

COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Register of Papers

I

Processed: MA,IB
Date: 12/9/55

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

(1860 - 1925)

The papers of William Jennings Bryan, lawyer, editor, orator, monetary reformer, Congressman, Secretary of State, were given to the Library of Congress in 1926-29 by Mrs. Bryan, her daughter, Mrs. Rohde, and other members of the family.

Measure of size: 63 boxes

Approximate number of items: 9,400

The Library of Congress has an old-style register of these papers which gives some indication of their contents. No restrictions have been put on their use.

"The main group of papers is in the Library of Congress. Other papers, especially official records pertaining to his service as Secretary of State, are in the National Archives. Scattered materials are in the New York Public Library, the Southern Historical Collection of the University of North Carolina, the Hayes Memorial Library, the Michigan Historical Collections (University of Michigan), the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, and the Illinois State Historical Library. File of The Commoner, several scrapbooks, and a few letters are in the Nebraska State Historical Society. A considerable quantity of papers is in the possession of a member of the family.

"With the exception of the Speeches of William Jennings Bryan (2 vols., 1909), no substantial part of the papers has been published."

Quote from "A National Program for the Publication of Historical Documents," 1954, National Historical Publications Commission.

Biographical Note

1860, Mar. 18	Born, Salem, Illinois
1881	A.B., Valedictorian, Illinois College
1883	LL.B., Union College of Law, Chicago and admitted to Illinois bar
1884	A.M., Illinois College
1884, Oct. 1	Married Mary Elizabeth Baird
1883-91	Law practice at Jacksonville, Illinois, later at Lincoln, Nebraska
1891-95	Member, 52nd and 53rd Congresses, 1st Nebr. District
1894-96	Editor, Omaha World-Herald
1896	Nominated as Democratic candidate for President of U.S., wrote silver plank in his platform, made "cross of gold" speech, but defeated by Wm. McKinley
1897-98	Lectured on bimetallism
1898	Raised 3rd Regiment, Nebraska Volunteer Infantry for Spanish American War, becoming its colonel
1900	Nominated for 2nd time for President of U.S., defeated by William McKinley
1900	Established political magazine, <u>The Commoner</u> , at Lincoln, Nebraska
1908	Nominated for 3rd time for President of U.S., but defeated by William Howard Taft
1913-15	Secretary of State in cabinet of Woodrow Wilson
1918	President, National Dry Federation
1925, July 26	Died

See: Who Was Who in America, 1897-1942, vol. I, Marquis

Author of:

The First Battle. 1897.
Under Other Flags. 1904.
The Old World and Its Ways. 1907.
Heart to Heart Appeals. 1917.
The Menace of Darwinism. 1921.
The Bible and Its Enemies. 1921.
In His Image. 1922.