

**MR. BRYAN AS SEEN BY JAMES CREELMAN**

James Creelman, the famous newspaper correspondent, has written for the New York Mail and Express the following interesting article concerning Mr. Bryan:

Mr. Bryan as secretary of state will bring assurance of peaceful moods in our relations with other nations.

Travel and increasing years have broadened and sobered him. The bald, stout leader who waits so quietly today in his little Florida seashore cottage is not the lean, hawk-eyed, fiery mob orator who stirred the Chicago convention to political delirium in 1896.

In the sixteen years that have passed since that picturesque tumult of fiercely contending political forces, in which the power of the old-time democracy was engulfed, Mr. Bryan has been three times nominated for president of the United States and three times defeated.

The old spirit of haughty intolerance has passed. In the Baltimore convention seven months ago, where he smashed his bitterest enemies flat in one supreme stroke, he showed the change that has come over him by publicly surrendering his position to Mr. Wilson and pledging himself to support the new leader of the democratic party.

The desire for vengeance on men has been satisfied. He has seen the good things he advocated indorsed by the people and enacted into law by those who once denounced him. He has seen his bitterest enemies in his party openly discredited and humiliated. He has seen the newly elected president publicly announce that none but radicals shall be called to office or power in the coming national administration.

In contemplating the new secretary of state one should think of the new, serene, mature Bryan, rather than the Bryan whose power as an agitator and whose red-blooded youth, thrilled by the roar of vast multitudes, drove him to disastrous heights of boldness.

Remembering the slashing politician, one is apt to forget the actual man of today into whose hands the foreign policy of the United States will pass.

His voice has always been raised against armed conflict as a means of settling international disputes. Peace throughout the world has been the burden and charm of his speeches and writings.

He has no personal, political or business entanglements to incline him towards the so-called dollar diplomacy, which regards war, or threats of war, as justifiable instrumentalities for the acquisition or extension of trade.

It is this never-changing attitude to the causes of peace and justice between nations that lends an extraordinary and singular interest to Mr. Bryan's advent as secretary of state.

Hear him in his London speech six years ago: "The Christian nations must lead the movement for the promotion of peace not only because they are enlisted under the banner of the Prince of Peace, but also because they have attained such a degree of intelligence that they can no longer take pride in a purely physical victory. The belief that moral questions can be settled by the shedding of human blood is a relic of barbarism; to doubt the dynamic power of righteousness is infidelity to truth itself. That nation which is unwilling to trust its cause to the universal conscience, or which shrinks from the presentation of its claims before a tribunal where reason holds sway, betrays a lack of faith in the soundness of its position."

And again: "The world's peace would be greatly promoted by an agreement among the leading nations that no declaration of war should be made until the submission of the question in controversy to an impartial court for investigation, each nation reserving the right to accept or reject the decision. The preliminary investigation would in almost every instance insure an amicable settlement, and the reserved rights would be sufficient protection against any possible injustice."

The appointment of Mr. Bryan as secretary of state will be a wise act and should be approved by the whole country, regardless of party politics.

After all, and in spite of his past mistakes, there is an undeniable strength and nobility in his character, and he will take an honorable place in American history. His influence has been a great moral force in the country. We need not forget that, even when we condemn or smile at his errors. And he has had the courage of his convictions.

Mr. Bryan's opposition to the spirit of war

—which lends such deep significance to the announcement that he is to head the state department—has been demonstrated beyond doubt.

Even when the United States senate at first refused to ratify the treaty of peace between Spain and the United States, it was his active interference among the reluctant democratic senators that secured the passage of the treaty. He was passionately opposed to the retention of the Philippines, provided for in the treaty, yet so strongly was he opposed to a continuation of the war with our helpless enemy that, for the sake of peace, he defied the overwhelming sentiment of his party and yielded his personal opinions regarding an issue on which he afterward ran as a candidate for the presidency.

Opinions may differ as to Mr. Bryan's intellectual qualities, but there can be but one verdict as to his patriotism and moral soundness among men who know him.

When he was first nominated for the presidency he was only thirty-six years old—the youngest man but one ever named for that office—and he knew little of the eastern states and had no experience of the rest of the world. He is now fifty-two years old, has traveled through every state in the union and has visited and studied Europe and Asia.

That never-to-be-forgotten oratorical battle in 1896, 18,000 miles long, was an attempt to express an unlimited imagination in the terms of a parochial experience.

What Mr. Bryan may do as secretary of state to secure the peace of his country and the world will be the result of maturity, experience gained in many defeats, and the knowledge, obtained by world-wide travel, that no nation can live to itself.

The nation has grown since Mr. Bryan emerged from Nebraska and Mr. Bryan has grown with it.

**MR. BRYAN AND THE CABINET**

Will William J. Bryan be a member of President Woodrow Wilson's cabinet?

We believe he will, and that he will fill the position recognized as "the head of the cabinet"—that of secretary of state.

