

he did not stand in with the sheriff's office he was in, the position in which we all ought to be—responsible for everything that he did against the law of the land.

"I was present at a conference today at which one of the gentlemen in the assembly from the county of Essex asked me if I had said that the greater part of the delegation from that county exercised no choice of its own, but took orders. He did not ask me in those words, but the words do not make any difference. That is what I said and I said it not because I suspected it—but because I have lived in the state a good many years. I was an observer and a very close observer of the course of politics before I ventured upon that uneasy sea. I was not the land lubber I looked. I knew the gentlemen who controlled the politics of Essex county. Knew them? Why, the whole United States knew them!"

The president indicated that he was not disturbed by the opposition he had encountered among members of the legislature.

Personal persuasion was President Wilson's instrument of action today as he conferred upon New Jersey reforms with the democratic members of the legislature. It was the alleged abandonment by some of the legislators of the party pledged to this reform and a revision of the constitution which brought Mr. Wilson to his home state to appeal to the electorate.

The president had invited the legislators to meet him here today, to arrive, if possible, at a common agreement on the particular form of a measure which would take the power of drawing jurors out of the hands of the sheriffs. When, in his speeches at Elizabeth and Newark last summer Mr. Wilson denounced some of the assemblymen who failed to support the party promise as affiliated with James Nugent, jr., and his political organ, the president admitted that some of the members of the legislature honestly opposed the juror reform bills in the last session of the legislature because of the objection to the form of proposals. It was these whom the president sought to convince.

It was 11:30 o'clock when President Wilson reached the club and went into conference with the party leaders and later with the legislators.

The conference came to an end about 2 o'clock and it was agreed that the democratic members would get together on Monday next in the hope of drafting some sort of a jury reform bill. They will be urged to do so by opponents of the bill. The president declined to make any definite recommendation as to the form the bill should take. That, he said, was up to the legislature.

"DOLLAR DIPLOMACY"

New York World: "Now that dollar diplomacy is dead," says Secretary Bryan, in a notable interview appearing in *The World*, "the wounds of the past will soon be healed." His reference to the death of dollar diplomacy follows a statement to the effect that President Wilson's action with reference to the Chinese loan "marked an era." It is no new diplomacy which is to be introduced. "It is simply a return to the diplomacy of earlier years. It is the application of common sense, common honesty and plain, everyday morality to our national affairs."

Mr. Bryan has a perfect understanding of the dollar diplomacy that is dead. He has not been deceived by the bookkeepers and statisticians. He is quite clear in his distinction between legitimate business and speculative business that is promoted by favor and trickery and power. He sees many reasons why our representatives in Central and South America should be disinterested. Like millions of his countrymen, he can find no reason for their employment as agents at friendly capitals of greedy private interests.

As the first important public utterance of the new secretary of state, this interview must be highly reassuring both at home and abroad. It is a declaration in precise words that the government of the United States in its foreign relations is no longer to be enlisted in the degrading service of big business exclusively. It is a guarantee to Latin-America that the practices which for some years past have caused so much injury to normal intercourse are to be abandoned.

There is nothing visionary in Mr. Bryan's theory that conscience and character may go hand in hand with profitable commerce. It may sound new to some people, but it is as old as American independence. It is bottomed on American equality. It is one of the fundamentals of American justice.

Some Comments on Grape Juice

Mr. Bryan was greatly surprised at the widespread comment concerning his substitution of grape juice for alcoholic liquors at his dinner to the diplomats. Some of the comments will be interesting. Here are the samples:

Washington dispatch to the *Denver News*: William Jennings Bryan, secretary of state, received praise, as well as criticism for his announced policy of serving only "unfermented grape juice" at his official, as well as private dinner. Mrs. Belya Lockwood, who is the only woman who ever ran for president, when asked what she thought of the innovation replied smilingly:

"I should worry."

Congressman Bartholdt of Missouri said that Bryan's action was "hospitality with a string tied to it."

The London papers ridicule Bryan for inflicting his prejudices on representatives of foreign countries and the *Pall Mall Gazette* says that the new regime at the capitol of the United States will become known as "Wishy-Washington."

Congressman Bartholdt, who for years has led congress to restore the canteen in the army said that no host, particularly a secretary of state, had any right telling his guests whether they could take a drink or not.

"I deeply regret that the question whether a man shall take a drink of wine at his dinner should have become a state question," he said. "It is a matter all gentlemen should decide for themselves."

"Dollar diplomacy of the republican regime was the target of criticism, but grape juice diplomacy, I fear, will be much less effective so far as our national prestige is concerned."

"What Mr. Bryan serves at his own dinners is Mr. Bryan's own business," said Mrs. Thomas R. Marshall. "I have never served anything to drink at any dinner I've ever given and I do not intend to do so, whether it is a state dinner or one for personal friends."

EVEN BERNARD SHAW

A London cablegram to the *New York World*: George Bernard Shaw says the only mistake Secretary of State Bryan made was in offering his diplomatic guests unfermented grape juice or anything else except plain water. Shaw would approve if the American secretary of state should go a step further and give a vegetarian dinner.

