

## Mr. Bryan in Peru

Mr. Bryan and family were the guests of the city while in Lima, Peru, and a reception was tendered by the mayor and city council. The following speeches were delivered. Senor Nicanor Carmona, acting mayor, delivered an address of welcome which follows:

Mr. Bryan: The honorable provincial council of Lima is pleased to receive your visit and feels itself honored thereby; for it appreciates your civic virtues, and is well acquainted with your democratic principles. It knows, too, that you are a decided defender of right and a champion of justice.

For this reason, Mr. Bryan, the council, in solemn session, has declared you an illustrious guest of the city.

The provincial council of Lima is also appreciative of the nature of the study you are making of the South American republics, and is sure that you will derive therefrom all the advantage possible for so eminent a person and of such position as yourself. In Peru, Mr. Bryan, you will find riches which still lay hidden in the bosom of our Sierras; you will find virgin soil, begging with insatiable thirst, that water, free from all obstacles come down from the mountains, and turn it into flourishing fields. For this reason, also, Mr. Bryan, we are doubly glad that, as a result of the study you are making, you will take back to your country the glad fact that in Peru there is much yet to be done, that its people are anxious for work, and, zealous in their efforts to advance in every way, are striving to foment even more, if possible, their country's relations with that noble country where you are so esteemed for your virtues.

This explains, Mr. Bryan, why Peru so earnestly desires the completion of the Panama canal, that gigantic work which your country has begun, and which is the only one to achieve success, notwithstanding the difficulties to be overcome.

Not much time will pass when all obstacles which now impede the common embrace of both oceans being removed, their waters will join, and we will begin a march along the lines of civilization and progress, needed by this rich and young country to reach the heights which Providence has marked out for it.

In Peru, Mr. Bryan, we need peace and tranquility. In Peru we desire that this peace and tranquility contribute its part to the general welfare. For this reason we earnestly long for internal content, peace with our neighbors and closer relations with the great country to which you belong, as one of its noble sons.

It has been said, Mr. Bryan, by a great man, that to hope (confidently) and to wait is the integral element of human wisdom. We hope and wait tranquilly in the knowledge that all we may expect to accomplish will be gained by work, and by a union with your great and powerful country which, with all good reason, recognizes you as one of its highest models.

The provincial council of Lima, Mr. Bryan, has elected that you wear this emblem, the coat of arms of this crowned city of the kings, and that you will keep it as a remembrance thereof.

### MR. BRYAN'S SPEECH

Mr. Bryan spoke as follows:

Mr. Mayor, Members of the Council, Gentlemen: I am very grateful to your mayor for the courteous welcome which he has extended and for the felicitous words which he has employed in extending that welcome. I have long cherished the desire to visit the city of Lima, the republic of Peru, and the other countries of South America, and my expectations have been more than realized by what I have seen and heard since my arrival in your midst, and the deep interest that I have always felt in the sister republics of Central South America has been increased by the cordiality of the welcome that has been extended.

I can assure you, Mr. Mayor, you members of the city council, and citizens of Peru that I fully reciprocate the very kindly sentiments that have been expressed and I not only hope, but pray, that the very friendly relations that exist today between the United States and Peru will not only continue, but become more and more intimate as the years go by.

I might give many reasons for this. One of the reasons why we feel so deeply interested in the future of these countries is, that we are attached to them by the strongest bonds that can bind man to man. I might describe our relation with the countries of Europe by saying that we are cousins, but the republics of South

America stand almost in the position of our children, for it was the example of the United States that gave the inspiration and furnished the stimulus that has covered Central and South America with republican forms of government.

And the fact that our example has led you to establish such forms of government attaches us to you by the most tender, the most sacred ties, and I can agree with the mayor when he says that the canal will bring us together and increase our acquaintance with each other.

Geography is a tyrannical science. It either holds us together or it separates us by distance which we can not destroy, and yet man has it in his power to affect even geography, and the great nation of which I am citizen is attempting now to do something to change the conditions that we found, to alter the geography of the western hemisphere. Two great oceans have been separated by a narrow strip of land and our country is to be the minister, the official, if I may so express it, to unite the two oceans, and when this waterway across the Isthmus is completed great ships can come from our country to yours and cut the time more than half in two. When people can take a boat at New York or along the Atlantic coast and reach Lima in ten or eleven days, there will be more people from our country who will come down here, and more people from your country will visit the United States, and, as most of the differences of opinion arise out of misunderstandings, the possibility of misunderstandings will be removed by better acquaintance the one with the other. Our merchants and manufacturers will come down here to learn what you need that they can supply, and your young men will, in increasing numbers, visit the United States that they may learn there what may be useful to their country. If I mistake not, these young men, leaving Peru and visiting the United States will be like bees that issue forth in the morning, searching for honey wherever it can be found, and at eventime return with it to enrich the hive. Let me hope that your young men will come in increasing numbers to our colleges, to the universities of our great cities, and to our great prairies and learn there what we are glad to tell you when we come here, namely, that there is not in the heart of the people of the United States a hostile thought or sentiment for any other part of the world. We are not looking for lands to conquer; we are not looking for subjects anywhere; we have a great territory which God has abundantly blessed. We are, indeed, thankful to all the world for the contributions that have been made to our growth and greatness. I assure you of the good will of the people of the United States, and I assure you that that good will rests upon a substantial and permanent foundation.

