

president was in a happy mood as he slowly wrote his name.

"I'm not accustomed," he said, "to write my name in a series."

"Well, the bill was made in installments," suggested Senator Lewis of Illinois.

"Isn't that a reflection on the senate?" inquired Representative Glass with a laugh.

Senator Lewis' retort was lost in the applause that followed the completion of the president's signature as he rose from his desk. The president paid tribute to the heads of the two congressional committees by writing each a letter.

To Representative Glass he wrote: "May I not express my admiration for the way in which you have carried the fight for the currency bill to an extraordinarily successful issue? I hope and believe that the whole country appreciates the work you have done at something like its real value, and I rejoice that you have so established yourself in its confidence."

He wrote Senator Owen: "Now that the fight has come to a successful issue, may I not extend to you my most sincere and heartfelt congratulations; and also tell you how sincerely I admire the way in which you have conducted a very difficult and trying piece of business? The whole country owes you a debt of gratitude and admiration. It has been a pleasure to be associated with you in so great a piece of constructive legislation."

When the president concluded his speech there was a general reception and a round of handshaking. The president extended the compliments of the season to his visitors. When everybody had gone he cleared up his desk and sat thoughtfully for a minute. Presently he walked to the corridor outside of the office.

"Where's Pat?" he inquired, and the individual addressed—Patrick McKenna, veteran doorkeeper—stepped forward, blushing with surprise, as the president seldom comes out in the corridors. The doorkeeper looked up inquiringly.

"Merry Christmas, Pat," said the president and he walked slowly over to the white house to arrange for his trip to Pass Christian, Miss.

PEACE TREATY SIGNED

From Washington Post, December 19: Secretary Bryan and Chevalier Van Rappard, Netherlands minister, yesterday signed a treaty providing that any question between the United States and the Netherlands, which cannot be settled by diplomacy, shall be submitted for investigation to an international commission of five members. The period of investigation is fixed at one year, although it may be shortened.

This is the first treaty between the United States and a European nation, based upon Secretary Bryan's peace plan.

Similar treaties have been negotiated with five Central American nations, and it is planned to sign one with the Dominican republic today.

The American-Netherlands convention embodies generally the principles of Secretary Bryan's plan to bring an end to warfare between the nations of the world, but it differs in some details from similar pacts already signed.

There is no provision in it for maintenance of the status quo as to military and naval preparations during the period of investigation. Mr. Bryan pointed out yesterday, however, that he considered this feature nonessential, acceptance of the principle of investigation being the keynote of the plan.

In negotiating the treaty, Secretary Bryan made a slight concession to the Netherlands in the matter of

the appointment of the fifth member of the permanent international commission, to be chosen by common agreement between the two governments, it being understood this member shall not be a citizen of either country.

The previous treaties do not make this limitation as to citizenship of the fifth member. Four members are to be chosen like the similar commissions provided for in the other treaties, that is, one from each country, to be selected by the respective governments, and one to be chosen by each government from some third country.

The treaty, like the others, is to run for five years, and thereafter remain in force until twelve months after one of the high contracting parties has given notice of an intention to terminate it. The international commission must be appointed within six months after exchange of the ratifications.

While none of the peace treaties has been ratified by the senate as yet, Secretary Bryan said this was due to the press of business, and that he expected to encounter no difficulty when the pacts are reached by the upper house.

REDFIELD URGES EIGHT-HOUR DAY

Following is an Associated Press dispatch, dated Washington, December 31: Secretary Redfield, of the department of commerce today expressed the belief that it would be "far better for the pockets, as well as the peace of mind, of employers" if they would work their men only eight hours a day. He was speaking before the American association for labor legislation, which is meeting here with the American political science association. The secretary said:

"I believe that when our factories are run so that the workmen go home without being fatigued from over-long hours, and not till then, will we be able to compete successfully against all comers in the markets of the world: I could not afford to employ in a factory men who are half sick, who come to work after having had bad breakfasts, who are partly poisoned; they would be economically unprofitable. And yet fatigue is part poison."

