

SALEM, ILL., AND THE BRYAN FAMILY

Gossip About the Birthplace and Relatives of a Presidential Nominee.

Salem, the birthplace of William Jennings Bryan, is a cozy, prosperous, orderly and attractive country village. Located on the edge of Egypt, it is as progressive and modern as the average town of 2,000 people in the well-to-do farming section of Ohio, Pennsylvania or New York.

Salem is just that sort of a town that produces presidential timber. It possesses the comforts and conveniences of city life without the superficialities of a metropolis. Reared in such an environment the youth enters upon the struggle for existence or fame with a keen sympathy for the plain, common people who molded his character and placed their imprint upon him.

formed the native wilderness into one of the finest country places in the state. He read with avidity every book which could be obtained, and he never forgot what he read. At an age when most men would scorn to attend school he took a course of instruction and graduated at McKendree college in 1849.

By that time the people of Salem and the surrounding country had become acquainted with the ambitious and aggressive young Bryan. He was an eloquent speaker and could talk on any subject. He was a Jeffersonian Democrat of the old school and in his long public career never deviated in the slightest degree from the tenets of his political faith. He challenged

to Salem after his nomination. Charles W. Bryan is in business in Omaha and is doing well. He is 29 years old. Next come Nannie, aged 24, who has been private secretary to her famous brother, Mamie, the youngest of the family, lives with Mrs. Baird, and has recently attained her 22nd year. All of the Bryan children have had the advantage of a liberal education, are extensive readers of good literature and are thoroughly posted on current events.

W. J. Bryan was born in a modest house located on Broadway in Salem. The house was originally built of logs, hewn by Judge Bryan. The logs are now sheathed in weather boards, and the building presents a comfortable and modern appearance. It was to this log house that Silas Bryan took his young wife, and here William J. and several children were born. The elder Bryan had not finished the house when sent to the senate, but did so on his return. A few years later he began work on a substantial brick farm house about a mile east of Salem. This was the pride of Judge Bryan's life, and it stands to day as a monument to his energy and perseverance. Surrounded by 600 acres of the finest land in Illinois, the brick mansion stands 500 feet back from the country road, and is approached by a private drive-way lined with six rows of splendid maples, whose foliage now arches the broad spaces between the rows. There is not a prettier country place in Southern Illinois.

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The first feeling suggested by such a concurrence of circumstances is one of distrust. None of these things had been anticipated or prepared for; and, as with all ill-omened surprises, the worst features and possibilities of the case are chiefly or alone considered, and consequences there is a general surrender to a degree of alarm exceeding any real occasion. This is the stage of this political disturbance through which Wall street is now passing. The attendant unsettled feeling is intensified by the absence of definite knowledge as to how far the proceedings of the Chicago convention represent the real feeling and sentiments of the people of the West and South. The intensity of the declarations of the platform strikes the people of this section as the first of a revolutionary proclamation; and thrown off their guard, the hasty and the timid resort to defensive measures which only increase the public distrust. This, however, is not the worst form of artificial aggravation of the situation. There are professional speculators who do not hesitate to turn apprehension into danger and thereby precipitate a great fall in prices. Others are attacking the position of the treasury by exchanging legal tenders for gold, for the purpose of increasing the public distrust.

