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## GREAT COMMONER OPENS CAMPAIGN

### In Great Speech at Kansas City, Bryan Launches His Party in the Most Important Contest in Years—Calls "Teddy" a Failure, Hits Taft and Asks for Reform

Kansas City, March 31.—In a speech prickly with barb shafts aimed at Roosevelt and Taft, W. J. Bryan, peerless leader, formally opened the 1908 Democratic campaign yesterday, launching his party in a contest fated to go down in history as the most important and hardest fought political battle ever waged in this country.

The Democratic slogan this year will be the two R's—Real Reform. Mr. Bryan says the Roosevelt brand will not do. Declare it's of the fleeting, ephemeral variety. The Nebraskan professes to believe the rank and file of Republicans are not satisfied with the Roosevelt brand and with this as a basis, he conjures visions of Democratic victory.

In speeches recently and in interviews, Mr. Bryan has been fulsome in his praise of Roosevelt and his big stick wallop. Now he has turned Roosevelt in a laudatory. That sums up the Nebraskan's view now of the present occupant of the white mansion he longs to grace.

"The President has failed to strengthen the anti-trust laws, has failed to jail a trust magnate, has obtained no tariff reform or labor legis-

lation and there are more trusts now than when Bryan in discussing the President's moves he so lately praised.

In jabbing at Secretary Taft, the peerless one hinted Roosevelt should have picked Senator La Follette, a real reformer, as the Republican candidate, and said that without the support of the administration, Taft would scarcely have a state in the convention.

Mr. Bryan's speech was delivered at a dollar dinner, given by the Young Men's Democratic club of Missouri. Fully 15,000 were present. Judson Harmon also spoke and both orators were enthusiastically greeted. Mr. Harmon discussed the tariff, trusts and rich men and predicted Democratic victory.

In his speech, Mr. Bryan said in part:

"In this great city, on the boundary line between Missouri, with her rock-ribbed Democracy, and the West, which until 1896 was counted as Republican territory, we have met to begin the campaign of 1908 and to present those principles and policies which ought to appeal to progressive Americans."

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## 200,000 COAL MINERS WILL LAY DOWN PICKS

### Operation will Suspend Tonight in Many States—President Mitchell Preposes to Step Out of Office—Many Changes Among the Officials will go into Effect.

Indianapolis, March 31.—The union miners in most of the coal fields of the country will lay down their picks and shovels tonight.

Almost 25,000 of them will stop work in Ohio, western Pennsylvania, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas and probably in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, West Virginia and Kentucky. The mining contracts under which they are now working expire at midnight tonight and, except in central Pennsylvania, and in the Indiana block coal district, no contracts have been made nor have the miners and operators yet entered into district agreements providing for the operation of the mines after April 1 pending agreement.

This is a possibility in the Indiana bituminous coal district, in Illinois, Michigan and West Virginia. The Indiana bituminous western Pennsylvania and Illinois miners and operators are in joint session at Terre Haute, Pittsburg and Springfield. Technically the miners will go out on strike, but in reality they stop work

because the operators, except in Indiana and Illinois, show no real intention of meeting and treating with them, though no question of wage or principle is at stake.

John Mitchell returned yesterday and is preparing to step out of office. Congressman W. B. Wilson is back from central Pennsylvania, where he scored the first big success in the present situation by getting the central Pennsylvania operators and miners into an agreement. That district will continue to work.

Vice President T. L. Lewis, who will succeed President Mitchell Wednesday, will announce his appointments when he takes office. It is understood that Samuel Sexton, editor of the United Mine Workers' Journal, is to be retired and that possibly Chris Evans, the official statistician, may be succeeded by a new appointee. Mr. Lewis, however, has not given out any information concerning these changes.

Mr. Ryan, the new secretary-treasurer, will bring with him from Illinois as his right hand man, Frank

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## OHIO MAN SAYS THAT HE WALKED ON CLOUDS

### Tom Conner Should Take All Prizes as a Nature Fakir—Says That He Hesitated to Tell of Strange Experience for Fear He Would not be Believed—Story Should Have Been Held Until Tomorrow.

