

American War Loans

The decision of the United States government opposing loans by American bankers made to nations at war is heartily to be approved. It does not dodge the question. It does not haggle over the matter whether or not the law of nations will allow such loans. It simply goes to the root of the question, to the spirit, not the letter of rules of neutrality, and says with the utmost brevity that such loans "are inconsistent with the true spirit of neutrality."

To be sure, our merchants have the right to send foodstuffs, at their own risk of capture, to countries at war; and, to be sure, the loan asked for might be all expended in this country for foodstuffs, so that no gold goes out of the country; but a hundred millions borrowed here and spent here for wheat releases as much over there to be spent for war material. We would not sell powder or guns, but we would make it possible for them to do so.

In this action the government has accepted the principles laid down, first, we believe, several years ago by Mr. Bryan himself and elaborated in an address three years ago at the meeting of the *American peace congress by the banker, James Speyer, to the effect that one of the best ways to reduce war would be for bankers to refuse to finance a war by loans.

This decision by our government is proof of a real desire to put an end to war, without regard to our own interests. It is to the present interest of our bankers, and of our people who would buy bonds, to make such loans at profitable rates. We decline to take that benefit. We take the larger world-view of peace and war; and in the end the advantage which will come from shortening the war and forcing peace will be greater than the immediate gain which takes profit out of a sister nation's calamities. We could lend to both sides; we lend to neither; we keep clear from complications, and we help the cause of peace.

This is a splendid precedent to make in the practise of international law and forecasts the day when neutral nations will automatically cease all intercourse with those who engage in war.—New York Independent.

*(Editorial note: It is probable that others raised this question before Mr. Bryan did, but he has been advocating for some years the doctrine that neutral nations should not loan to belligerent nations.)

PEACE HATH ITS VICTORIES

Congratulations, Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States, and William Jennings Bryan, secretary of state! You have given the world an example of the highest type of humanity, of forbearance and lofty ideals; you have taught the nations a lesson as old as the sermon on the mount, and older, but one forgotten in the centuries of bloodshed and strife: that the greatest victory is won by peace.

The little men have stormed at you and mocked you and laughed at you. They have called your policy "grapevine diplomacy" and the voice of the jingo has been heard in the land. And others have lied to you for their own selfish interests, so that at times you have steered your course in a fog of misrepresentation. But in the sixteen months and twenty-seven days it took you never faltered from the promise you made the world: "A government founded on blood cannot stand; a people cries for freedom from tyranny and oppression, and that freedom they shall have!"

It was a magnificently, audaciously courageous thing to do, this assumption of the big brother duty to see that the battered, bleeding little brother should be brought into the right path, made well and happy. You gave a new interpretation to the Monroe Doctrine, the very dignity of which lifted it beyond the pale of criticism, and told the world that this country would see that Mexico worked out the solution to the problems that were tearing her asunder. You took the awesome power of the navy and the army and gathered together the strength of the Union and held it all in the interests of peace. They reviled us, insulted the flag, killed even, yet the hands on the leash never weakened. It was a spectacle the world could not at first understand, with appreciation of the patience, forbearance and refusal to cross the border with armed men and to lay waste the coast cities with the great guns of angry battleships came the understanding of America's true purpose, and, for

the first time in all history, the perfect tribute was paid of the nations subscribing to the program of the Golden Rule, joining the Washington government in its ideals, content to wait until the inevitable happened and paying no attention to the growls of capital. And so secure was this confidence that when Vera Cruz was seized as a warning that the Huerta administration could not go too far in its insults, not a ripple of doubt as to the motive behind the action crossed the Atlantic.

The end of Mexico's trouble rapidly approaches. The usurper who gained the chair in the national palace over the still warm body of a murdered president has played his desperate game with cunning and tireless, dogged resourcefulness only to lose; beaten, crushed under the pressure of moral suasion, a terrifying force he has not understood until lately, he abdicates.

The world is better for the struggle; the lesson has gone deep. Mexico awakened, already has started to work out its own salvation. The time has come when that people will hail the United States as its best friend, its big brother, with a protecting, fraternal arm. The shattered fabric of industry will be made whole under a strongly-established, wisely-administered constitutional government and a peace, prosperity and happiness never experienced before is dawning in the new day of national self-respect.

Congratulations, Mr. President and Mr. Secretary of State. Today the nations applaud you and your own people lead that applause.—San Antonio (Texas) Express.

MR. BRYAN'S PEACE TRIUMPH

The senate last week confirmed nineteen of the twenty-one peace treaties negotiated by Mr. Bryan and they are now the law of the land. The two with Panama and Santo Domingo are postponed for further consideration. We have discussed these treaties in detail in previous issues of *The Independent*. Suffice it here to reiterate that they mark a real advance in the movement for the substitution of law for war, providing as they do for a suspension of hostilities for one year pending an investigation and report on the question at issue by an impartial commission of inquiry.

