must be found outside the country. Any territory we acquire by force of arms or otherwise means more markets. But more markets means not the increase of wages of the toilers, but the maintenance of the present wage system, whose abolition, we hold, is the great load stone around the necks of the common people. Therefore, we are against imperialism or militarism, or anything else which will bring us more territory. The acquisition of more territory simply means adding strength and power to capitalism."

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BELLAIRE HAPPENINGS.

Matters of Interest in the Metropolis of Belmont County.

There may be fun in the Democratic convention at St. Clairsville to-day, and will be if an attempt is made to clean out the river front members of the party. But this will probably not be attempted. Chairman Meyer has selected Everly South, of Bryersport, temporary chairman, and this is a guarantee to the other fellows that he is a Democrat without blot or blemish. More of them may be made give some guarantee that they are Democrats, but they take this kind of medicine without wincing.

The Knights of Pythias and Golden Eagles, who are arranging for a grand patriotic jubilee at the St. Clairsville fair grounds on the Fourth of July, have secured Hon. John M. Cook, of Steubenville, as the orator of the day. They will have the Seventh Ohio Regiment, U. R. K. and band with them, and neighboring organizations of both lodges will join in this patriotic celebration. The U. R. K. band and the American Mechanic's band of this city will also participate.

H. E. Alexander, formerly of this county, but now with his brother engaged in editing that vigorously Democratic paper, the Zanesville Signal, was taken up by his home county as a candidate for Congress in that district, but being a young man he gave way to Mr. Ellenwell, of Marietta, who was nominated by acclamation. Mr. Alexander, while a Democrat of the "straightest sect," is able to see some things ahead.

The convention of the twentieth and twenty-second joint senatorial district is likely to be called to meet in Steubenville on the same date as the circuit court convention, to make a nomination for member of the state board of equalization. The district as composed in the joint convention will represent Belmont, Columbiana, Harrison and Jefferson counties, too much for one man to do justice to on that state board, unless he is an exceptionally capable man.

George Cook, esq., of Martin's Ferry, and Miss Berenice McCroba, accompanied Rev. John T. Fulton to Jacobsburg yesterday, where the latter was married to Miss Desale Watt, daughter of W. W. Watt, a prominent farmer of that section.

The special train for the river-front Knights Templar who will attend the meeting of Hope Commandery to-night, will leave St. Clairsville at 10 o'clock, central standard time.

The city board of equalization is holding daily sessions, and Messrs. Beatty and Shepherd, of the auditor's office, alternate as clerk for the board.

Rev. W. V. TeWinkle has been selected as the delegate to represent the Bellaire Christian Endeavor societies at the state convention at Toledo.

Dr. C. S. Starkweather is home from a visit with Kentucky friends and attendance at the meeting of the Southern Dental Association.

The school board paid the teachers the balance closing the school yesterday, and John A. McNeese was re-elected trustee officer.

Prof. W. E. Danford was given a farewell reception by his pupils at the Windsor Hotel Tuesday evening.

The revised school enumeration of this city made a shortage of nine as compared with last year.

Harvey Benson and wife left yesterday for Dayton, where they will make their future home.

Marion Hurd, a former Bellaire boy, is here from Beaver, Pa., calling upon old friends.

BENWOOD.

News Notes From the Busy Marshall County Town.

A "floating theatre," with that ancient attraction, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," moored at the Benwood wharf yesterday for an indefinite stay. Some mischievous boys applied a smarting drug to the donkey's, which kicked up their heels in pain, and otherwise caused commotion on the boat. The boys got the stuff at a Benwood drug store, and if "Simon Legree" or "Uncle Tom" had got hold of them there would have been more fun.

Interest in Saturday's primaries is approaching the feverish stage. Adherents of the several candidates are confident of success for their favorites, and all are striving for the fray with a commendable lack of bitterness. The nominees will be supported to a man, and it is a cause for congratulation that there are so many good men to pick from.

Officer Adlesberger, the popular Fourth ward member of the police force yesterday gathered in a dusky attachment of the "Uncle Tom's Cabin" show, who filled up with Benwood booze after his arrival in town, and straightway proceeded to act "scandalous" and "scrumpious." He was deposited in the city refrigerator that he might cool off.

A large attendance is desired at tomorrow night's meeting of the Young Men's Republican Club, at the city hall. It will be a business meeting purely. The club is increasing its membership, and is certain to be the leading organization in this district.

A force of laborers are at work at the corner of Seventh and Water streets, on the water plug to be used by Ohio River trains. When completed, the new feature will be quite beneficial to the road.

Some of the high school graduates want the commencement exercises held in the unfinished part of the M. E. church, the upstairs auditorium, and the controversy is a spirited one.

The old town weighing scales were moved yesterday from their location at Seventh and Main streets, further up Seventh street to where the old lock-up formerly stood.

The W. C. T. U. will give an entertainment June 15. Those taking part will be Edith Morgan, Edna Brown, Bertie Fisher and Anna Bell.

Charles Schad will return from Clarksburg to-morrow.

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