

The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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WOODROW WILSON AS A LEADER

Writing in *The Public*, Louis F. Post says: "President Wilson's second international pronouncement, his declaration regarding the Republic of China, harmonizes with his first, the one with reference to our Central American and South American neighbors. Our diplomacy is to be no longer plutocratic but democratic--the man above the dollar wherever American influence goes."

The Recent Disasters

The people of the United States have recently gone through some terrible ordeals. The cyclones in the south and in Omaha and in other sections of Nebraska, the floods in Indiana and Ohio, have all called for--and have obtained--the keenest sort of sympathy from men and women in all sections of the world. It goes without saying that every one who has been required to go through ordeals like these has the loving sympathy of men and women everywhere.

In the presence of these disasters we may be grateful that we may see through our tears the tenderness, and the love, and the simple ever-ready kindness and sacrifice which men and women are ready to show for one another in the presence of disaster.

Some one has said that the kindness and good cheer generally prevalent during the Christmas season represents the normal condition of society when it shall have reached that perfection possible among human beings. What would the world be if the kindness universally shown during the Christmas period were distributed throughout the whole year? What would the world be if the tenderness and appreciation shown among men during periods of great disaster, such as we have recently gone through, were permitted to become the rule throughout the year in men's intercourse with one another?

Let us be thankful that men are better than they give themselves credit for being. Let us be thankful that there is so much golden goodness abounding in the hearts that are beat-

WOODROW WILSON'S PRAYER

Made Up Almost Entirely of Phrases Taken From the Inaugural

A nation deeply stirred by solemn passion,
At sight of wrong,
Calls to heroic work of restoration
The brave and strong.

With heartstrings swept as by an air from heaven--
From God's white throne,
We listen to the moan of countless thousands,
Life's undertone.

No day of triumph but of dedication
Is this our time;
Men's hearts, men's lives, men's hopes
appoint us
Our task sublime.

O, God, here at the hearthstone of the conscience,
We seek Thy light;
Justice, and only justice is our motto,
Show us the right!
--Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

HELP FOR THE SUFFERERS

- Many people in the tornado and flood stricken districts are in need of assistance. Commoner readers are urged to contribute.
- Contributions for Indiana flood sufferers may be sent to Governor Samuel Ralston, Indianapolis, Ind.
- Contributions for flood sufferers in Ohio may be sent to Governor James M. Cox, Columbus, Ohio.
- Contributions for tornado sufferers in Nebraska may be sent to Governor John H. Morehead, Lincoln, Neb.
- Contributions for tornado sufferers in Omaha may be sent to Robert Cowell, treasurer of relief committee, in care of Thomas Kilpatrick Co., Omaha, Neb.

ing all around us. Let us turn from every disaster with new hope in our hearts, with new kindnesses in our conduct toward our fellows.

Today we read of calamities falling all about us; we are told of these terrible affairs in which the lives of innocent men, women and children are blotted out; we hear of terror-stricken human beings, some driven to the asylum, and others to the very verge of insanity; we learn that property, the accumulation of years of toil and privation, is in a moment swept into nothingness; that towns built through vast expenditure of public spirit and individual struggle have been destroyed; that prosperity and plenty have, in the twinkling of an eye, been replaced by privation and penury; that death and disease stalk triumphantly in places where, but a moment before, all was life and health. In the presence of these awful facts no man need be so rigidly "practical" as to be ashamed to make grateful acknowledgement for the manifold blessings that are showered even upon the humblest member of a community that lies not within the pathway of the storm and comes not within the courses of the flood.

SENATOR LEWIS

The Illinois legislature has chosen James Hamilton Lewis of Chicago for United States senator for the long term, succeeding Senator Cullom, whose term expired March 4th. Colonel Lewis once represented the state of Washington in the lower house of congress. He has a large personal acquaintance in every state of the union. He is regarded as one of the really great lawyers of America. Newspaper reporters and paragraphers poke considerable fun at Colonel Lewis because of the frequency with which he changes his wearing apparel and to the alleged luridness of his numerous vests. But no one has questioned his ability, while everyone concedes his honesty, his clear understanding of popular government and his keen sympathy with the people. He will faithfully represent Illinois in the United States senate and democrats everywhere will rejoice at this great good fortune that has come to Illinois and to the senate.

President Wilson's Order

President Wilson's decision in the matter of the six-power loan has met with widespread approval. The Chicago Record-Herald (rep.) says that the terms of the six-power loan are obnoxious to the people of China and "that settles the question for this country." The Record-Herald adds: "The United States stands for the open door and for the physical integrity of China. It stands for justice in foreign affairs and for the pursuit of trade and commerce along all legitimate and honorable lines. The Wilson administration is ready to encourage American enterprise abroad, but it will not 'request' bankers to participate in a loan that spells coercion, sanction of terms resented by the Chinese and future discord and mischief."

The Dubuque Telegraph-Herald (dem.) says that President Wilson's decision means that "for the big stick will be substituted reason and right."

The Knoxville (Tenn.) Sentinel (dem.) declares that it means that "the United States will not lend their power to an arrangement, distasteful to the Chinese people or to any other country, which obligates them to interfere by force if need be in the internal affairs of such country."

The Omaha World-Herald (dem.) says that there is nothing "abstruse or cryptic about the policy" and adds: "It is simply the statement of the rule that American financiers who make their investments in foreign nations must do so as business men and not as politicians. It means their investments must stand or fall as a business proposition, pure and simple, and that they can not depend on the influence of the United States government to secure for them lucrative loans or investments, and then depend on the power and majesty of the United States government to insure that, whatever else may betide, they will get their full pound of flesh."

The Philadelphia North American (rep.) declares that the Wilson policy means the "open

THE PRESIDENT'S APPEAL

Washington, March 26.--The following appeal to the nation has been issued by the president:

The terrible floods in Ohio and Indiana have assumed the proportions of a national calamity. The loss of life and the infinite suffering involved prompt me to issue an earnest appeal to all who are able in however small a way to assist the labors of the American Red Cross to send contributions at once to the Red Cross at Washington or to the local treasurers of the society. We make this a common cause. The needs of those upon whom this sudden and overwhelming disaster has come should quicken every one capable of sympathy and compassion to give immediate aid to those who are laboring to rescue and relieve.

WOODROW WILSON.