The Times-Dispatch

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1906.

If a man can write a better book, preach a better sermon, or make a better mouse trap than his neighbor, though he build his house in the woods, the world will make a beaten path to his door. —Emerson.

Bryan or Bust.

The announcement of Mr. William J. Bryan that he is in favor of government ownership and management of railroads by public officials came as no surprise to The Times-Dispatch. Mr. Bryan had already clearly intimated that he would make such a declaration in his New York speech and The Times-Dispatch had already said that as Mr. Bryan is more radical than "even" and as President Roosevelt had already committed himself and his party to government regulation of railroads, Mr. Bryan's publication would naturally lead him a step beyond, to government ownership.

Mr. Bryan talk like this sounds logical, but we wonder if he studied the situation in Italy as it has been outlined in recent publications reviewed in The Times-Dispatch. Italy has well-nigh bankrupted itself in an attempt to build and operate railroads on the government account, but, after all, has failed dismally to realize an efficient service.

But, granting that government ownership of railroads abroad is successful, does it by any means follow that such a scheme is adapted to the needs of the United States? The resources of Europe are well developed and there is very little for railroads to do except to furnish adequate transportation facilities. In the United States most of the territory through which railroads pass is undeveloped, traffic, and railroads, under private operation, are continually work towards its development. For the people living there they are doing what increases traffic, earnings and dividends. Does Mr. Bryan or any sane man seriously contend that such development would proceed under government operation? Aside from the question of ability and expediency, the economic, commercial and political risks and efforts at operation with a family defectively large or a government.

"I do not know," Mr. Bryan was fair enough to say, "that the country is ready for this change. I do not know that a majority of my own party take it," but there is no doubt as to his conviction. "I have already reached the conclusion," said he, "that railways for take as much of the nature of a monopoly that they must ultimately become public property and be managed for public benefit in the interest of the whole community, in accordance with the well-defined theory that public ownership is necessary where competition is impossible."

The plain fact is Mr. Bryan was about thirteen or fourteen years old when Bismarck, with Europe, which represents the state form of paternal socialism, and on this continent has begun to feel the effect of the socialistic movement, with Democratic idealism.

The question of how Woodrow Thomas Jefferson regards Mr. W. J. Bryan as a Democrat?

More Plain Talk to Negroes.

The Times-Dispatch has spoke for the readers that the people for lynching is in the hands of the negro race. Black men, private citizens, are attempting to suppress the outrages, crime, lynching, [illegible] on the subject has [illegible] man of no from a [illegible] and it is as much a [illegible] and [illegible] gives it more [illegible] and [illegible] as [illegible]

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir, In your editorial in Monday's paper on "[illegible]" [illegible] is the negro going to do about it? [illegible] question is a serious one and [illegible] an answer.

Your editorial [illegible] right. Lynching must go. It is a [illegible] of barbarism. It [illegible] civilized community.

But the negro [illegible] by refraining from [illegible] crimes as respectable [illegible] and conditions of [illegible] After centuries of effort [illegible] law and expedient [illegible] Broad [illegible] crime is to be expected [illegible] pollutes a part of our community [illegible] but offer any excuse we may [illegible] and record is a disgrace [illegible] speeches against our [illegible] and even threatening our [illegible] I see it, the rapid growth of [illegible] and criminals in the [illegible] of the whole negro question. One large, vicious, lawless negro—one who commits criminal assault—does the race more harm than all the adverse laws ever made by the South. There is a broad statement, but is as true as the Gospel.

Now, the writer, who does not [illegible] any black man to have the people more than he, nor does he yield to any white man in love for the South, wants to see this record reduced. I want to see the time come when ladies can travel anywhere in security; when unspeakable crimes do not advertise us to the world and when lynching is a memory.

But how is this to be accomplished? Crime cannot be lynched, burned or shot out; it cannot be legislated out—it must be taught out. The means of repressing this and every other crime can only be found in proper training. I would not bring a railing accusation against our homes; be it far from me to speak disparagingly of them, for I know that there are homes among us wherein good lessons are taught, but candor compels the assertion that a great many of our parents are too indifferent as to the conduct of their children. The cause of so much lawlessness among us is traceable directly to our homes. Our boys, many of them, are too free. They are allowed to go and come at will, roam to and fro without restraint, and associate with companions of their own selection. Is it any wonder, then, that there are so many negro fiends? Let our parents be more careful as to the conduct of their children at ages when they are incapable of regulating their own conduct.