Thunderbolt, O., March 31.—Thomas Conner, who had such a narrow escape from death yesterday, hesitated to tell your correspondent the thrilling details, because he thought some persons might not believe him.

"I went to the mountain top," said Mr. Conner, "to gather arbutus, and was so busy that I did not notice a storm gathering. I had not observed that the storm had driven the clouds into the valley and packed them so tightly that they formed a vast plateau.

"I stepped off the mountain and started to cross the valley on the top of the clouds. It was soft, but it

sustained me until I got to a spot where there was a rift in the clouds. One step more and I would have tumbled off the edge of the clouds and fallen a mile to the earth below.

"By the time the sun was beginning to come out and the vast plain commenced to melt. At one time I sank to my waist in the white and only after the most strenuous efforts did I drag myself out and reach a cloud that was a trifle harder.

"Before I reached the mountain the whole field began to break up, and several times I was compelled to jump from cloud to cloud like Eliza crossing on the ice. When at last I reached the mountainside, I was faint from exertion and terror."

### FIRE DESTROYS FLAT BUILDING

Chicago, March 31.—Fire destroyed the Aldine, a four story apartment house early today. The building was occupied by forty families. All escaped unhurt.

### HE OBEYED COMMAND

#### Father Kills Wife and Self at Order of Son's Spirit.

New York, March 31.—Believing that his dead son, Edward, whose ashes stood in an urn at the head of his bed, had commanded a family reunion, Frank Randall of Brooklyn, fatally shot his wife and then killed himself. The tragedy followed a long talk in which Randall engaged with the spirit of his son.

### GILLETTE IS BURIED

Auburn, N. Y., March 31.—Chester Gillette was buried this afternoon in Soule cemetery here. In all just nine people were at the graveside of Grace Brown's murderer.

### SOCIETY GIRL SHOOT SENIOR

#### Accidental Shooting in Basement of Edwards' "Gym" at Delaware.

Delaware, O., March 31.—W. I. Weidy, one of the best known members of the senior class of Ohio Wesleyan university, was probably fatally shot Monday afternoon by Miss Cornelia Albright, a society favorite of this city.

The shooting was entirely by accident and Miss Albright is prostrated over the affair. She was with Lieutenant Menges, U. S. A., Wesleyan commandant, in the basement of Edwards' gymnasium where the rifle range is located.

Mr. Weidy was coming down the stairs and was unnoticed by the young lady, who picked up her rifle to shoot at a target. As Weidy entered the rifle was in some manner discharged while Miss Albright was hitting it up to aim.

Weidy fell over and it was seen at once that his condition was serious and he was hurried to the hospital, where there is little hope of his recovery. Dr. Hamilton arrived Monday night from Columbus and performed an operation.

Mr. Weidy is the orator of the school, athlete member of the Beta Theta Phi fraternity and one of the most popular students in the big Methodist school, his home is at Smithfield, Ohio.

### RAIN OF LAVA FROM OLD VOLCANO CAUSES ALARM

San Francisco, March 31.—The Panama yesterday brought news of a volcano in Guatemala so long extinct that its name has been forgotten, having recently broken out.

Its long sleep terminated three weeks ago with such terrifying mutterings and spoutings of lava and smoke that the people living at San Felipe at the base of the mountain, are fleeing for their lives. Opposite the new volcano is Santa Maria, a volcano which during the last 200 years has wiped out town after town.

The inhabitants of the district fear a repetition of the Santa Maria catastrophe and are therefore deserting the mountainside. Already the country for miles is covered some inches deep with dust and ashes from the active mountains.

