

ADDRESS OF SENATOR BEVERIDGE DELIVERED AT COLISEUM LAST EVENING

The following is the address delivered by Senator Beveridge at the coliseum last evening:

"Now, you soldiers have afforded me the only inspiration for this campaign. I see in the mighty movement that is calling more people to the ballot box today than ever before merely the same old struggle that in 1858 inspired you to become followers of Abraham Lincoln and in 1860 with my father and my brothers to go to battle for a great ideal. What was that ideal? Merely that in this country of millions of people there should not arise any power under the flag greater than the flag itself. That is the whole issue in this campaign. You men, you women, you workingmen, you business men, you wives, you daughters and all of you, the question is whether or not you are sufficiently interested in that flag to rise to the present emergency.

There are mighty interests as Col. Roosevelt has told of today, awful interests that are robbing the people. Greed is at the root of most of our evils and the question is whether or not citizens are going to be sufficiently alive to preserve their rights or whether these great interests are going to be mighty enough to rob the people of their rights. However that that battle ends, I tell you, whether it means victory or whether it means defeat, I am against the interests that would rob the people and for the people who are being robbed. Now this is not a pleasant task, men and women, where the path of preference lies the other way, where if I had taken a different course I might have had the mighty powers of earth back of me.

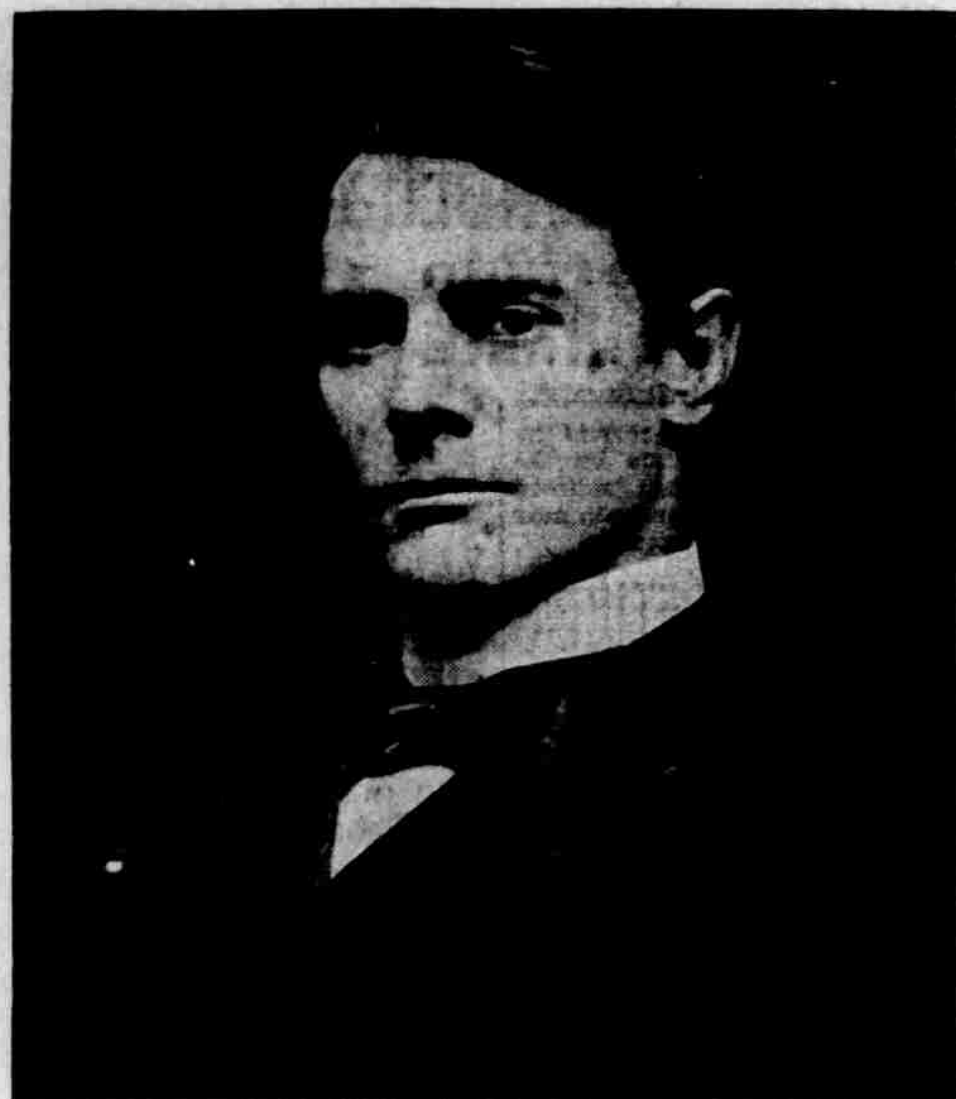
Takes the Right Path.

