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## MESSAGE FROM THE BRYAN CLUB

### An Appeal to Reason.

As the time for the nomination of candidates for the presidency of the United States approaches, and the politician begins his moving to and fro in the land, and his going up and down in it, it becomes the duty of the American citizen to consider well the possible results of his acts, before he exercises that instrument of power in his hand—the right to cast his vote as he will. It becomes the duty of the American people as individuals, to consider well that man whom they are to raise above their ranks and place in the highest position that they have to offer, and it is their duty to know the principles for which this man will stand and the course that he will endeavor to follow when thus honored by them.

It is one of the privileges, as well as a duty, which the Bryan Club, of Washington and Lee, has to champion the cause of a man in whom the people may trust, and whose leadership they well may accept. The Club was organized for the purpose of preaching Democracy and by so doing to create, foster, and increase a more thorough knowledge of William Jennings Bryan, the manhood for which he stands and the principles which he advocates. Believing that the sound sense and reason of the American people would lead them to a true appreciation of American manhood when once presented to them, the members or the Club resolved to content themselves with a presentation of the man of their selection, and to allow the people to form their conclusions in the light of this presentation, feeling confident that those needed in the Democratic party would respond without further solicitation.

The Bryan Club chose as their candidate a man, who when his most bitter enemies were casting about them for some awful accusation which they might hurl against him, were forced to be content with (in their mind) the most undesirable quality for a great political leader—they said, "He's honest," and again they accused him of it. It is such a man as this that the Bryan Club has selected, who in all his career before the public has continually kept himself above the vices and disagreeable features

of the petty politician, who has commanded the respect and admiration of all the leading nations of the world. He stands for the principles which he, as a result of his great experience and exhaustive study, believes to be to the best interest of his country and its people.

The Bryan Club, with Bryan, believes in giving the average man, and every one of them, a fair show; it believes in giving the laboring man an opportunity to live and not force him to spend from eight to fourteen hours a day in keeping others in idleness. It believes in an 8-hour day. It believes in lifting the yoke from off the unfortunate poor, and the crown from off the head of the boss of the White House and the king of the Senate. It believes in a republican form of government wherein the wishes of the people and their interests shall be considered. It believes in a government of the people, for the people, and by the people. It does not believe in a government of the people by a man, from the force of habit. It believes that a man of individual strength, and courage of conviction, should represent the American nation as its President. It does not believe that one man should be called President and another be the President; a single and not a double figure is what is wanted in our American Executive Mansion.

The Bryan Club wants a free people and a free government, and it invites all who wish the same to join with them in their efforts.

It may be a fact, as some seem to think, that the American people have been so long under the influence and control of the political boss and wage distributor, that they are losing their sometime independence and freedom of thought and action. However true this may have been, we feel justified in stating, and feel that we can rely for substantiation upon the coming election, that the people are at present coming to a recognition of their powers and their rights. When they are told that such and such a man will bring them prosperity and comfort in their home life if he is elected, and they elect him and find themselves in the midst of a period of oppression and almost of want, they say, "Verily we have seen this time of plenty of which you spoke and we ask for a change. Take Taft and

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## WHY JOHNSON?

### A Record of Ability and Achievement.

#### Life

John Albert Johnson was born at St. Peter, Nicollet county, Minnesota, July 28, 1861. His parents were Swedes who had but recently moved to this country, but like the great bulk of the immigrants to the great Northwest, they had practically severed all connection with their former home. His family was very poor, and at the age of thirteen Johnson was forced, by the death of his father, to leave school and work in order to support the family. But although the next few years were spent in obscure toil as a drug and grocery clerk, yet through wide and careful reading he so educated himself that in 1885 he was chosen editor of the St. Peter Herald.

As editor of this paper Johnson soon became recognized as one of the journalistic leaders in a state remarkable for the vigor and ability of its periodical and political press. He became important politically, and in 1898 was elected to the State Senate of Minnesota from a district normally Republican. While he was re-elected in 1900, yet as a legislator Johnson did not achieve much prominence and his legislative experience was mainly valuable in that it broadened the man and gave that acquaintance with state leaders which was to prove so essential in the near future.

In 1904 a rift occurred in the ranks of the Republican party in Minnesota, and it soon became patent to the Democratic leaders that they had at least a fighting chance if only they could nominate the right man. They selected Johnson, and it became apparent from the beginning of the campaign that a new leader was coming to his own. Johnson forced the fight on state issues and, in the face of the Roosevelt tidal wave which carried Minnesota by a plurality of 161,000, John A. Johnson, of St. Peter, was elected governor by a plurality of 8,000. Two years of successful administration followed and Johnson, again the nominee of his party, carried the state by 73,000 plurality.

### Achievements

And now let us briefly review the work of the man which has led to his so remarkable political success. While all his legislation has been passed by Republican majorities in both houses of the legislature, still Johnson's messages were so pertinent and pointed the way to reform so clearly that the legislature practically simply embodied the governor's messages into the statutes.

Governor Johnson had passed a law creating a permanent state tax commission, and so strong were his appointees that the legislature, Republican in both houses, immediately confirmed them and expressed their appreciation of them. The great iron mines in the northern part of the state were compelled to pay their proper share of the state's burdens and the lease of state mineral lands was placed under proper restrictions by the activity of the governor. He recommended more equitable freight rates and a two-cent passenger rate, and most of the states of the Northwest have copied the Minnesota laws on these subjects. By his intervention Governor Johnson settled a strike in the iron ranges without violence, and about the same time secured the passage of a modern employer's liability law. Johnson led the way in insurance reform and secured the abolition of railway passes to men in public life.

### Platform

Governor Johnson believes in the immediate revision of the tariff and especially on those articles which are now controlled by illegal combinations. He believes that tariff reform is perhaps the greatest issue now confronting the American people and he is opposed to ship subsidies.

He is opposed to the government ownership of railroads by state or nation, but is a believer in just and rigorous regulation. He believes in regulating corporations but not in crushing them, and thinks that there should be a just enforcement of the law towards all parties. Finally Johnson believes in the least interference by federal power with the domestic affairs of the states, consistent with efficient national administration.

### Opportune Leader

Governor Johnson is the one

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