### CAUGHT IN MACHINERY

#### Miller is Hurled to Instant Death—Was Prominent Lodgeman.

Killbuck, March 31.—J. J. Stagers, head miller in J. C. and W. Duncan's roller mills was killed instantly yesterday. He was caught in some way in a piece of machinery at the top of the mill and whirled around by it to his death. He was mangled about the head and lower limbs. At the time of the accident he was taking measurements of some new machinery which he was about to have placed in the mill.

Mr. Stagers was born Jan. 6, 1858, in Londonville. At an early age he began work in the Londonville mills. Later he moved to Pittsburg, where he had a leading position in a large mill. He was head miller in Duncan's mill for 15 years. Four years ago he started in the grocery business and until the fire last fall he had one of the best stores in the county. About a month ago he started in the mill again.

He was a Knight Templar, and Odd Fellow.

## CONGRESS WILL PUT A CRIMP IN SENOR CASTRO

### Will Give the President Power to Use Armed Force if Necessary to Secure the Rights of American Citizens—To Stop Trade with Venezuela.

Washington, March 31.—In order to make President Castro of Venezuela, abandon his conceit that he can with impunity defy the United States and to induce him to submit to arbitration claims of American citizens whom he has injured, the following means, it is understood, will be resorted to by congress to put prohibitive rates of duty on Venezuelan coffee, ninety per cent of which comes to the United States and which constitutes

half of the total exports of that country, to prohibit importation of asphalt from Venezuela and give the president power to use such other means as he may see fit, with use of an armed force as last resort.

Venezuelan correspondence was sent to congress today by Secretary Taft, with comments by American investigators, indicating that in their opinion Castro was wrong in all his acts involving American interests in Venezuela.

## CORONER BELIEVES THAT LOVERS WERE MURDERED

### Suicide of Cleveland Pair Disbelieved Because the Police Have Been Unable to Find Revolver—Police are Hunting for the Murderer.

Cleveland, March 31.—With the revelations of the autopsy that a third person probably killed Miss Lena Ziechmann, a school teacher and Carl Bernthaler, a music teacher, the police today are investigating the lives of the victims and the inside facts as to their families. The autopsy showed that the wounds were so located that it is practically impossible that either victim fired the shots. The autopsy on the girl also showed that her love for the music teacher was purely platonic. The revolver with which the killing was done has not been found after careful search. The theory of the investigating officers is that the murderer came upon Miss Ziechmann and Bernthaler as they sat under a tree in the woods, leaned over and shot Bernthaler through the shoulder, piercing his heart.

The woman got up and started to run, whereupon the murderer fired at her twice. The first bullet was found on a fence. The second one killed the girl. What is now puzzling the police is a motive for the crime. To discover this, an investigation of all relationships is being made. Letters have been found, showing that Miss Ziechmann, as well as her sister, who is now married, lived in fear. Ziechmann still insists that Bernthaler

killed his daughter.

Cleveland, March 31.—Detectives are searching Dundas Woods for a missing revolver, upon which may hang a solution of the mystery surrounding the tragic death of Carl Bernthaler, 58 years of age, and Miss Lena Zimmerman, 26. The bodies of the man and woman, with their hearts pierced by a revolver bullet were found early yesterday in the forest in Cleveland Heights, just east of the city.

While murder and suicide first were supposed the absence of a revolver led the coroner to declare that Bernthaler and Miss Ziechmann were murdered by a third party.

Bernthaler was a music teacher and a member of an opera house orchestra. Twice married, a widow and six children survive him.

Miss Ziechmann was a music pupil of Bernthaler and also was a teacher of German in the public schools. She and her music master had been acquainted for many years. Her father is a local florist. They left their homes Sunday afternoon and met in Dundas Woods. The coroner has estimated that they came to their death during the early evening.

### BRYAN NOT EXPECTED AT JEFFERSON DAY DINNER

New York, March 31.—An official list of the Democrats who are to speak at the National Democratic club's Jefferson day dinner at the Hotel Knickerbocker on April 3, was given out last night by one of the governors of the club and it did not include the name of W. J. Bryan.