"I gladly chose to take the other path. Why? Merely because it might possibly injure my political preference? The chances were that it would not. Why were my brothers and father willing to be shot to pieces, merely for an ideal that could not do them any good, but that could do humanity a great deal of good. How then could I possibly be untrue to you? Now there are a great many things in this country today, I trace them all to greed. I traced them all a long time ago to greed. You men and you women who have bought food that poisoned you, and meat that poisoned you, and tobacco that robbed you—that was being done by great financial interests that thought more of the rotten dollar than they do of human life. I preferred to stop them, and with the aid of Theodore Roosevelt, we stopped them. But we have got only your strength—you common citizens. The common citizen is the strength of this republic.

"I see here tonight a great many women. I want to tell you women that the only thing I am doing this campaign is to appeal to the voter to vote for you, to vote for your friends. I want to talk very earnestly for a moment about a subject that I think deeply concerns you, that will take the smile off your lips and put an unquenchable fire in your heart. Of all the great evils that afflict us I think that the most infamous is the evil of child slavery. Here are these old soldiers, they went to battle fifty years ago—what for? To end manhood slavery. What are we confronting today—white childhood slavery.

Talked of Child Slaves.

"I want you to know that while I am speaking tonight, right this minute, scores of thousands of little girls from seven to twelve years old, scores of thousands of little boys from seven to twelve years old, now, this minute—not tomorrow, not next month, not next year, but now, are working on their feet, standing before mighty machines, crashing and rumbling. How long do you think those little tots have been working now? Since 6 o'clock tonight. Don't that touch your woman's blood? And how



SENATOR ALBERT J. BEVERIDGE.

long must these little tots work? Until 6 o'clock tomorrow morning—think of that. Scores of thousands. It is horrible to think that in 1910, the birth of the twentieth century under that flag in a Christian republic, scores of thousands of little white children are being murdered and murdered by greed.

"My study has proved to me that most of these contentions of the workman are right. I fought for the employer's liability bill because it was humane, because it was the teaching of the Master applied to legislation. I fought for the safety appliance law for the same reason. I fought for the sixteen hour law for the same reason. Men I am fighting for the eight hour law today for the same reason. It is immaterial to me whether the mighty ones of the earth are pleased with that or not. I tell these politicians that I don't care whether they give me any campaign funds or not. I want to send you home with tears in your eyes and tears in your souls. When these children go off duty tomorrow morning at 6 o'clock, other children must take their places. They must work from 6 o'clock tomorrow morning until 6 o'clock tomorrow night.

Thousands Are Killed.

"Every year thousands of them are killed, as surely murdered as if a knife had been placed at their throats. And why—merely because of greed, merely because great interests in the sweat shops, in the factories, the mines, want to make some unrighteous gold. They told me not to speak about child labor in Richmond. They said there is no such thing here, but I said, is it possible that the blood of Americans has changed since my father and my brother went with you men who wear that brown button of glory to battle to end an evil that did not exist among yourselves, but that did disgrace the flag? When you enlisted in the civil war, was there any slavery in Wayne county? No, but there was slavery beneath the stars and stripes, and that was enough to take you and my father and my brothers from your comfortable homes, from your wives and your children to fight and if need be to die—for what?—for an ideal that did not have a dollar in it for you, but that had heaven in it for your souls, and to my mind that is the only thing worth fighting for today.

"Just as you men devoted your lives to ending that manhood slavery, so I declare to you tonight here in Richmond, where I first announced it three years ago, that by your grace I devote my life to ending the infamy of childhood slavery everywhere over which that flag floats. I hope I can drive it into the consciences and blood of you men and women.

Are Killed for Greed.

"Do you know why these children are being worked to death. Every year thousands of them are killed and those that survive suffer worse fate—they become the parents of other children who from their birth are degenerate, and therefore we are pouring into the body of our electorate a stream of polluted citizenship. Why is that—it is because of the anarchy trust, the cotton combination, the silk mills, the sweat shops, don't want to pay manhood wages for manhood labor and prefer to pay childhood wages for childhood labor, no matter if that means the death of the children and the corruption of our citizenship. I say that has got to stop. It has got to stop as surely as and far more surely than we stopped the selling of diseased meat by the beef trust. It has got to stop as surely and more surely than the selling to you men and women of poisoned food which killed thousands of you every year by the food trust. It has got to stop as surely and more surely than any financial evil we have attacked because it is only a financial evil, it is a human evil. Suppose it was your little girl, madam, suppose it was your little boy, your woman, suppose men, it was your sister, what would you do? You would fight, wouldn't you, to prevent it? Won't you then vote to prevent it? That is what we are asking you to do this fall. It is a desperate battle.