Mr. Bryan will be in the cabinet because the country and the democratic party want him there, and because the new president wants him there, and because Mr. Bryan himself wants to be in the cabinet.

It is natural that Mr. Bryan should desire to fill a position in the administration which he will have been so potential in creating—that he may help to make it what the people expect and require, and what he, having in mind his own future, wishes it to be.

The country wants Mr. Bryan in the cabinet because it has confidence in him. It believes in his great ability; in the uprightness and patriotism of his ambitions for his country, and that he would guide it through the stormy seas of international politics with dignity and power, and that the world would hold the United States in both higher love and fear at the close of his administration than ever before.

Woodrow Wilson wants Mr. Bryan in the cabinet because he knows no man could give his administration greater strength and influence with the people than he; and because to tender and urge upon him the position of secretary of state would be what the country logically and heartily expects—Mr. Bryan made the nomination of Mr. Wilson possible. Without him in the national convention another than Mr. Wilson would be the president-elect today.

Mr. Bryan desires to go into the cabinet because he wishes to serve both his country and his party to the fullest of his powers, and they can be best exerted, insuring the largest results with him at the head of the country's foreign affairs.

In saying that Mr. Bryan desires to enter the cabinet it is not upon the authority of Mr. Bryan or of any other person. Probably Mr. Bryan would resent the statement, but the News makes it because it is the logic of the events with which Mr. Bryan has been so commandingly connected for the past year, and of the results he has so deeply at heart.

As secretary of state Mr. Bryan would have at his command the power and influence of this great country to advance the cause of the world's peace. As a private citizen he has visited every great country of the world; been brought in close association with the world's greatest philosophers and statesmen; has studied world politics with the breadth of

vision and earnestness that has made him an authority and guide for the statesmen whose ambition is the permanent peace of the world.

But the United States, as well as Mr. Bryan individually, is intensely interested in the healing of a sore that afflicts the American body politic. It is the elimination of imperialism and colonial exploitation from the American system. Ever since the treaty of Paris, by which the United States took over the Philippines as part of the spoils of the war with Spain, and the ratification of the treaty, he has insisted at every moment of time and upon every proper occasion that it was the duty of the United States to give the Philippines their independence under the guidance and protection of the American nation, until they could safely, as an independent people, care for their own destinies as does any other people.

It will undoubtedly be among the earliest tasks that the new administration will assume, that of carrying out in good faith the declaration of the Baltimore platform as to the Philippines.

"We favor," says the platform, "an immediate declaration of the nation's purpose to recognize the independence of the Philippine Islands as soon as a stable government can be established, such independence to be guaranteed by us until the neutralization of the islands can be secured by treaty with other powers; but in recognizing the independence of the Philippines our government should retain such land as may be necessary for coaling stations and naval basis."

That the carrying into effect of this declaration of the democratic party should be placed in Mr. Bryan's charge no man doubts. Of course, the statement of the nation's purpose to recognize the independence of the Philippines must be the work of congress. Mr. Bryan's influence, behind that of President Wilson's, will be all powerful in securing it. But the work of securing treaties for the neutralization of the islands would become peculiarly one of Mr. Bryan's duties and pleasures as secretary of state. And there is little doubt that the work would be speedily and safely done by him.

The country, in the election of Mr. Wilson, has with the democratic party declared against the policy of imperialism and the exploitation of the Philippines, and has condemned our experiment in imperialism as an inexcusable blunder. The experiment has involved the United States in an enormous expense, and made it weaker instead of stronger, and laid the country open to the charge of abandonment of the fundamental doctrine of self government.—Denver News.

**KEEN REGRET**

Writing in the Louisville Courier-Journal Mr. Henry Watterson says: "The Courier-Journal was fighting the battles of the people against the claims of the special interests, not ineffectually, when Mr. Bryan was creeping like a snail unwillingly to school. It was fighting them when as a callow but aspiring youth he was making sophomoric college speeches."

And it is keenly regretted by those who admire the charming personal qualities of the Courier-Journal editor that he did not maintain this good record. Mr. Bryan is among those who are greatly grieved that the death of Samuel J. Tilden seemed to leave the talented editor of the Courier-Journal without the guiding hand so essential to democratic department.

But it is never too late to mend; and there is yet hope that in these piping days of genuine democratic doings Mr. Watterson may return to good old democratic paths.

**INCOME TAX IN EFFECT**

Three-fourths of the states in the union have ratified the income tax amendment to the federal constitution. Secretary of State Knox has issued a proclamation formally proclaiming the adoption of the reform. It will remain for congress to pass a law providing the details for the imposition of this tax.

Now for the election of senators by the people.

**CAN ANY ONE ANSWER?**

F. T. Watson, Clinton, N. Y.—Will you kindly advise me what state or states have passed laws permitting the use of school houses for public meetings for the discussion of public questions?