easily known by the ownership or the character of the interests that are behind them. The conditions of public affairs both in the states and the nation required that a law of this kind be enacted in order that the readers of the various papers might not be defrauded into the support of theories of government that are harmful to the public though beneficial to those who are putting up for the moulding of public opinion. Now when a combination of interests or a great corporation takes control of a newspaper for the purpose of promoting some enterprise that would be harmful, investigation which the newspaper law provides for will give the scheme away in the revelation of the ownership or the interests that are paying the bills. For instance, whenever it is charged that some particular newspaper has been acquired to promote something that would be detrimental to the public, the federal law that requires the publication of the real owners or those who hold mortgages on that paper steps in and settles the dispute. That is, the law enables the truth to be made known, and in this way the readers are protected, even if it should be hard on the wildcat publication, whose purpose is to deceive and impose on the public.

FRIENDSHIP

Omaha friends of Richard L. Metcalfe, who goes to the Panama Canal Zone as a member of the Isthmian canal commission, gave him a testimonial dinner at the Paxton hotel; June 26th. Mr. J. W. Woodrough, speaking on the subject of "Friendship," said:

The only way for a man to have friends is to be a friend. It was in my thought to say a word about friendship. Every talker since Adam has talked about it. Every dreamer has dreamed about it. Every wise man has eagerly sought it and valued it and exalted it as priceless beyond the power of words to tell.

But friendship imposes its exactions, its obligations and its requirements.

With great talent, genius and energy men soar like eagles above the walks of life of ordinary mortals to the high places of command and influence and power. They are admired, followed, courted and sought after. But though a man be crowned victor through all the years of his life, unless he has been made fit for friendship—fortune has played a scurvy trick upon him and left him poor as Lazarus. Reputation, fame and power are as hollow as tinkling cymbals unless at the core there beats a heart tuned to friendship's rythm.

In 1890 a young man was assigned to report for the World-Herald, a series of debates being carried on in this congressional district. On the one side our fellow townsman, W. J. Connell, was a candidate for congress and there was opposed to him the man who today stands higher in the hearts of all true lovers of democracy throughout the civilized world, than any living man, William J. Bryan. Bryan was then in his vigorous, promising youth, forging the first links of the chain that now bind a million hearts to him. That youth of Bryan's that lies behind vast mountain ranges of achievement, of high endeavor, of service for mankind. Hundreds heard his speeches then; admired, cheered, followed and elected him. But the eye of that young reporter saw more clearly through the mists of things than his fellows. He heard with a keener ear. His heart beat with truer sympathy. He talked to the people of Nebraska, through the Herald's columns, of the ideal leader. He saw the ideal leader and knew him then for what he was and for what he has come to be for the whole world in the full strength of his maturity. The loving heart of a true friend guided his pen and inspired the columns that he wrote—his was the voice of one crying in the wilderness, "Prepare ye the way."

Since then Metcalfe has spoken a powerful word for democracy every day of his life; in reporting the acts and omissions of the legislature; in reporting the doings of congress; in a commanding position upon a great daily paper; from the most influential weekly paper published throughout the world. Playing a large part in the public life of our state. All of which he saw, a great part of which he was.

Now the great commoner has come into his own as secretary of state for this nation, a thousand calls are made upon his time; upon his giant strength. Calls of business; calls of duty; through the long days far into the night—but the call which summoned Metcalfe to serve this country at the gates of Panama, at the portal which separates the occident from the orient, was the call from the big heart of a friend to an old, tried, loyal, true and dearly beloved friend. Competent, qualified, adapted to high trust—and a friend. A call of a friend takes Metcalfe to serve at the right hand of our spokesman to the nations of the world. Nor can our great democratic senator from Nebraska be outdone in recognition of true and meritorous deserving.

Gentlemen we see and celebrate tonight history in the making at its best. The generous, magnanimous actions of great leaders who stand the test; who are fit for friendship.

"The Think-Before-Fighting Plan"

Chicago Record-Herald: Eighteen governments having indorsed in principle the Bryan plan for the investigation of international disputes by special commissions—the think-before-fighting plan, as it has been briefly called—the secretary of state feels that he must make the next move and submit a suggestion as to the composition of the commissions.

His suggestion, purely tentative, is that the commission be permanent under each treaty and be composed of five persons, two to be chosen by the governments from their respective nationals, two to be chosen by the same governments from other countries, and the fifth to be agreed upon by the two governments.

For example: Under a treaty of investigation with England we might have a commission on which would sit one Englishman, one American, one Frenchman chosen by England, one Swiss chosen by the United States and one Hollander chosen by both governments. Or England and the United States might agree on an eminent, judicially-minded American, or Briton, as the fifth member.

That able and high-minded men would be appointed, and that the investigation would be impartial and genuine may be taken for granted. However, the scheme is open to modification, and the comments of the eighteen governments on the Bryan suggestion will be awaited with interest.