All the criticism of Mr. and Mrs. Bryan's wineless banquet Shaw condemns as a gross abuse of hospitality and an affront to the social decencies. He can not see why any host should be under obligation to supply his guests with wine any more than any other particular eatable or drinkable. He argues that if Secretary and Mrs. Bryan had given their dinner without fish or sweets it would not have excited remark, but because they paid their guests the compliment of assuming that they are not slaves to intoxicants they are held up to the charge of inhospitality, and it is insinuated that they obtained the presence of their guests by false pretenses.

Shaw caustically remarks that it only shows the brutalizing effect of the drink habit when all this pother is made by its votaries because a company of both sexes, composed presumably of intellectual and sober persons, is deprived for one meal of the opportunity to consume alcoholic beverages.

Shaw expresses characteristically his antipathy for flesh diet by adding that if Mr. Bryan would also start the fashion of not supplying diplomats with meat it might perhaps do something toward making them take a civilized and lucid view of international politics.

Commenting that the serving of even unfermented grape juice was a concession to the alcohol habit, Shaw casts the insinuation that it also holds hidden possibilities of menace to the digestive system of the diplomatic body that pure water does not contain.

"WISHYWASHINGTON"

Editorial in the *Philadelphia Public Ledger* (rep.): The *Pall Mall Gazette* is somewhat anxious because Secretary Bryan served grape juice instead of wine at a recent dinner given by him to foreign diplomats. "We fear," says the London journal, "that the capital of the great republic is destined to be known as 'Wishy-Washington.'"

If there is anything wishy-washy about Mr.

Bryan's attitude it is not apparent. He does not urge his own action as a precedent for the rest of official Washington to follow. He does not even embroider his decision with spectacular publicity designed to encourage his political popularity. He merely announces, in a very quiet way, that for two generations it has been the custom in his family not to serve alcoholic liquors, and he does not desire to change the recognized rule simply because he is now entertaining diplomats instead of ordinary guests. He does not make a point of the question so far as others are concerned. Ambassadors who entertain him may serve all the champagne they wish, and so can anybody else, but the refreshments at dinners given by himself will not include wine. There is nothing wishy-washy about that. It shows, quite to the contrary, an independence of opinion that is wholly commendable. There is no more reason why Mr. Bryan should be forced to put before his guests what they like than that they should be forced to be content with what Mr. Bryan likes to put before him.

The established customs of procedure at Washington have nothing to do with the case. Perish the thought that a good American must be bound in the furnishing of his table by fashions set a century or more ago. The accepted rules of etiquette have their basis in the experience of mankind, extending over centuries, and they ought to be carefully observed in principle, but amendment of them heretofore has made them as perfect as they are, and they have never been so unalterable as to require an exact menu. Mr. Bryan has acted very sanely in a delicate matter, and condemnation or ridicule of him therefore is not likely to do either him or the nation any harm.

THAT WINELESS DINNER

Editorial in *St. Louis Republic* (dem.): We do not believe that the gaiety of nations has been cramped by Mr. Bryan's failure to serve wine at a dinner to distinguished diplomats. Of course it was a departure from custom. And as such it has occasioned comment. Mr. Bryan's statement, however, makes it clear that he was fully aware of the momentous step he was taking, or not taking. Mr. Wilson left the matter of the secretary of state's good cheer to the secretary of state's personal discretion.

Now it seems that all the guests had a pretty good time at that dinner. Anyhow, they say they did. And we propose to take them at their word. This acknowledgement of an enjoyable evening was not one of those social lies so eloquently cursed by Mr. Tennyson. Diplomats, we would have you know, sometimes tell the truth.

Further reflection might here be dismissed were it not for the distress that has gloomed the *Pall Mall Gazette* as a result of the substitution of grape juice for bubbling vintages at our premier's board. It may be true that grape juice possesses no inherent exhilaration. Without debating that point, we do express surprise at the "dark brown taste" which the *Pall Mall Gazette* woke up the morning after that dinner.

Here is the *Gazette's* complaint: "The long-accumulated experience of man demands wine to make glad the heart on festive occasions." This is an admission of the inherent sadness of all festivity which is worthy of Omar himself. Our trans-oceanic contemporary knows no joy except such as is artificially superinduced. What may be counted upon to relieve the hopeless melancholy of state dinners except the cup that brings oblivion in its train?

This we recognize as the voice of an exotic and outworn civilization. We take heart as we reflect that in this country there are still men and women who have attained the top round of official life who have what is known vernacularly as "an appetite for their vittles." To them good eating in good society is in itself a delight. The old-worldly cynicism that takes its pleasures sadly except as it receives artificial stimulus and braces itself with liquors vinous and spirituous to endure the ordeal of a festive occasion is not comprehended in the philosophy of Nebraska and of Nebraska's best known citizen.

THE "BRYAN RICKEY"

Special dispatch to the *New York American*: Washington, April 28.—A white-ribbon drink is now on sale in Washington barrooms. It is called the "Bryan Rickey," and came into the city on the very heels of the "grape juice diplo-