

# The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

VOL. 13, NO. 23

Lincoln, Nebraska, June 13, 1913

Whole Number 647

## A Simple Plan for Peace

Some of the paragraphers who have had so much to say about "grape juice diplomacy," will be interested in an editorial printed in the Washington (D. C.) Times of June 2nd. That editorial follows:

"Grape-juice diplomacy has its good points, entirely aside from its publicity value. Nine nations have sent word to Secretary Bryan that they are interested in his world-peace plan by which differing nations are to agree to stop, look, listen, and have their troubles impartially investigated before either party will start war. That is about as far as practical men hope to get at present toward permanent peace guarantees. It is a good deal more than the Taft administration accomplished with its treaties looking to a like general result. Mr. Bryan is getting on. He looks like a man destined to achieve the greatest diplomatic triumph of his time."

These same paragraphers may be interested in the following Associated Press dispatch:

"Washington, D. C., June 5.—Secretary Bryan today announced that Germany, Bolivia and Argentina had so far approved his proposal for universal peace as to ask for tentative drafts of the treaties. With these additions the list of nations have undertaken to consider the proposal favorably reaches thirteen."

Later—The new republic of China later joined the general chorus.

The Chicago Record-Herald in its issue of June 4th, prints this editorial:

"A word is in order as to the evolution of the simple yet great Bryan 'peace plan,' with its provision for investigation and reasonable delay. It was a prominent feature of the Taft 'unlimited arbitration treaties.' Credit for that feature was publicly rendered to Mr. Bryan by President Taft, the latter having taken it, with pleasure and appreciation, from a speech made by the former in London. The Taft treaties having been emasculated by the senate and shelved by Secretary Knox, Mr. Bryan, on succeeding that gentleman, conceived the idea of separating the investigation feature from the arbitration scheme and dealing with it in a distinct treaty. It was a happy idea, and its success, now apparently assured, will mean much to peace and civilization. That it will indirectly help the cause of arbitration is tolerably clear."

The New York World, in its issue of June 2nd, prints this: "It was the privilege of our new secretary of state, Mr. Bryan, and of the newly arrived British ambassador, Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, to sign on Saturday a convention renewing for five years the general treaty of arbitration between Great Britain and the United States. Similar renewals have recently been made with France, Italy and Spain. Men change, conditions change, but the principle and the policy

of submitting our international disputes to impartial arbitration have existed from the foundation of the republic, and every formal undertaking guarding and reaffirming them will have the heartiest approval of the people.

"Holding fast what has been gained in the high cause of peace, it is well always to press closer to the ultimate ideal of universal peaceful arbitration. It is cause for gratification that Mr. Bryan's proposals, issued on the president's direction a month ago, for international investigation and conferences looking to world-wide peace have been answered already by Italy, Great Britain, France, Brazil, Sweden, Norway, Peru and Russia.

"In this great campaign for the extirpation of the curse of war there will be disappointments, obstacles, misunderstandings, jealousies. But it will go forward. It is no dream. It is the most practical of all human endeavors for the widest benefit."

The St. Louis Republic, in its issue of June 4th, prints this editorial: "It is only about three months since the president and his cabinet began their duties in Washington, but in that time this movement for the restraint of war has developed sufficiently to warrant the belief that it will succeed. The principle underlying Secretary Bryan's proposal as that principle applies to personal conduct has long been familiar. He asks the nations to follow the practice of quick-tempered men, who, when they find their anger rising, stop and count ten. To secure a similar pause before angry nations act he proposes to make agreements with all the powers to submit every disagreement between this and any other nation to an international commission which shall be given a definite period in which to consider the case and report. During the period of investigation the disagreeing nations are not to declare war and not to make any warlike preparations.

"Such agreements will tend to prevent war in two ways. The period between the outbreak of an international quarrel and the report of the commission will be one in which cool heads and second thoughts will have their day. The longer men think the less likely they are to fight. The second restraining influence will be the report of the commission. Such reports are not to be of binding effect, but they will contain findings as to the facts, conclusions as to what is just or suggestions as to how irreconcilable differences may be compromised. Any nation which insists upon fighting when an international commission has reported adversely upon its claims will forfeit the respect of the world. It will be but a short step from that situation to one in which an offending nation will be made to feel the world's displeasure."

## CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. NELSON

William R. Nelson, owner of the Kansas City Star, has been released by the Missouri supreme court from the charge of contempt preferred by a lower court. The judge who sentenced him for contempt admitted that he prepared a written decision adverse to the editor on the day before the hearing was held. On this ground the supreme court released Mr. Nelson, holding that due process of law was not observed, when the decision was prepared in advance of the hearing.

It was plain at the time that Mr. Nelson's newspaper was trying to serve the public welfare and in refusing to go to jail without a struggle Mr. Nelson stood for the freedom of the press. Even though he obtains his release on a technicality, he is entitled to general congratulations and he is receiving them.

## LOUIS F. POST

Commoner readers everywhere will rejoice over the appointment of Louis F. Post, editor of The Public, to be assistant secretary of the department of labor. Mr. Post has been a faithful worker for the public interests and the government of the United States is, admittedly, fortunate in securing his good services.

## A Report from China

The following report has been received from American Charge d'Affaires Williams at Peking, relative to the exercises connected with the recognition of the Chinese Republic by this government.

Mr. Williams reports that the house completed its organization by the election of a vice speaker on May 1st, at which time he was prepared to deliver the message but the president of the foreign office desired to mark the recognition of the republic by the United States with signal honors and took time to prepare a very elaborate program.

At ten o'clock on the second of May a state carriage was sent to the legation with a guard of honor. Accompanied by the staff of the legation, the charge d'affaires was driven to the president's palace, police and soldiers being stationed at short intervals along the route and the houses decorated with flags. After entering the park the party was taken across the lake in the old imperial barges and met at the entrance to the president's palace by the master of ceremonies, Dr. Sun Pao-Ch'i, Admiral Ts'ai T'ing-kan, Admiral Ch-eng, and General Yin Ch'ang, chief of the general staff. They were received in the outer court with military honors and the president's bodyguard of lancers showed similar honors in the inner court. In the principal hall of the palace were waiting the minister of foreign affairs and other officers. The American charge was conducted to an inner reception room and read the message of President Wilson and handed it to President Yuan Shi-k'ai, who gave it to the minister for foreign affairs. The charge d'affaires then made the following brief address:

"Mr. President: Having communicated to your excellency the message from the president of the United States giving formal recognition of the republic, I desire for myself and in behalf of my fellow-countrymen resident in China to express the satisfaction which we all feel in the action taken by the American government.

"As citizens of a sister republic, we can not be indifferent to anything which affects the success of republican government in China. We shall watch your progress with sympathetic interest, trusting that the hopes which animated the martyrs of the revolution may find their full fruition in the free institutions now being established. We believe in 'a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.'

"Out of the mists of high antiquity echo the words of the great declaration: 'Heaven sees as the people see; heaven hears as the people hear.'

"We rejoice with you today in the confident belief that these ancient words have found fulfillment anew: That this new government, 'broad-based upon the people's will,' by the establishment of lasting peace and equal justice, will minister to the highest happiness of the people of China and merit the blessing of heaven."

President Yuan Shi-k'ai responded in behalf of the new republic in a cordial manner, saying:

"Mr. Charge d'Affaires: I have listened with the most profound satisfaction to the welcome message of the president of the United States which you have just read and the assurances of sympathy which you have so eloquently extended to me. On behalf of the government and people of China I thank you and also beg you to transmit my thanks to the president."

"Though young in years, the republic of China is founded on principles of liberty and freedom which are already deep graven on the hearts of the Chinese people. We believe that through the permanent establishment of this form of

## CONTENTS

A SIMPLE PLAN FOR PEACE  
A REPORT FROM CHINA  
THIRTEEN STATES HAVE LAW FOR  
PENSIONING MOTHERS  
HOW STONEWALL JACKSON DIED  
ATTITUDE OF THE PUBLIC MIND TO-  
WARD BUSINESS.—BY SECRETARY  
OF COMMERCE REDFIELD  
CHINDA'S MESSAGE TO THE AMERICAN  
PEOPLE  
THE NEW INDIAN COMMISSIONER  
CURRENT TOPICS  
HOME DEPARTMENT  
WASHINGTON NEWS  
NEWS OF THE WEEK