Washington dispatch to the Philadelphia Public Ledger: Progress has been made in the negotiations concerning Secretary Bryan's peace plan to such an extent that within a short time Mr. Bryan expects to be able to have the first treaty with a foreign government ready to send to the senate.

Interest in the plan continues to be shown by different nations, it was said at the state department. Denmark and Haiti gave notice of their desire to make such an agreement.

This brings the list of nations likely to make peace treaties with the United States up to 17. In the order of their approval of the idea the list is as follows: Italy, Austria, Brazil, Sweden, Norway, Peru, Great Britain, Netherlands, Russia, France, Germany, Bolivia, Argentine, China, the Dominican Republic, Denmark and Haiti.

President Wilson and Secretary Bryan, after giving the matter careful consideration, have decided that the period within which the international commission proposed to be appointed to investigate the basis of a dispute between the United States and a nation having a peace agreement with this country shall be a full year, instead of six months, as suggested in the first proposal to foreign governments. This longer period has been suggested by the manner in which the exchange of notes with Japan over the California alien land law has dragged out over nearly three months, and is likely to be protracted for three or four months longer.

Often international disputes, it is recognized, may be suggested and kept alive by political conditions in one country or the other, and the lapse of time should be such it is believed as to carry the controversy past the crisis of such affairs.

Secretary Bryan just has sent out to all the nations that have given adhesion to the plan a note, setting forth all the details desired to be incorporated in the treaties. It is expected that replies will be coming soon, and the first treaty can then be prepared and signed. The details of the proposed treaties will be submitted to the senate committee on foreign relations before they are embodied in a signed convention in order that the president and Secretary Bryan may have the advice and assistance of the committee.

THE SHOE MACHINERY TRUST

United Shoe Machinery Co., Albany Building, Boston, Mass., June 23, 1913.—Editor Commoner, Lincoln, Neb. Dear Sir: I find in The Commoner of June 6th a quotation from the St. Louis Republic with reference to this company, from which I quote the following extract:

"These leases, copious extracts from which appeared in these columns about a year ago, are worded with such diabolical ingenuity that machinery absolutely necessary to every shoe factory, which can be obtained nowhere but of the trust, may be secured only by signing agreements which bind the manufacturer to use the entire line of machinery made by the trust, impose on him heavy and unreasonable burdens in the matter of repair cost and the purchase of supplies, and then cause the renewal of a lease on any one machine to renew, automatically, the leases on all the other machines leased from the trust throughout the factory. The United Shoe Machinery company sells machines in England which it only leases in the United States. And it uses the whip in its hand to extort 'testimonials' from the cowed and bullied manufacturer to the excellence of its service and the general philanthropy of its policy. This is possibly the meanest of all trusts. And that, when you stop to contemplate the divagations of Standard Oil from the ways of fairness and justice, is a tribute."

I am sure you do not wish to give currency to inaccurate statements of any kind and this quotation is calculated to give an entirely distorted idea of relations of the United Shoe Machinery company to shoe manufacturers of the United States. The St. Louis Republic has peculiarly close relations with the International Shoe company which was recently formed by combining several large St. Louis shoe manufacturing concerns and which is highly capitalized. These St. Louis concerns have become prosperous while using the machines of the United Shoe Machinery company on the terms which are given to all other shoe manufacturers with whom the company has dealings, but of late they have sought to discredit this company in order to secure better terms than we give competitors of theirs with fewer resources. The leases of which they complain have been public property for years. In a general way they are drawn on the same lines that shoe machinery leases have been drawn ever since shoe machinery was used, long before the organization of the United Shoe Machinery company. During the period of their operation, the shoe manufacturing industry in the United States has shown extraordinary growth and was never before so prosperous as it is today.

It is not true that "machinery absolutely necessary to every shoe factory, which can be obtained nowhere but of the trust, may be secured only by signing agreements which bind the manufacturer to use the entire line of machinery made by the trust." The company makes over three hundred different kinds of machines, the great majority of which are sold outright without any condition whatever.

It is not true that "the United Shoe Machinery company sells machines in England which it only leases in the United States." There is only one machine, and that of recent invention, which is sold in England but put out in the United States only on lease. That is the Ideal Clicking machine which is used in cutting the uppers of shoes. Our machines in England and elsewhere in Europe are put out on substantially the same terms as they are put out in the United States and they have rapidly displaced the European machines of other companies which are sold there outright.

With very few exceptions, shoe manufacturers of the United States are entirely satisfied with the service of this company and its methods of leasing and selling machines and it is absurd to suggest that when they express themselves to this effect they are "cowed and bullied." The American shoe manufacturer is not so poor spirited a creature that he would permit himself to be "cowed and bullied" by anybody. If you really want to get an idea of what the average shoe manufacturer thinks about this company, I would suggest that you write confidentially to any number of them whom you may pick at hazard and thus get your impression at first hand—the more, the better. As to the character of the leases, that is a matter which may very well be left to the courts which now have this subject in hand. Yours very truly, L. A. COOLIDGE, Treasurer.