These are the kind of elements that have been brought into play by reckless speculators during the past week. The case was made more serious by an unexpected increase in the exports of gold, under which the treasury gold balance fell below ninety millions. That fact, together with increasing information on the Stock Exchange, brought the banks to a rescue. On Monday, informal consultation among the managers brought about an agreement to replenish the treasury; and during the week \$15,000,000 of gold was pledged for exchange at the sub-treasury for legal tenders, so as to be ready for use in case of a defensive action. An unmistakable expression of the confidence of the banks in the situation and in the ability of the government to maintain its payments. It is also evidence that the banks are not to be established by the gold standard upon a permanent basis. Some such action by men entrusted to judge of the situation was the only thing that could help the timid and pessimistic holders of investments to hold their own against their fears; and the course taken by the banks was materially contributed to the restoration of public confidence. It is much to be hoped that there will henceforth be a cessation of hoarding of gold. It is that most unworthy form of speculation which seeks to enrich itself at the expense of country. At present, there is no danger of gold going to a premium, except such as may arise from these very attempts at hoarding; and the banks are to be commended for the care they take to get rid of the gold of the treasury. This is one of the fields of politics in which courage is saving, while fear becomes danger. If there are any speculators deliberately bent upon forcing the banks to a standstill, they must count upon bucking against the banks of New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, and other large cities, which know a good many ways in which such a game against the banks' credit may be made very unprofitable.

The true attitude for the moment is to wait for fuller information upon the factors that are to determine the future. At present all is chaotic in the field of politics. The young Gollah from the far West occupies such a large place in the public imagination that all people of this sort are beginning to tremble for the cause of sound money. The best thing that timorous class can do, both for themselves and the country, is to tie themselves up and keep their tongues still, until sufficient is known about the strength of the opposing forces to form the basis of a statesman's judgment on the outcome. The present estimates of the probable results of the election are based largely upon political bluff, deliberately gotten up by party managers, and are not trustworthy information. How far the spirit and letter of the Chicago platform represent the majority of the West and the South—we have as yet no trustworthy information. Before we can credit the claims of the Bryanite politicians we must be prepared to abandon all we have ever known or believed as to the loyalty and common sense of this particular forty millions of our citizens. This is a factor of which we know something; we have seen it subject to generations of free and honest government, and we have seen it here at its commercial value, whereas the United States silver dollar goes in Mexico in its purchasing power for two of their dollars. It is quite evident, therefore, if it is simply taken here at its commercial value, whereas the United States silver dollar goes in Mexico in its purchasing power for two of their dollars. It is quite evident, therefore, if it is simply taken here at its commercial value, whereas the United States silver dollar goes in Mexico in its purchasing power for two of their dollars.

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I wish to say a word about cheese. There has been great improvement in making butter in the last few years, but I cannot say the same for cheese. I have seen some of the best cheese made in the West, but it has not been able to stand the test of time. I have seen some of the best cheese made in the West, but it has not been able to stand the test of time.

On this farm young "Billy" Bryan, as he was then and is yet called by the Salem folk, spent the years of his boyhood. He has little recollection of the house in which he was born, and left there when about 5 years old, and moved to the farm. Up to the time he was 10 years old he studied at home under the tutelage of his mother and father. He then entered the "old college" at Salem, remained there a year, and then attended public school.

To the best of my recollection Mrs. Cross was my first teacher," said Mr. Bryan, while talking over school days with his sister, Mrs. Baird. "I know that it was at the old college I had my first and only fight with another schoolboy. How did it come out? Mrs. Cross separated us while we were clinched and gave us a good scolding."

In the public school a Mrs. Lemon was his teacher. At the age of 15 he had finished with the Salem schools and went to Jacksonville, where he attended college for six years. In vacation time he would return to the old farm and work with his father, and the hired help in the fields or around the big barns. Some seasons he "hired out" to neighboring farmers, and earned spending money, which came handy at the Jacksonville college. On one occasion after working all the day in a harvest field, young Bryan, half exhausted, lay in the shade of a tree near the farm house waiting for supper. The old farmer happened along. He looked at the tired young man a moment.

"While you are resting, Billy," said the agriculturist, "you might chop a little wood."

"I made up my mind then," said Mr. Bryan, "that the life of the hired man was not so enviable a one as some novelists had pictured it."