Unfortunately for us, when a fault is pointed out, a crime committed or a wrong done, some of us excuse the act by saying the white man does the same. When a negro is lynched for some nameless crime, we decry the lynching, but say very little, if anything at all, about the crime that caused the lynching. This is wrong. The negro leaders should raise their united voices in no uncertain sound against this crime. Public sentiment is a powerful thing, and when public sentiment decrees that this crime must go, it will go. Among us are to be found many able and worthy leaders who are striving manfully to create a higher standard of citizenship, and who are laboring zealously to make sentiment against criminal assault. These leaders ought to succeed. They will succeed—not to-day, perhaps, but tomorrow. C. R. STEWART.

Woodtown, Va.

Negroes in other sections are taking the same view. Soon after the lynching of a negro in South Carolina recently, the negroes of the neighborhood held a meeting and adopted resolutions, declaring that "we must help and not hinder the detection and arrest of the criminal and venom of our race, and if there is anything lacking on the part of the negro, it is self-respect, and self-respect will not come unless we cease consorting with and defending rascals, thieves and murderers of our race."

The Atlanta Georgian says that its editions have been filled for days with comments from strong and sensible people on the county concerning the crusade which the people in that section are making to enlist the cooperation of the negroes themselves for the suppression of vice. If the better class of negroes throughout the South will join heartily in this crusade and employ all the means at their command to prevent criminal assault on the part of members of their race, the problem will soon solve itself. Respectable negroes cannot afford to do otherwise. They must protect themselves from the criminal class of their own race. As our correspondent says, the negro States are threatening the existence of the negro race.

Wellman: a Shattered Idol.

For good (?) the Montgomery Advertiser has gotten word that Walter Wellman has abandoned his Polar trip in the Fall, and is feeling quite chastened and subdued about it. Our friend had fixed his eye upon bold Walter as upon a heroic, and it is not pleasant to see one's heroes so off-color at a breath like an ill-informed wind. Says he:

"We are sadly, badly and melancholily disappointed in Walter Wellman. We were betting on Walt. He was so positive, confident and determined even that little bit of whipping his wife in way to the Pole that we could almost see him coming back with a ship or it planted to his breast. We have been wrong, and the disappointed elderly, each morning expecting to see the adventurer could not be sad. Kicked the world from under his feet and was sailing through "the viewless fields of air" in search of what has cost so much in time, money and human life.

"Long as that is a bitter experience at best, and to the surrowing Advertiser good of from this office the sombre raiment of sympathy. But there is a silver lining even to the funeral cloud. Walter is yet among us, and his polar investigations are only given up "for this year." In anticipating those yet to come, we seem to see him often forgathering cheerily and in an out-look at Spitzbergen, and manifestly rearing himself to his fullest in a very ecstasy of prospective glory. Looking down the vista of the future, we descry effect many seasons when the friendship of Walter and the Advertiser Diamond of fearless exploration and Pathos or journalistic reverence Nolly again be reunited in a bond of perfect bonds.

"For our part, we, too, have watched Walter thus far face onward with no spoiler of the Old Pole peeping, tooth-pick-wise, from his vest pocket; but we have felt no sorrows about it, on the contrary, we have commended him as a man fit for his generation, who knows well enough to discourage a lofty pathetic event flying off in Arctic airways and, for all we know, the reason I feel for hence. Walter is modestly grateful in preferring that his wind, so to speak, elderly, somewhere nearer to the office of the Chicago Record-Herald."

A Coffee Chance for Porto Rico.

Large profits made in coffee was practically established by the great horrigan [illegible] a pound of time with [illegible] Americans to the island [illegible] been recovered. A general [illegible] of the plantations was [illegible] under the existing system [illegible] and compared in Porto Rico [illegible] Street [illegible] land get control of the [illegible] market and put the price of [illegible] a pound since Porto Ricans [illegible] to production [illegible] Broad [illegible] that one-half of the [illegible] coffee and far-[illegible] to the year ending [illegible] 1905, with 64,000 pounds, but [illegible] of [illegible]

[illegible] fall in coffee is very cheap. It is [illegible] in New York at an average [illegible] which [illegible] has been [illegible] The [illegible] are [illegible] coffee has been [illegible] planters have [illegible] with the press [illegible] and [illegible] the government to [illegible] a [illegible] for [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] Porto Rico [illegible] [illegible] Times-Dispatch [illegible] the [illegible] underwriting on the part of the state of the purchase of the entire coffee output by a home commission, which will in turn resell to foreign customers. The tangible result will be to elevate the price of Brazilian coffee at American ports from eight to eleven cents a pound.

