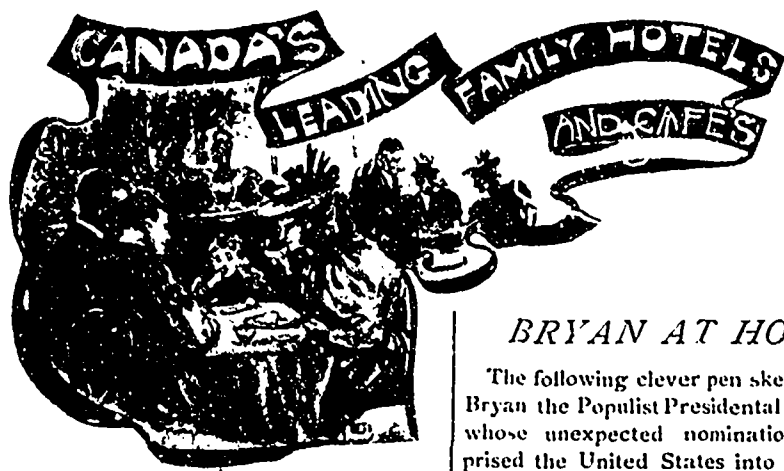




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BRYAN AT HOME.

The following clever pen sketch of W. J. Bryan the Populist Presidential candidate, whose unexpected nomination has surprised the United States into its present political ferment, will be read with interest by Canadians. It is taken from the New York Sun, a paper entirely opposed to him, therefore the fine characterisation is the more remarkable:

It has taken the people of Bryan's home a full week to calm down. For two or three days after the nomination the free silverites and Populists and half the Republicans were in a state of frenzy. The novelty of having one of their neighbours chosen as the Presidential candidate of a great party was almost too much for them. The people are more rational now, but the feeling of local pride, always strong in a Western community, is aroused as it has never been aroused before, and it is safe to say that of the votes that will be cast for Bryan electors in the State outside of what has been his legitimate following for six years, three-fourths will go to him not because of a sudden conversion to the cause of free silver, but because Bryan is a Nebraskan. It is difficult to make Eastern people understand the depth of this feeling of local pride.

The people of the country have not yet ceased wondering at Bryan's hypnotic feat at Chicago. It is not at all surprising to the people here who know the man and are familiar with his remarkable dramatic gifts and oratorical graces. Bryan had already won all the distinction it was possible for him to win in this State before the Chicago Convention, but he had many friends and admirers who for the last year have looked forward to the time when he would get a place on the Presidential ticket of the Populist or Democratic party.

The sober, intelligent, conservative people of Nebraska have long since taken an adequate measure of the character and mental capacity of Bryan, and although they give him credit for the possession of admirable personal qualities, they have him firmly fixed in the category of demagogues, Socialists, and cranks.

Bryan has taken the crude demagoguery of Altgeld and Tillman and worked it over in the crucible of sophistry, and refined it and polished it until the product as he turns it out is so softened and disguised that many people are fooled by it. The most radical utterance of the pitchfork Senator or the Anarchist Governor finds in Bryan ready and emphatic endorsement, but his endorsement is in the seductive guise of sentimental sympathy. Altgeld and Tillman assail the cause of sound government with hammer and tongs, with bomb and battering ram. Bryan's endeavours are in precisely the same direction, but he avoids the tactics of bull dog belligerency and seeks to win his way by beguiling first the outposts and then the garrison itself.

He is diplomatic, facile, agile, oily-tongued. He is a finished actor—a bril-

liant low comedian. He represents everything that Altgeld and Tillman represent, many things that are distasteful to most thinking, reasoning people, but he presents his views in such manner as to delude and deceive. Radical to the last degree, he somehow succeeds in passing himself off on the average audience as reasonable. Dangerous, as the demagogue is always dangerous, he yet convinces people that he is as innocent as a lamb. Acting in the role of an ingenu, he is full of guile. He wages warfare from behind the mask of conciliation. He appears to be pouring oil on the troubled waters, while he is in reality adding to the turbulence.

Bryan is singularly fortunate in his physical presence. He is a handsome man. His features are classic, clear cut, fine lined. When he appears before an audience he awakens interest and sympathy. When he begins to speak he takes on an air of the most perfect sincerity, the greatest candour. His manner is so simple, so plain, so earnest, so frank that his hearers are irresistibly drawn to him. Then good humour is depicted in his countenance. As he speaks he smiles, and his smile grows and expands. It is infectious. It catches the audience. He is so pathetically honest! It is doubtful if there is another man in the country so gifted in the superficial, showy qualities of oratory. He has wonderful surface brilliance.

Bryan is not a hypocrite in the sense in which the term is ordinarily used. There is no affectation in the simplicity of his manner of living. He is honest in his comparative poverty. He does not seek to hoodwink the public for the benefit of some financial interest. He cannot be accused of lack of integrity. But he does use questionable means to accomplish the end he is seeking. He has talked so long about the 'common people' and the bondage in which they are held, and has so persistently advanced specious theories for their relief, that he has worked up a certain amount of ecstatic fervour that makes him passionate and emotional, and he has convinced himself that salvation can be found in no other way than that which he advocates. The end must be attained. The people must be stirred. He has a pretty accurate idea of human nature. He deliberately appeals to emotions, prejudices, and passions. He employs artifice in subtle pleas to human cupidity. He does all this in the full knowledge of what he is doing, but excuses himself on the ground that the end justifies the means.

No man possessing Bryan's superficial brilliance was ever intellectually great. Even here, at his own home, where idol worship has been going on for years, it is not contended that he is a man of intellectual depth. He took up the cause of free silver after Bland had given it a good start and invested it with a glamour of specious brilliance, but he has not added one new idea to the philosophy of fiatism. He invented the phrase, 'without waiting for the aid or consent of any other nation on earth,' but he has never originated a principle or propounded a new theory.

SHE MARRIED HIM AFTER ALL.

You love me? Ah, I know,
As men love, no better, dear.
Worship? Yes, a month or so.
Tenderness? Perhaps a year.

After that, the quiet sense
Of possession: careless care,
And the calm indifference
That all married lovers wear.

Blame you, dearest! Not at all.
As fate made you, so you stand.
As fate made you, so you fall
Far below love's high demand.

Yet strange is love's deep law!
I can look you through and through,
Tracing plainly nature's flaw
In the heart she gave to you.

Knowing all my heart must stake,
All the danger, all the fear,
And yet glad, even so, to make
This! my losing bargain, dear!
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