

GERMAN LAUDS MR. BRYAN

A special cable to the Chicago Tribune dated Berlin, December 27, says:

America's policy of "diplomatic postponement," exemplified by Messrs. Wilson and Bryan's handling of the Mexican situation, is lauded as the supreme peace achievement of the year by Alfred H. Fried, the distinguished German pacifist, in a review of what 1913 brought forth for the cause of the amicable settlement of international differences.

"The manner wherein the United States government delayed rushing into precipitate action in the California-Japanese controversy, the quarrel with Great Britain over the canal tolls, and the strife with Huerta," Fried says, "is characteristic of the peace policy which America deliberately pursues. It has been properly recognized there that it isn't the main thing to settle every conflict on a strict basis of rights but to give conflicts such character that they can be settled by sensible means, either arbitration or compromise.

"The best means to attain that end is to exclude passions which naturally arise from international differences—passions which are the chief menace to amicable settlement. Hostile passions are most effectually obliterated by the policy of temporizing.

"The European powers traditionally cherish the fear that their prestige is shattered unless the saber is rattled at every possible opportunity and an 'energetic tone' employed. The idea is propagated that it is beneath the dignity of a great power to yield. Historyless America has more modern and more sensible conceptions. They are plainly expressed in the new peace treaties which Mr. Bryan has submitted to The Hague conference signatories.

"Mr. Bryan proposes the principle of 'postponement' shall be made an integral feature of international law with the sole purpose of divesting political conflicts of their inflammable character. Up to the end of 1913 no less than thirty-one states or more than three-quarters of the civilized world have informed the American government they agree in principle with Bryan's proposals."

Although the year 1913 witnessed enormous fresh sacrifices to the Moloch of militarism, including \$250,000,000 each which Germany and France are spending on armaments, \$300,000,000 which Russia and Austria spent on mobilization and fresh armaments, and \$1,200,000,000 which is the estimated cost of the Balkan wars, Fried says "the iron logic of facts" is making an irresistible propaganda for the idea of world peace.

"Humanity," he declares, "is today in its overwhelming majority devoted to the idea of pacifism."

With Norman Angell's unanswerable proofs that war does not pay; Lloyd George's assertion that the money which England, France and Germany are wasting on armaments might just as well be thrown into the North sea; Winston Churchill's repeated overtures to Germany for a naval understanding; the Bavarian premier's (Baron von Hertling's) stentorian warning that there must be rest from the flash of German armament 'for years to come' as Fried's extraordinarily powerful treatise sets forth, pacifists need not be chagrined or discouraged even by the appalling fact that since the first Hague peace conference wars and armaments in various parts of the world represent a wasted outlay during fifteen years of the almost incomprehensible sum of roundly \$5,500,000,000. The third Hague conference assembles in two years. It remains to be seen whether the

governments of the world will again be in position to flout the will of the people and treat these facts as unworthy of serious consideration.

THE AMERICAN-DANISH TREATY

The treaty signed by Secretary Bryan and Mr. Constantin Brun, minister of Denmark, is the most advanced step yet taken by two nations in the interests of peace.

By this treaty the United States and Denmark agree that all disputes between them, of every nature whatsoever, which diplomacy shall fail to adjust, shall be submitted to an international commission for investigation and report, and that war shall not be declared nor hostilities begun during such investigation. The commission is required to report within one year, unless the high contracting parties extend this time. The commission's findings are to be made the basis for the adjustment of disputes, and if the two governments within a year cannot reach a direct adjustment, or shall decide that such adjustment is impossible, they agree to submit the dispute to the permanent court of arbitration at The Hague.

The treaty also provides that before applying for arbitration a special agreement shall be signed, setting forth distinctly the subject-matter of the controversy and the extent of the powers of the arbitrators, which agreement shall be subject to the approval of the United States senate.

It was on account of the insistence of the senate that special arbitration agreements should be referred to it for approval that President Roosevelt refused to proceed to the negotiation of arbitration treaties some years ago. President Wilson and Secretary Bryan, however, wisely conceded to the senate its right to pass upon every arbitration agreement, in order that the exact nature and scope of the question to be arbitrated may be defined. There is reason to believe that with this provision in the treaty it will be ratified by the senate.

Ten treaties between the United States and as many foreign governments have been signed, and three others are in preparation, providing for investigation of all disputes. Steadily and surely the administration's peace proposals, which have been accepted in principle by practically every civilized nation, are being crystalized into treaties. These treaties, as soon as ratified, will work powerfully for peace by making it impossible for either high contracting party to go to war pending a careful investigation of the controversy by an international commission, and a further discussion of the findings of the commission. In many cases the mere lapse of time will cool angry passions and tend to bring about an amicable understanding.

Since the senate will in every case pass upon the particular matter proposed for arbitration, it is apparent that the interests of the United States are entirely safeguarded. The treaties should be ratified. — Washington Post.

METCALFE AS A SLEUTH

Springfield, Mass., Republican: Col. Goethals this week got far enough along in the John Burke commissary scandal to suspend Mr. Burke from duty. It was Mr. Metcalfe, of Nebraska, now a Panama canal commissioner and formerly associate editor of Bryan's Commoner, who first smoked out Mr. Burke. There cannot have been much grafting in connection with the building of the canal, and that fact makes Metcalfe's exploit as a graft detector, soon after he had reached the isthmus, so notable. He may be needed nearer home.

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