## MARCH, 1916

# The Commoner

den is assumed by the country, the United States within ten years will be in turmoil, its industries paralyzed, and its men, instead of being at work in peaceful industry, will be dying in trenches. And I feel, too, that these men will not be dying to defend their country, as we are now being told, but will perish in the conquest of other men who have a right to live in happiness and peace.

#### A PEACE CALENDAR

Department of Public Instruction, Harrisburg, Pa .- The Peace Calendar and Diary, compiled by Dr. John J. Mullowney, of the Pennsylvania state department of health, has been cordially received by educators as one of the best of its kind that has yet been published, there is a quotation from representative men and women, the world over, against navalism and militarism. The selections represent many of the best things that have been said in favor of the reign of law, order, and security. It contains a quotation against war or in favor of peace for each day of the year. It is a message knocking at the door of reason every morning. I am convinced that if a copy of the Peace Calendar could be placed in each school and the quotation for each day written on the blackboard or placed on the bulletin board, where the pupils could learn its message, brought to them from the best minds of the world, it would be of immense educational value and would hasten the day when "Law, not war, should settle international disputes." I would sincerely like to see a copy of the Peace Calendar placed in each school of the land.

I am not writing this testimony to be used in the sale of the Calendar but to encourage the good work of those who are placing it in the schools, and to indicate how it can be made useful as an aid in promoting the cause of peace among the nations.

(Signed) NATHAN C. SCHAEFFER, Superintendent of Public Instruction for Penna.

(Contributions for the purpose of placing these "Educationally wise" Peace Calendars in the public schools may be sent to Miss A. Carter, Secretary of the Friends Philanthropic Work, 1305 Arch St., Philadelphia. The calendars cost 50c each in San Francisco.)

#### A WISE CHOICE

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[From The Miami (Fla.) Herald.]

In selecting W. J. Bryan as chancellor emeritus of the Pan-American university, the board of directors has taken a wise step.

Essentially the university will be a very large factor in cementing the ties which should bind together the republics of North and South America. It will be a permanent institution for the perpetuation of peace between the two continents and the people thereof.

# The Children's Poet

[Address delivered by William Jennings Bryan at Miami, Florida, February 25, 1916, at the James Whitcomb Riley Day exercises.]

Mr. Chairman, Dr. Riley, Children, Friends: It seems an intrusion for grown-up people to take part in these exercises, and I shall not violate the proprieties by trespassing long upon your time. This is Riley Day and the children are his hosts; all the children belong to Riley, and Riley belongs to them. You have just heard him described as chief among the song birds; perhaps that explains his migration to Florida. Like the other song birds, he divides his time between the north and the south in order that he may sing the year round.

I ask your attention while I speak two words, one personal and one as your representative. My children were brought up on Riley food, and I hereby acknowledge the family's indebtedness to him. My wife has whiled away many an evening hour reading his homely and wholesome rhymes to those who are to carry our blood down through the years to come. Our son - who knows how many pitfalls he might have stumbled into had he not been warned away by "The goblins will get you if you don't watch out"?-was especially fond of Dr. Riley's writings, so much so that, when a few years ago, the eminent author honored us with a set of his works, we inscribed on the fly leaf of the first volume, "with remainder over to Wm. Jennings Bryan, Jr.," and the books will go from our library to his in recognition of this early attachment.

And now, Dr. Riley, a word from the audience to you. I do not know whom you had in mind when you immortalized the words "Goodbye Jim, take care of yourself." If it was your father's parting advice, you have obeyed it to the letter; you have taken care of yourself by devoting yourself to others—the only really effective way. Your life has proven anew the truth of the proverb: "There is a scattering that increaseth." You have made a success of life such a success as few of your generation have achieved.

Your name is not found in the list of our multi-millionaires, but you have secured what all their money can not buy—that "loving favor" which is rather to be chosen "than silver and gold."

The blue books do not record your name among the great legislators of the nation, but this need not disturb you, for you are entitled to the distinction embodied in the words "Let me write the songs of a nation and I care not who makes it laws."

## SAYS NAVY NEEDS OVER TWO BILLION

A Washington dispatch, dated March 8, says: Approximately \$1,500,000,000 for new ships and and an annual upkeep charge of \$760,000,000 is what Admiral Fletcher, commanding the Atlantic fleet, estimates it would cost to carry out the navy general board's recommendation that the American navy should equal the most powerful fleet afloat by not later tuan 1925.

The admiral's estimate was given today in testimony before the house naval committee. Representative Callaway, who brought out the statement, called attention to published reports that Great Britain had added nearly 1,000.000 tons to her fighting ships since the war began. He asked if the situation was not "hopeless."

Admiral Fletcher thought not, adding that judging by its great wealth, the United States could well afford to give its interests the same protection other nations thought necessary.