These treaties are peculiarly Mr. Bryan's. He first gave out the idea on which they are based in an address before the *Conference of the Interparliamentary Union in London in the summer of 1906, elucidating it almost simultaneously in an article in *The Independent*.

Had their like been in existence between some of the European nations two weeks ago the world might have been spared the Great War.—New York Independent.

*(Editorial note: Mr. Bryan first proposed the peace plan in an editorial in *The Commoner* in the spring of 1905. His first speech in support of the plan was made at Tokyo in the fall of 1905. In July, 1906, it was unanimously endorsed at London by the Interparliamentary Union to which the *Independent* refers.)

"AUGUST 13, PEACE DAY"

On August 13 eighteen peace treaties were ratified by the United States senate. The Republic has suggested that this date be celebrated in the future as "Peace Day" in commemoration of the ratification. In discussing this suggestion Secretary of State Bryan points out that "we have no particular day set apart for the consideration of matters connected with the growing subject of peace."

Is there any reason why the American Peace Society should not fix upon August 13 as an annual "Peace Day" to be observed by its members in all parts of the country? On no other date so far as is known has world peace taken a greater step forward. The treaties are epoch-making in spirit and in terms. They make war a remoter possibility than ever before so far as the United States is concerned.

The American Peace Society has been in existence for well-nigh a century. In all that time there has been no one act on the part of the United States that had more significance as making for national and universal peace than the ratification of these treaties.

The world will not soon forget the tumultuous days of August, 1914. That month will loom redly in the annals of strife. All the more reason then that we should celebrate August 13 as the anniversary of our longest step away from the horrors of battle. That date and deed will stand out vividly against the red background of the Old World's wars.—St. Louis Republic.

THE STATUE OF PEACE

(The following poem, by Mrs. Spencer Trask, has been inspired by the proposed presentation by the United States of a statue of Peace to the Peace Palace of the Hague, now awaiting an appropriation by congress and the choice of a sculptor.)—New York Times.

The Daughter of Tradition—that fair Maid
Called, falsely, by the splendid name of Peace—
Still haunts the Land in marble and in bronze;
Her graceful garments fall in quiet folds,
Enriched with leaves of laurel at the hem;
Before the fevered eyes of baffled men,
In the mad struggle of a frenzied world,
She holds a futile olive branch and smiles;
Her sweetly placid lips would seem to say,
"Peace dwells apart, safe-sheltered from the
storm."

O Sculptor of the Future, bring to us
The larger mind, endowed with power to see
Behind the veil the Vision of the Truth!
The conscious marble waits your quickening
hand!
Show forth the true embodiment of Peace!

Peace is no limp and pallid Negative!
Peace is the living Positive of God!
Her life abundant is unending work;
Her course is ceaseless movement to the stars!

Make her a noble woman, brave to dare;
In every line of figure and of face
Chisel bold strokes of action and of strength,
Her mission is to master—not to yield;
Her destined duty to wage constant war
On Sin and Evil through the mortal years:
Not with the ancient weapons of the world—
But with the white flame of her valiant Soul!

Carve on her dauntless lips a lofty scorn
Of brutal practices employed by men
Who stoop to bloodshed and to cruel fight,
Like savage beasts that rend and tear their
prey;
Poise her proud head as one who would not
bend
To passing gusts of passion and revenge;
Fashion her hands outstretched to help man-
kind;
Create new harmonies where discords jar;
Blow back her storm-tossed garments in the
wind.
She stays not for the sunshine—she goes forth
Though tempests roar and threatening thunders
roll;
She knows no fear to die—no fear to live.

Peace is a Spirit-Warrior! She strives
With unseen forces, fiercer to subdue
Than marshaled hosts equipped with arma-
ments;
And when she conquers 'tis immortal gain;
Hers is no transient triumph of the hour;
Her conquest is the victory supreme,
The Victory of Spirit over flesh.

Crown her, O Master, with the crown of crowns,
And show her mighty in the might of God!

—Katrina Trask.

The national defense fund association, which is organized for the purpose of promoting a public sentiment in the United States for a big army and navy, is using the European war as an argument in behalf of the preparedness of the United States, and has begun a new propaganda. Yet if there is one lesson to be learned from the readiness with which the great nations of Europe plunged into a terrible conflict it is that the presence of a large military class in a nation and the possession of a tremendous army and navy fully equipped to deal stunning blows at an adversary is the surest method of precipitating warfare.

The cattle markets perversely refuse to lend themselves to the support of those distressed republican campaigners who started out on the theory that lowering the tariff meant a flood of Argentine beef and consequent destruction of the home market for the American cattle-raiser. They are now confronted by the fact that the farmer has not been hard hit by the democratic tariff law. On August 15th the price paid in the markets of the country to producers of beef cattle, calves, hogs, sheep, lambs and chickens averaged \$7.63 a hundred against \$7.20 the same day last year and \$6.56 two years ago, at which latter date the Payne-Aldrich law was in force.