The statement contained the significant announcement that "this list would not be enlarged." This in view of the positive announcement made on Saturday by Mr. Bryan's press representative in New York, that he Nebraskan had been invited to speak and would be present creates a great deal of comment.

### CHICAGO COPS PLAN TO GUARD TAFT DURING VISIT

Chicago, March 31.—Great precautions will be taken to protect Secretary Taft when he comes here Friday. The police officials say they have reason to fear for his safety. Taft will be guarded every minute during his stay by police squads and detectives.

### HARRIS WANTS EVERY DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATED

Columbus, March 31.—Governor Harris will send a special message to the general assembly, urging the appointment of a bi-partisan committee, one democrat and one republican to make an investigation of every state department. He will ask that he be given authority to name the commission, subject to the approval of the senate.

### FALLING WALLS OF OLD CHURCH KILL TWO BOYS

Provincetown, Mass., March 31.—While inside the shaky walls of the half-burned Centenary Methodist Episcopal church late yesterday in search of fire wood, two boys were killed by the collapse of a portion of the ruins and a man was seriously injured.

### WILL FIGHT INSTEAD OF GOING ABROAD FOR HEALTH

Columbus, March 31.—It developed today at the meeting of the state treasury investigating committee that Treasurer McKinnon, instead of going abroad for his health, Wednesday has employed a Columbus firm of lawyers to represent him at the probe and will put up a fight for what he believes are his rights.

### FOUR OHIO POSTMASTERS ARE NOMINATED

Washington, March 31.—Four Ohio postmasters were nominated today. Thomas G. Moore, Banesville; Lee L. Casby, Dresden; Robert H. Wiley, Flushing; Mary St. Carey, Leavinton.

### BIG REWARD OFFERED FOR CAPTURE OF BUTCH HOFFMAN

Tiffin, March 31.—The county commissioners today offered a reward of \$500 for the capture of William, alias "Butch" Hoffman, who shot and killed Policeman Patrick Sweeney, Friday night.

### "HURRY ALONG, BILL! WHAT'S DETAINING YOU?"



## GAME FOR BACHELOR GIRL'S HAND ENDS IN TRAGEDY

### Man Who Won at Cards is Shot by His Fair Prize—The Girl Claims That the Shooting was Accidental.

Columbia, Miss., March 31.—With the affections of a beautiful brunette as the stake in a poker game two married men played five hands before daylight and one of them was shot and killed by the girl after he had won.

Miss Eunice Spencer, twenty years old, had for months been extremely friendly with Charles Wesley and P. F. Coombs, both well-to-do planters and both heads of families with daughters as old as Miss Spencer. Miss Spencer lived the life of a bachelor girl and her unconventional life often startled the village.

After a spirited game of seven-up, lasting until past midnight in which the two men and the girl participated Coombs declared that there was no interest in cards unless a stake was up. He suggested live games of poker, the winner to have Miss Spencer. This was agreed to, the girl herself acting as referee to her own fate. Wesley won the first two games and the third and fourth went to Coombs. In the fifth game Coombs needed but one point to go out.

Wesley had not moved his counters. Suddenly reaching across the table Wesley grabbed Coombs by the throat, remarking: "You played the game crooked and you will have to fight."

Coombs jumped from his chair and the men were soon in a death struggle with the winner of the games getting the worst of it. When Miss Spencer took a hand, seizing a Winchester rifle from its place on the wall the girl sent a bullet into the breast of Wesley. The man expired in five minutes. Miss Spencer claims the tragedy was accidental. She affirms now that Coombs had always been her enemy.

### ARMER KILLS CHILD AND INJURES WIFE WITH POKER

Huntington, W. Va., March 31.—George Conrad, a farmer of Wayne, W. Va., killed his six-year-old daughter by beating her with a poker, and fatally injuring his wife with the same weapon. Jealousy is assigned as the cause. Conrad escaped.