At the age of 21 Bryan graduated at Jacksonville, entered the law office of William Springer, and subsequently went to Chicago, and continued the study of law with the late Lyman Trumbull. His later history is well known.

present standard, and make it mandatory for all Mexican silver dollars to be forwarded to the United States mint to be converted into United States dollars. The Mexican dollar, now worth only 54 cents, after being melted down by the United States mint and coined into a United States dollar, would be worth double its present value, have twice the purchasing power and would carry as well a credit of two cents, that being the bullion value of the Mexican dollar above the United States dollar.

If this be possible for the Mexican government, the European nations will be scholars, and follow the example of Mexico in the conversion of their silver money, of which they hold \$1,500,000,000 in amount. They will want back in exchange, however, our gold, of which we have \$500,000,000 altogether in this country, which will only provide for 33 1-3 per cent of their silver holdings, and to get that amount they will have to be quick to act so as to have the bullion value of the Mexican dollar. The competition for our \$500,000,000 of gold would beat everything on record. The race would be won in the swift.

So far as respects transactions in securities, we counsel our friends to follow moderation in their operations. Already, prices have fallen much below their real value, and probabilities of the political situation warrant speculation based on political factors and political manipulation is especially uncertain; and the present tendency seems to be towards the market falling under that sort of control.

SITUATION IN LONDON.

Not Yet Elected by the Populist Convention.

LONDON, July 26.—The action of the New York bankers in checking gold exports, together with the unceasing issue of new companies and the coming Russian loan, combine to keep money rates fairly steady. On the stock exchange business has been very moderate, the greatest demand being for industrial ventures as investments. Gas and water companies, breweries and hotels all showed an upward movement. Mines were in fact dropping in price, and the market was still falling. The nomination by the Populist convention of Mr. Bryan came too late to affect the market, but will probably cause a further fall next week. Gold bonds maintained their prices well. Otherwise no confidence exists in the market in face of the growing strength of the silver interest. Lake Shore was a point better on the week. The Chicago market was quiet. Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul and Erie Mortgage, 2; Central Pacific, Denver & Rio Grande preferred, Louisville & Nashville and Northern Pacific, 1 1/2; Pennsylvania & Wabash, 1; others fractional.

ABOUT THE FARM.

It All Ends With the Silo.

The problem of feed has had much experimentation, and so far but one satisfactory solution. From the straw stack to the silo the whole gamut has been run, roots, ground feed, cut feed, corn on the cob and hay in the manger, oil cake and distillery slops. In preparation of feed we have had the cutter and the shredder, and the mangle, and lately the shredder and mangle, and grain thresher has been used to thresh the corn. But after all results are summed up the conclusion is forced home that as all the silage is made in the silo, the silage is a pretty poor lot of roughage before it went in.

The silo is 12x14 feet, and after setting for four weeks, the ensilage was 14 feet deep. I fed eight cows from Nov. 1 to March 25, and a particle was left in the manger. They did not need cleaning but once in that time. For a long time no other coarse food was given, and did not feed a ton of straw or straw in the whole time. I have owned hay now to sell to pay twice the silo, or enough to buy the whole outfit—cutter, carrier and silo.

By this method of covering, feeding and filling there was no waste, and the waste was waste. The cows began to improve in appearance and milk yield at once. Being kept in a warm barn, they were clean and healthy, they shed their hair early, and were as smooth in hair as a race horse in March. They were milked clean, and gave larger messes of milk than ever before. When the ensilage was gone, the amount of milk dropped in spite of a ration of best potatoes, oil meal and clover hay. Just why the poor corn fodder will produce such good results, after being cooked tender in a silo, I can not more tell than why two quarts of stubble (mostly water) per day give just the same results as two quarts of milk. There is a saying that "from nothing, nothing comes." I know that we have more than enough to know that, and wintered at smaller cost, than ever before, from a quantity of corn that ordinarily would be almost worthless. It does not seem reasonable. I did not believe that had been said and printed in favor of ensilage, would I built my silo. I see now that more ground corn can be stored in a silo than in a stack; that more stock can be kept, much by reason of change of crops, perhaps, as much as the silage that causes a farmer to grow root crops for cattle. I would not