There is more altruism in the United States than anywhere else in the world; the people of the United States are doing more in an unselfish way for the benefit of the human race than any other people. If this seems boastful, I beg you to put the statement to the test and you will find that there is scarcely a place in the world that our people have not already unselfishly invaded, with no other purpose than to raise the level of mankind and to carry help and happiness to those who have been less fortunate than ourselves.

I recognize that this welcome is extended by the executive of the council of a great city and I appreciate it the more because I recognize that the city must play an increasing part in solving the great problems of civilization. There are many reasons for this. In the city extremes are likely to be greater between wealth on the one hand and poverty on the other and therefore in the city there are to be found the evils that come from the arrogance of the rich and from the destitution and desperation of the poor. In the city even more than in the country it is necessary that the balance shall be held so that exact justice may be administered to the end that the rich may not forget the poor and that the poor may not entertain unkind feelings to those who are better off. Then, too, there are greater temptations in the city; things are done on a larger scale and as the temptations are greater it requires strong character and moral firmness to withstand these temptations. But as these temptations are withstood the moral character is strengthened. I am not here to enter upon any discussion of the science of government; I would not presume to lay down laws or give lessons to those who have so clearly manifested their ability to do well the work that has been entrusted to their care; I shall simply quote to you from the greatest statesman that our country has produced and say, in the language of Thomas Jefferson, that

"the art of government is simply the art of being honest," and that "the principles of right and wrong are so easily discerned that they require not the aid of many councillors." This is the language of Jefferson, the greatest of constructive statesman. He simplifies government and brings it within our comprehension, and what he says is absolutely true. At the back of every abuse there is the violation of moral law and the more I study the science of government the more sure I am that my mother taught me, when a boy, the secret of good government when she taught me the ten commandments, she taught me all that it is necessary for a man to know, for good government rests upon the commandment, "Thou shalt not steal." I repeat that the principles of right and wrong are so easily discerned that they require not the aid of any councillor; when one is perplexed about a problem of government all that is necessary is to do justice.

Something has been said about my being a democrat. Yes, that is the name that is applied to me in the United States, and yet my friends, I recognize that the word is not a partisan word. We have a party in our country that calls itself democratic and yet I would not claim that our party monopolizes all the democracy that there is in the United States. I am glad to say that in our country democracy is so universal that no party can appropriate it, and it is becoming more and more the basis of government throughout the world. The heaven is at work everywhere. A struggle is going on between democracy and aristocracy. This struggle manifests itself in different ways in different countries but it is everywhere manifesting itself. All over the world the idea of democracy is growing and the idea of aristocracy is dying, and in the growth of the ideals of democracy is the hope of the world. The world is making progress just in proportion as the people are made the basis of government and the beneficiaries of civilization.

But pardon me for speaking at length. I am here at the invitation of your mayor and council to accept these words of welcome so kindly spoken and to assure you that you have not, even in your own country a more sincere well-wisher of Peru than I am. I acknowledge with gratitude the honor done me by the city and shall be pleased to wear the beautiful badge presented. I shall rejoice over every triumph that you achieve here, and if you will pardon the exaggeration, I will add, when you celebrate any victory that advances the welfare of your country, just listen and you will hear me shouting a little louder than you do.

## Timely Quotations

Anthony Hille, Curwensville, Pa.—I submit the following for your "Timely Quotations" column:

Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,  
Where wealth accumulates and men decay;  
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,  
When once destroyed, can never be supplied.  
—Goldsmith.

Charles Bright, Covington, Ind.—In reply to request for quotations will say that I think the following should be dinned into the American ear until it affects the American mind like Mark Twain's "Blue Trip Slip" affects the mind of the Mississippi pilot. Here it is: "We must educate! We must educate! or we must perish."  
—John Quincy Adams.

John A. Dwyer, Arlington, Ill.—As you requested some quotation serviceable to the American people I inclose the following:

"We talk of the high cost of living and the cost of high living, but unless there is a proportionate increase of wages to prices for some breadwinners it looks like a question of no living."

Section hands with a helpless family of six or eight, drawing \$1.35 per day, meat 20 cents to 25 cents per pound; figure this out for yourself along with the high protective tariff and see if there is any truth in the above statement.

To all subscribers who renew their subscriptions to The Commoner during the month of March we will send the American Homestead one year, without additional charge. The two papers will be sent to different addresses upon request.