If the scheme works out, it will mean that Americans will have to pay some $5,000,000 more in coffee bills this year than last. Porto Rico, on the other hand, should find the situation most encouraging. It should give her an excellent chance to recover some of the business which Brazil wrested away from her some seven or eight years ago.

Dummy Directors.

The president of the Philadelphia bank which recently closed its doors had for years been robbing it and making false statements, yet not one of the many directors knew the fact. One and all, they plead ignorant. Most of them, doubtless, were busy men, who were so much engrossed with their own immediate affairs that they did not take the trouble and time to look into the bank's affairs, but left the president to run the institution to suit himself, and the president took advantage of their carelessness and wrecked the bank.

It is an old story, but none the less disgraceful. No man has the right to accept a position of trust and be a dummy. It is the duty of the directors to direct. It is the business of the directors to know what is going on in the bank, and nothing should be taken for granted. The director who hasn't the time to discharge his duties should resign and let his place be filled by some one who will. The dummy director is lacking either in self-respect or conscientiousness.

Tell a woman day after day, if she requires it of you, that you do love her, and make her believe it, and then you can not let her neglect her, and she will still cling to you and fight for you—in words if polite society, or words and deed in majesty—against all the world, says the Pall Mall Gazette. Strange, isn't it, how much newspaper writers know about the management of women, and yet the public seems to profit by all this experience.

Think of it! They are having a drought in New England, and in Maine the streams are so low that many mills have had to shut down for lack of water-power. The rains this year are in the South. Everything seems to be coming our way.

The railroads announce that they will not "fight" the new rate bill. Doubtless, as Corp was so fond of saying of Mr. Harriss's Tommy, they have found "a way."

Yet Demosthenes, who made a certain reputation by the bitter talk he indulged in at another man's expense, could hardly have qualified as a Georgia editor in campaign times.

Gorky Bay had lots of trouble in getting rid of Miss Essex due to the fact that former Bonnie Barnes is now pursuing another vacation.

The Sultan is ill. An overdose of ultimatums is understood to be the cause.

Anyway, it's a poor spell that won't work both ways.

There are busy days among the Russian undertakers.

Pope Pianciani Matthews to drop in and foretell—pole on a Shakespeare set.

Rhymes for To-Day

De Senectute.

(Being an Ode to a Hat Whose Glory Has Departed.)

You hat, that I did buy me
Last June, why look at an army?
So nagged and upstanding
And so different from new's
Short straw. Last through the fervid
July days never wavered.
Why was you low so curved
And misshapen and askew?
You look, I'd swear, addressing
And most unpossessing—
I noticed not while dressing
This man, in profile!
And student I cried to Bobbie:
"My dear, run and a cobbler,
I'll tip—this hat's too shabby
To be seen abroad to-day."

Yet, though your crown is shattered,
Your brim all frank and battered,
I'd stand yours if it mattered
Half as much to you as me,
But, but, you're not so shameless
As though yourself were blameless,
And hence I've got that nameless,
Yet profound dislike for you.

I feel in fact tears starting,
Nothing of anguish darting,
To think our time of parting
Has at last come very nigh:
You get so uncourtlily
And look so slanted sneakily
I'll tell you, quite politely,
I'll be glad to say good-by.

—H. S. H.

Merely Joking.

Can You See Through Him?—"That man never will admit that he is bored." "Of course not; he's too well drilled."—Baltimore American.

The Hobo Stole a Ride. "How on earth did you get into this awful state?" "Don't tell the railroad authorities, mama, but I came on a freight train."—Judge.

Takes a Lot. "Sonkski takes more interest in his business than any one I know." "Which is his business?" "Keeping a parrot."—Cleveland Leader.

The Trouble. Freddie's Aunt: "Why, Freddie, what's the matter? Don't you like your new toy motorboat?" Freddie: "Yes, auntie, it has fun, too!—it doesn't have any engine!"—Puck.

Only a Few Left. The office introduction: "Allow me to inform you that I am the last of the great family of the Van Stones." She (thoughtlessly): "Dear me! I'd never, I am sure!"—Le Rire.

The Mean Thing. Arabian Mamma: "Little Hack is spending recess with the teacher." Practical Papa: "Take him around to the dentist's." A. M.: "I haven't any money." P. P.: "You won't need any money. The toothache will stop before you get there."—New York Weekly.

Northern Press on Bryan's "Platform"

Drifting to Hearstism.

