

1915

UA3/1/4 Address Accepting Chairmanship of the State Democratic Convention

Henry Cherry

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Democratic Campaign Book

1915

Page 197 Address made by H. H. Cherry, President of Western Kentucky State Normal School on accepting the permanent chairmanship of the State Democratic Convention.

FROM

WESTERN KENTUCKY

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL AND
TEACHERS COLLEGE
BOWLING GREEN, KY.

Page 197 Address made by H. H. Cherry, President Western Kentucky State Normal School on accepting the permanent chairmanship of the State Democratic Convention.

A. O. STANLEY

ISSUED BY

Authority of the Democratic State
Campaign Committee.



In my opinion it is only a question of how large the majority will be, but every Democrat in the State should get busy and appoint himself a committee of one to bring another Democrat to the poles for the ticket on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

And now, fellow citizens, I await the further pleasure of this convention.

ADDRESS MADE BY H. H. CHERRY, PRESIDENT
WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE NORMAL
SCHOOL ON ACCEPTING THE PERMANENT
CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE STATE DEMO-
CRATIC CONVENTION.

My Countrymen:

I regard it as a great honor to be called upon to act as Permanent Chairman of this great Convention. I assure you, though unworthy of the recognition, that my heart is warm with gratitude for this expression of your confidence. I congratulate you upon the success of this great occasion. Party unity prevails and progressive ideals are being fostered by patriotic souls. Democratic contagion and optimism are in the air and victory is on its way. Victory is coming, it is coming and it will arrive early in November.

We hear much during this interesting 20th century about a Government that will introduce freedom and opportunity to every citizen in the land and many programs, platforms and propositions are presented as though applied and practical free Government were a thing to be brought into existence by some magic process, as though it were a thing to be set up and nailed together like a house. We sometimes forget that our Government is a spiritual life, an aggregate human thought that must grow from within, and if we would attain unto a full-grown Government, we must attain unto a full grown citizenship, and that if we would attain unto a full-grown citizenship, we must attain unto a full-grown Democracy and that if we would attain unto a full-grown Democracy, we must have a militant constructive, Democratic organization that will reach every home in the land and inspire efficient life in every honorable endeavor.

Party organization is inherent in a Democracy and is a fundamental necessity to social and industrial development. The noble Democratic party, rounded upon human rights and justice, recognizes the importance of every human being, because he is a human being,—the fundamental unit of Government, and the source of the currents of spiritual and industrial development.

It gives every citizen, whether he lives in the country or in the city, on the hill or in the valley, in a hut or in a mansion, a chance to live and grow, and an opportunity to be prosperous and happy. Founded upon the needs of the toiling masses, it declares its devotion to a policy that puts public interest above private interest, public service above public jobs, and spiritual freedom above a commercialized Government. I do not know of any reason for the existence of the Democratic party in Kentucky except for the moral, intellectual and industrial advancement of the people. The patriotic program of action, which this convention has presented to the people, together with the constructive and inspiring work that has been done by the present State and National Democratic administrations, justifies this convention in calling on every Democrat in Kentucky to be active in the work of making the Democratic victory in November the greatest in the history of the Commonwealth.

The people do not need material help so much as they need visualized life in every honorable endeavor. They do not need more money in the bank so much as they need to read, plan and think more. The average citizen does not need another dollar in the pocket so much as he needs a constructive ideal in his soul. It is true that the Government cannot force the citizen to be a success in life, but it can knock at the door of every home in the land and offer the citizen a chance to have more life and more of the material blessings of this world. It cannot put bread in all of the hungry mouths, but it can, through a constructive policy, light up human lives, endeavors and dark hovels and show the people how they may have more bread and more of the comforts and conveniences of this life. It cannot increase the yield on the farm, but it can offer agricultural instruction and information that will teach the farmer how he may increase his yield. It cannot restore life to the loved one who died from a preventable disease, but it can teach others how they may avoid dying from the same cause. It cannot force the citizen who has failed to succeed to be a success, but it can put a lamp in his hand that will light up the way to success. Indeed Democracy must carry the message of liberty and help to every home in the land.

It is a wise statesmanship that realizes that fundamental reform begins in the houses occupied by our own souls. We shall never have the greater Kentucky until every citizen leaves his neighbor alone for awhile and goes to work on himself, and gives to his country one great life and one noble endeavor; until a Father's leadership and devotion, a Mother's love and service, and christian ideals and parental authority prevail in every home; until every member of every church practices the religion he teaches in and out of church and in

private and public life; until the teacher and the pupil of every school make the school a community life,—a human nursery where industrial ideals and human individualities flourish; until all of the people get away from the rule of selfishness and bigotry, from envy and hate, and in the spirit of unity and co-operation work together for a greater State.

Our civic, social and industrial problems will be solved when we succeed in vitalizing every inch of life, soil and business and every local, county, State and National office with the right kind of brains and conscience. It is the duty of the Democratic party to work hard and then work some more for the accomplishment of this monumental task. All agree that influence, whether personal or institutional, is largely inherent in personality. The greatest thing in human endeavor is a human being. The greatest thing in a public office is a great citizen. The constructive brain, christian heart and Democratic leadership, of President Woodrow Wilson, is America's greatest asset. He leads the Government into the paths of righteousness and justice because he has a noble heart and a just mind. The purifying currents of Democracy are felt in every quarter of the globe as a result of the currents of Democratic life that have their abode in the world of his great personality. The people have visions of a larger life because he has a vision of new fields of service and in the spirit of love and self-sacrifice he toils unceasingly for the accomplishment of his vision. I sometimes fear that we are trying to dig a Panama Canal without a Goethals; trying to establish wireless telegraphy without a Marconi; trying to win a victory at Valley Forge without a Washington; trying to write a Declaration of Independence without a Jefferson; trying to reform the world without having experienced self-regeneration and trying to light up old Kentucky without having light in our own souls.

