

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Quote from "A National Program for the Publication of Historical Documents," 1954, National Historical Publications Commission.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