His speech proves that he was indeed right when he claimed to be more radical than he was in 1896. However, the Democratic politicians have blindly committed the party to anything that Mr. Bryan says and does, and his speech of last night is the party platform. Mr. Bryan has defined the issues on which he expects the campaigns of 1906 and of 1908 will be fought, and the party bound itself in advance to take these issues "unsight and unseen." In London Mr. Bryan complained that Mr. Roosevelt had stolen his clothes. But it would not have been seemly for a peerless leader to return in political nakedness, so garments had to be provided. If Mr. Roosevelt stole Mr. Bryan's clothes, Mr. Bryan in turn seems to have stolen Mr. Hearst's clothes—and Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.—New York World.

Government Ownership Question

Mr. Bryan says nothing alarming, but he brings back to America a predilection for two foreign ideas—an income tax and government ownership and operation of the railways. The ownership and operation of the 220,000 miles of lines, spread like network over our 3,000,000 square miles of territory would be another matter. There are now more a million employes. Under public and political operation the number would be doubled. Fancy two million more voters directly under the thumb of a national partisan administration! Mr. Bryan may well express a doubt whether the country is yet ripe for a change. Government regulation is essential, government ownership an undesirable and remote possibility, but government management—never!—New York Herald.

A Socialistic Program.

The Democratic party is boldly committed to a program of State socialism which it has never yet ventured to affirm in its wildest moments of radicalism. Of Mr. Bryan's platform as a whole, it is sufficient to say that it is no more radical than he has shown himself to be in the past, and no more conservative. It proves that the altered, humbled and chastened Bryan, heralded by our ex-conservative Democratic friends was an idle myth. Neo-Bryanism is no a bit different from the Bryanism of 1896. The real change is that he said this paper is in hearty accord; and, though some of the propositions he advances are not, in our view, consistent with the spirit of our institutions, nor safely to be put in practice, yet these are not insistently urged, but are qualified with the doubt that neither the sentiment of the public nor the party may yet be ripe to entertain them. Later the Virginian-Pilot will review all the opinions and theories which Mr. Bryan has advanced and will deal frankly with them. For the present it will suffice to say that the matter and manner of the address betoken careful study of conditions and an earnest desire to deal with them candidly and for the good of the country. The voice was neither that of a radical nor a dictator.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

Of No Consequence.

His declaration in favor of government ownership of railroads is meaningless. It is very cautious and remote and hedged with so many ifs and ands and conditions that as he presents it, it is not a practical question and will not be seriously considered in political discussion. It is opposed to every principle of Democracy, to the very essential and foundation theory of the party, which is against the increase or centralization of power in the hands of the Federal government; but the proposition may be dismissed with a smile as a mere empty and inconsequential theory not likely to become an actual living question within the next ten or fifteen years.—Richmond News Leader.

De-lighted.

All who have taken the trouble to follow the teachings and preachings of The Journal on the subject of the tariff, and its evil offspring, the trusts, can readily understand how heartily we endorse Mr. Bryan's attitude on this subject as set forth in his great speech last night, and our profound gratification at his boldly proclaiming this as the paramount issue of the next presidential campaign.—Richmond Evening Journal.

HEARST ON BRYAN.

Rather Faint "Welcome" From One Candidate to Another.

Mr. Bryan's welcome home yesterday pilot appeal to him as the most flattering experience of the long journey which he thus brought to a fitting end. Abroad he was honored by princes and kings. At the threshold of his own country, he was met on the common ground of equality by his fellow countrymen, and, it will look preposterous, at least with [illegible] and enthusiasm they crowded and almost smothered them. Small wonder that before the plaudits of the welcoming delegations, Mr. Bryan, who could continue to be eloquent in the presence of princes, was at a loss yesterday for power to tell how he felt to be back in America once more.—New York American.

The Law and the Mob.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir, you cannot help being somewhat amused at the sentiment laid by The Times-Dispatch among the newspapers on the distinguishing traits of Christians. It is a debatable question whether the demonstration following this species of justice is sweeter than that arising out of Bob's difference to all punishment whatever, except that for crimes against property. One might almost say that he would be just as in favor of turning loose a crazy certain to the State, to [illegible] and relief, from the man who condemns lynch law and at the same time raters against the mob, unless we are willing to confide on some impartial tribunal, as [illegible] the [illegible] waste at least to see [illegible] [illegible] even though it be a wild lynching plaidoy. He wants other people to know that our courts [illegible] can save [illegible] as it should and for any crime. He wants the world to know that we have the [illegible] to know [illegible] shall be no [illegible] of the law, as the law [illegible] be [illegible] and [illegible] for that [illegible] some speedy certainty, terrible, swift and the punishment [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]