"Here in Richmond, it is a historical spot for me, a historic spot for this great movement. Nearly three years ago before the Young Men's Christian association I said I was going to gain my fight against that crime in this republic. I said then that it probably would take me five years. Less than three years have elapsed and in that three years we have made more progress than any human reform has ever made in the history of the republic."

The Odds Against Him.

The senator went into detail discussing the terrible odds against which he has fought in the senate in behalf of the measures he has advocated. He spoke of the immense power exercised by the trusts and the money pressure they brought to bear against him and his friends. He said the crime of child murder is being defended in congress.

Continuing he said "I have not made a partisan speech in ten years and by my allegiance to that flag I never will again. I learned long ago that most citizens are patriots. I found it out by reading. I am not asking anybody to vote the republican ticket or the democratic ticket unless they believe I am right. What I am asking you men to do is to vote for your friends, vote for your wives and vote for your children. Nearly all the personal ambition is burned out of me. I won't make a speech for applause again, that day is burned out of me. I have only got enough energy left to fight, I have none for persiflage, none for personal ambition.

"Shall we let partisan bosses who are democrats or who are republicans, put a brass collar around our necks and whip us to the polls to vote for them and not for ourselves and for

our families? I would far rather be defeated this fall if only as the price of it, I could get into the blood of every Indiana young man and young woman that real patriotism which makes him think of the flag and the republic rather than his party and his ward boss. This is no ordinary political campaign. The great movement which includes the ending of child labor includes the ending of the wrongs of the laboring man; includes the straightening out of those things that are crooked in American business and which are defended only by those who are getting graft from the people, and defended only by the lobbyists they employ. That great movement is the movement of righteousness, which is only a repetition of a movement that lifted Abraham Lincoln on its great arms and made him the prophet and the latter day martyr for a holy cause; it is only the repetition in another form of that mighty movement that started two thousand years ago by the greatest revolutionists that ever lived, which had, in the language of the Bible, started a movement which was in Daniel's vision like a stone cut by hands unseen from the mountain side which would roll on until it covered all the world with the glory of the king, or man's universal lord.

A Great Compliment.

"The other day some man said to me 'Beveridge, you are not making political speeches; what you are doing is preaching sermons.' I never had so high a compliment and when the time comes in the future that when I appeal to my fellow citizens in whose hands and minds and appearances rests the future of this republic that I don't preach a sermon rather than make a partisan speech, I will get out of public life.

"I get a great many letters from the people. I used to get a great many from the politicians. I don't get them any more. I don't mind telling you citizens I am not very popular with the politicians any more.

"The reason is that I have ended, so far as Indiana is concerned, most unwisely in their opinions, the source of our campaign funds. When you go down the line for righteousness you usually do away with the source of campaign funds. I have chosen to do that, so I am not very popular with the politicians any more. They don't write me any more letters.

"They say I am making nonpartisan speeches in this campaign. That is true. I am doing the same thing I did for 17,000 miles with Mr. Taft in the last campaign. I am doing the same thing I have done for ten years. I am not making partisan speeches, but as I said a few minutes ago I am making an American speech and I propose to keep on making that kind of speech, boys, just as long as I live.

Fights Tariff Bill.

"Let's take up the tariff a minute. I fought that bill. You men and women know it. Do you know why I did it? Because it was morally wrong; because on several great schedules it perpetrated robberies on the common people, and no boss in this world can tell me to do that in the name of my country. When they said there were a lot of bosses there that constituted the party, I said, well, I think my party consists of thousands of the voters and not of a few bosses and I appealed to you and you have sustained me. But when the democrats come to you and tell you that we have done a very unrighteous thing, I want you to know that the democrats in congress didn't strike a blow to prevent the evil of that tariff. Not only that, but I want you men and women to know that when the fight was only about one-third over the democrats tried to stop us republicans from trading on that bill. When anybody comes to you they ought to come with clean hands, oughtn't they? The democrats don't. So far as I can see they are mere politicians trying to play falsely on the passions of people against a wrong which they themselves helped to perpetrate. Now then Mr. Bryan said that the only persons that did anything for real reform were the progressive republicans.

"We took our lives in our hands when we did it—our political lives—and we took our physical health too. Why do you suppose we did that? For the same reason that we are fighting child labor, that we are fighting trust overcapitalization, and that we will fight anything else. Now you men and you women, especially you young men here, you are going to the polls pretty soon, I don't ask you to vote for me or against me.

Asks Women to Help.