Representative Hensley asked if a race in building warships or in any other military preparation had not invariably led to war. Admiral Fletcher said no, and expressed the opinion that failure to prepare was merely making certain that a nation must surrender its rights.

Representative Callaway asked if it was not reasonable to assume the European war would end within a year or a year and a half at most. Admiral Fletcher thought it would, and added that he believed the close of the war would see the greatest opportunity in h'story for the success of international disarmament or limitation of armament agreements.

He insisted, however, that the United States could not afford to put off its navy building on that account.

"Why not put all our energies into completing ships already authorized," Representative Callaway asked, "and so far as new building is concerned, await the conclusion of the war?"

Admiral Fletcher repeated his statement that the hope of a disarmament agreement was too vague to build upon.

The average man finds it very difficult to understand the intricacies of international law, as interpreted by our official translators. Thus it was in accord with this law to warn Americans to come out of and stay out of Mexico, but that it is in violation of it to warn Americans to stay off of vessels traversing those waters where German submarines are active. It is also, we learn from a perusal of the documents, a point of honor that we should not waive the technical right to go where we please on lawful business intent where the dispute is with Germany; with the obvious moral that it is no dishonor to waive it in the case of Mexico.

At a recent banquet where Mr. Bryan spoke he told of meeting former students of colleges of the United States, during his travels in South America, and he said that in every instance where he met a young South American who had been educated in the United States, he found a true and enthusiastic friend of this country. This illustrates one of the things the new university can and will do for all American countries.

Mr. Bryan has long been associated with the movement to bring the countries of the two Americas together and has a following in South America, much as he has here. He is also in close touch with all the men who have made a study of plans for drawing the countries together and who have been advocating measures looking to a closer trade and social union.

He is thoroughly bound up in the idea of perpetuating peace among the countries of this hemisphere; he is intensely interested in the education of the young; he has the wide vision of the educator; he is closely allied with the men who can make the university great, and his sympathies are enlisted in this great project of establishing at Miami a university where the young people of both continents can obtain a broad and thorough education. His name will be a tower of strength to the institution.

The magazine press is now buttressing the fight of a few large eastern newspapers upon Secretary Daniels, all for the purpose of forcing him out of the cabinet. Secretary Daniels is one of the most conspicuous friends of peace in official Washington, and the reason why he is being singled out for the same sort of attack that is employed whenever a public official stands across the pathway of any interest is to be found in that statement of fact. You do not claim a place among the great warriors of the world, and yet you, the "Hero of the Nursery," are the commander-in-chief of a larger army than any general ever led, and those who follow you know not the cruel clamor of war or the mingled miseries of the battlefield, but rather the joy of innocence and the laughter of youth.

You are not of the royal company of kings, and yet you reign with undisputed sway over the twilight hours.

You have never aspired to the presidency of the United States, and yet without arousing the animosities of a campaign you have won a victory nation-wide. I constitute myself the messenger of the masses to inform you that, at an election where all could vote, you have been unanimously chosen to preside in the hearts of the children of America—chosen for life, and to live in memory forever after.

A casual reading of the republican newspapers would lead to the belief that time has not brought added wisdom to their editors. The principal reason they assign for their demand that the country be placed again in republican hands is that the republican party is the only organization that has the confidence of the people. The fact that the republican party carried but two states at the last national election would ordinarily indicate that the people have a poor way of showing their confidence, but why permit facts to interfere with theories?

The eastern political experts say that if the five or six reactionary republicans who unhorsed Roosevelt at the Chicago convention desire to do so they can keep him this year from getting the republican nomination. If this is true, the colonel may as well close the door of hope. The old guard is as hard of heart as it is good of memory. One of the big magazines, pompously discussing the methods of raising the money to pay for the proposed expenditure for a bigger navy and army. declares that the income exemption should be lowered in the interest of patriotic fervor. Its editor says that by thus participating in the cost of preparedness each taxpayer would be spurred to a livelier interest in the future of his country and that his patriotism would thus be stirred to great depths. We hope he submits the question to a vote of the small income folks. They ought to know what is best for themselves.

#### LIFE WITH A PURPOSE

I live for those who love me,

For those I know are true, For the Heav'n that smiles above me,

And awaits my spirit too; For all human ties that bind me. For the task God has assigned me. For the bright hopes left behind me.

And the good that I can do.

I live to hail the season,

By bards and seers foretold; When men shall live by reason, And not alone for gold; When man to man united, And ev'ry wrong thing righted, The whole world shall be lighted, As Eden was of old.

I live for those who love me, For those who know me true, For the Heaven that smiles above me, And awaits my spirit too; For the wrong that needs resistance, For the cause that lacks assistance, For the future in the distance, For the good that I can do.

-Bradford.