The Democratic party has nominated a strong ticket, composed of progressive citizens whose motives are vitalized with the spirit of Democracy and who, if elected, will give the State a noble service. The ticket is headed by a great citizen, a man of ability, executive power, and high purposes. During his long public career he has preserved his integrity, proven his statesmanship and has merited the confidence and the support of the people. It is the duty of the Democracy of Kentucky to see that the entire ticket is elected. We cannot separate State and National Democracy. A Democratic victory in Kentucky this fall will be a victory for Woodrow Wilson. No Democrat can be for this great leader and for his re-election and against the State ticket. The six million Democrats of this Nation will be anxiously waiting for reports from Kentucky on the evening of November 2nd. Let us work

hard for the ticket that we may be able to send them the good news that the Democracy of Kentucky, by an overwhelming majority, is behind the State ticket and Woodrow Wilson and his great policies. This announcement will have a far-reaching influence upon progressive life in our State and in putting behind the National administration a united Democracy.

Mr. James P. Edwards was called for and made the following remarks:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Convention, it is with pardonable pride and infinite pleasure that I greet the united, militant, and triumphant Democracy of Kentucky. It is proper that at this time upon the eve of battle the Democrats should gather from the big Sandy on the East to Mills Point on the West in one great get-together meeting. It is fitting that we should proclaim anew the principles enunciated by Jefferson, confirmed by Jackson and on down to Wilson, and declare to the people of Kentucky that Democracy is indeed a party of and for the people with equal rights to all, and special privileges to none.

On the night of the 7th of August after the voice of the Democracy had spoken, after the electorate had recorded its will and after the result was flashed in upon the wires nominating A. O. Stanley as our standard bearer for Governor of Kentucky, then I saw the white winged dove of peace alight upon the mast head of the ship of State, and I saw that in its bill it bore an olive branch and I knew that land was near and that Democracy would make a safe landing at the Capitol upon the ides of November.

Every Democrat in Kentucky has reason to be proud of his Democracy. Every Democrat in the Nation should hold up his head and say, "I have seen the principles of Democracy triumph. I have faith in the leader." At this time when blood and carnage flow all over Europe, when battalions have been sent against battalions, for no cause of the people, but in order that kings may continue to rule, when everything in Europe except human life has advanced in price, at this time when the ship of State has been tossed about on a billowy sea there is no man in this United States in whose breast the fires of patriotism burns who does not say "I thank God that the hand of Woodrow Wilson is at the Helm."

I greet you my fellow Kentuckians in 1915 and this gathering foretells the coming victory. When they gather in Washington in the Fall I want them to say when the returns come from here "and there stood Old Kentucky." Kentucky, Oh, Kentucky, we love your people, we love all the historic memories that cluster about

your name. We love your every mountain top that rears its proud peak heavenward in an effort to kiss the skies. We love your every bubbling brooklet that dances down the mountain side in its race to the Father of Waters. We love to see thy cattle grazing upon a thousand hills. We love your fertile plains and valleys that yield an abundance to man. Yea, we love your every gentle breeze that blows, and sways the aspen leaves and scatters the perfume of the wildflower through the land. And at this time when the spirit of Democracy is abroad in the land what have we to fear and why should we not be proud?

I point you to the record of your splendid National administration. I say to you that if this administration had done nothing more than carry out its platform pledge to the people and in the face of adverse conditions, in the face of such a war as the world has never known carried out the platform declaration and revised the tariff downward it would deserve the commendation of the people. The failure to make that revision in 1908 in the face of a platform pledge upon which the Republicans were elected was the cause of their defeat. I hold that the obligation made by a party in its platform is as sacred as the obligation of an individual with his name upon a note and I glory in the fact that the Democratic party has carried out its pledges.

You know the tariff was created by the Republican party as a protective tariff many years ago. It was to meet a condition then and does not fit conditions now. When our own Henry Clay stood upon the floor of the Senate, the greatest deliberative body on earth, and proclaimed himself and his party in favor of a protective tariff for the protection of infant industries, he did not conceive the giants to which those industries would grow. I am reminded here of a fable in which Sinbad the sailor, was wrecked at sea. He found himself upon a lonely isle. He thought he was the only person present there, but in traversing that lonely land, he found a little old decrepit man sitting at the side of a tree, and he said, "my friend, who are you?" And the old man said, "I am the little old man of the sea." Sinbad said what do you here? The little man said, "I cannot ford the waters to the main land beyond, but you are big and strong and I pray you place me upon your shoulders and carry me to safety." Sinbad, the sailor, picked the little old man of the sea up, and placed him upon his massive shoulders and forded the water to the mainland beyond. When he got there he wanted to dislodge the little old man of the sea but the little man fastened his bony fingers in Sinbad's hair and wrapped his wiry legs around his neck and wouldn't get off and all of Sinbad's strength could not dislodge him and from that time on wherever Sinbad