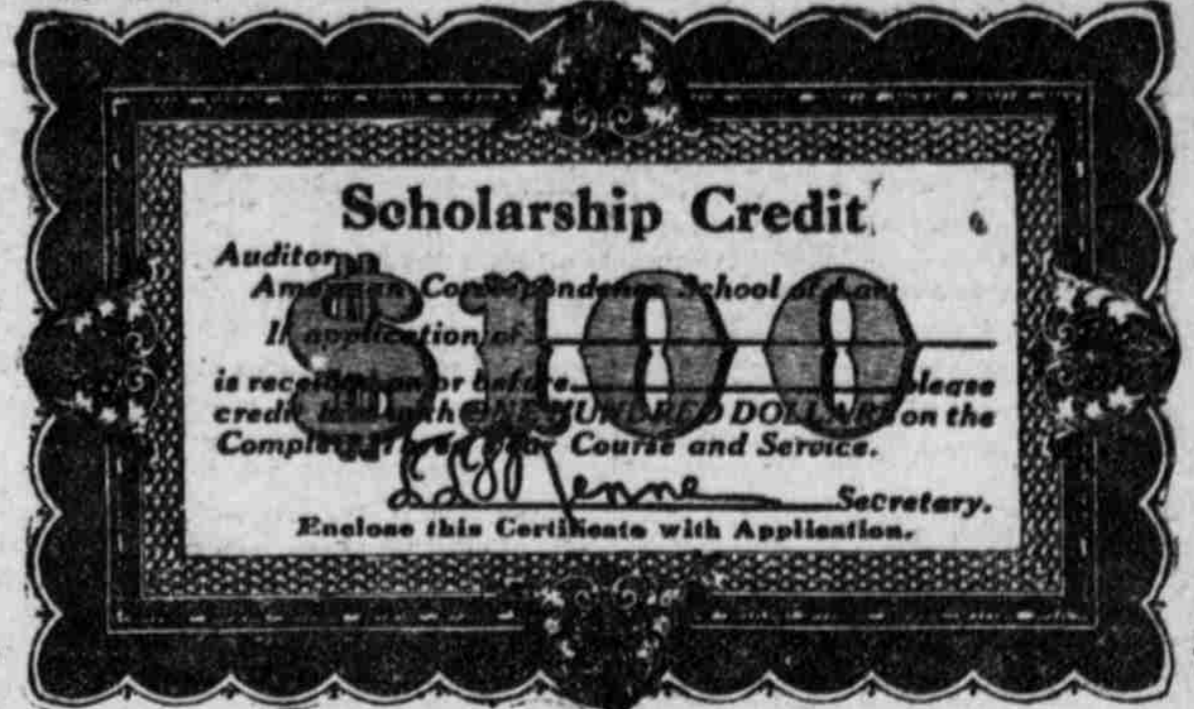
Austin B. Garretson, president of the Order of Railway Conductors, told the association that in 1913 there had been 261,000 violations of the law prohibiting the working of a trainman more than 16 hours in one day. Continuing, he said:

"While I have been standing here talking to you four railway trainmen have been carried away on stretchers, killed or injured; and during the two days we have been in session here 250 of them have been carried off. We are killing and injuring them at the rate of 125 a day. How much of this is due to long hours?"

That the popularity of compulsory insurance against accidents has been astonishingly rapid and is bound to be followed quickly by other forms of social insurance, was the declaration of Joseph P. Chamberlain, of New York.

Senator Owen, of Oklahoma, spoke in favor of a national legislative reference bureau which would prepare bills to be introduced that they might be as nearly perfect as possible from the standpoint of clear expression, so "that even the supreme court could not misunderstand them."

S. Thurston Ballard, of Louisville, Ky., a member of the federal industrial relations commission, who has an eight-hour shift in operation in his flour mill, contended that "a man doing active or laborious work can do as much in eight hours as he can in twelve."



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