I ask you men and I ask the influence of you women over the men over whom you ought to have influence, to vote not for the republican party nor the democratic party, or this man or that man, but just you vote for your friends; just you vote for your wives, your children, your sisters and your mothers; vote for the nation; vote for your country. Don't be little partisans; don't be democrats and republicans, except by being either you can be true to that flag, for which hundreds of thousands of men have given up their blood. I am almost through. I am going to get right down here in a minute and shake hands with all of you, because I have found when a man shakes hands with another man or a woman and looks into their eyes then each other know whether they are in earnest or not. There has not been, as Fred Landis said in an inspired speech a few days ago down at Bloomington, a great deal of buncombe. We all know it. We all know that we have been trying to get elected to office, rather than to try to right the wrongs of the people. When we meet face to face, handclasp to handclasp, we will know whether we are in earnest. Now just this final word before I get down here to shake your hands and look into your eyes. You can't vote your sentiments on these great national questions directly. The fight is occurring in the senate, not in the house. The house has become so numerous that its rules prevent necessarily any real fighting. All the fighting that was done on the tariff bill was done in the senate. All the fighting that was done on the tobacco schedule was done in the senate; the whole fighting on the meat inspection bill to save the lives of these workmen was done in the senate; we have unlimited debate there and there is where the great progressive movement, which is nothing more than the movement that George Washington led, or the movement that Abraham Lincoln led over again, is in the senate.

"You can't vote your sentiments directly. Democrats and republicans have been standing shoulder to shoulder for six years battling for the election of senators by direct vote of the people. We haven't got it yet. We are going to get it just as we are going to get the rest of these reforms. (Applause). But this fall you can only vote indirectly. If you want this fight to go on, if you think we fellows are in the right, we men who have thrown away our political lives, we men who have risked our physical health and most of us are now worse for it, if you want that great movement to go on the only way you men and women in Wayne county can show that is to vote for the republican candidates for the legislature. (Applause.)

They Will Vote for Him.

They are all going to vote for me in spite of the corrupt slander circulated by those of both parties on whose criminal brow Theodore Roosevelt today placed the burning brand of an everlasting shame; but it is not only because they are going to vote for me—I wouldn't ask you men to vote for them on that account unless I was one of seven men that stood for you against all the powers of unrighteousness. I am not asking you to vote for me. I am asking you to vote for yourselves, your children, the salvation of this republic, the perpetuity of free institutions, the ending of the political bosses, the death of the dishonest politician that rots the life out of the ideals upon which this nation was founded. I am asking you, sir, to vote for your daily bread, I am asking you, sir, to vote for your wife and your children, I am asking you, sir, to vote for what you fought for all your life. I am not asking wealth, I am in favor of it; the man who decries wealth to you is either an ignorant man or a demagogue. What I am contending for, what all of us are contending for is this—that no wealth shall become so great that it can steal and rob and kill; what I say is this, that no aggregation of capital can become great enough to furnish my party with campaign funds for a temporary election that would carry us through for the cause of unrighteousness. That is why I am so unpopular with the politicians. I don't care in the least. I would prefer, as that gifted young man, with tongue of gold, Fred Landis, said the other day, inspired by God, as I believe any man ever was inspired, I would rather go down in defeat forever, for the right than to win with a million men for a million years of wrong. (Applause.)

A Non-Partisan Appeal.

Now I am making my appeal this

fall not in the least by myself, not in the least for my ticket, not in the least for my party, unless you men and women believe my party, as rejuvenated by Abraham Lincoln's spirit means your welfare. The democratic party, I am sorry to say, has opposed every one of our reforms; the democratic party was, I am sorry to say, and is now controlled by reactionary influences; men and women believe it, it is between the common man, the ordinary man, the man that stands for himself and for righteousness against these mighty powers that can furnish us campaign funds which are wrung from the people by child labor, by the sale of diseased meat, by the sale of poisoned food, by corrupt tariff schedules, by overcapitalization which they want their servants in congress to support. I will not support them. I am determined that business in this country shall be settled. I am determined that so far as I am concerned business things in this country that are crooked shall be straightened out. Other countries have done the same. Why shouldn't we? Let's be Americans. Let's be worthy of these old heroes over here. We are fighting your fight over again, you men. What you fought for was this, wasn't it—that no interest in this republic should become greater than the people themselves? What you fought for was this—that that flag should stand for the ideal of human equality and against corruption of special interests? We are fighting the same fight today boys. You men, you young men, and you young women, every one of you is such a volunteer this fall, as these men were with the musket. You are such a volunteer with the ballot, and you young women, every one of you in your influence on men is such

a nurse as the girls that went out fifty years ago to relieve the agonies of the wounded on the battle field.

What the Question is.

The question is whether this republic is going to endure or not. The question is whether the free institutions are to last or not. You who read history know that every nation that has perished has been very prosperous. Very prosperous were the flesh pots of Egypt, but it has forgotten human ideals, it has forgotten God. What I am preaching to my fellow citizens is this—let's think something more than the bank account—let's think of that, that's all right, but let's think of the decalogue, let's think of the sermon on the mount, let's think of Lincoln's Gettysburg address, and then let's vote and fight for the things that those great human documents teach. And God bless you and God be with you when you go to that sacred place, the ballot box.

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