

system itself is being paraded as a means to that end rather than as an instrument of war. Hence the peace of the people must surely be a condition conducive to their welfare and happiness, and to be cherished by them as the most valuable asset of civilized society. If that be so, it seems proper to inquire: What have the nations of the world, what have we done to protect it and to make it secure beyond all human peradventure? Again I point to the Mexican trouble as the most illuminating answer. And what I am going to say is the second object lesson which our recent troubles have brought home to us. A naval commander in foreign waters demands a certain kind of reparation for what he terms an insult to the American uniform and flag. In fact, without specific instructions from his government, he issues an ultimatum to the effect that, unless his terms are complied with within a few hours, he will begin to bombard the town. The president and congress under these forced circumstances are obliged to stand by him—of course I do not. But, in spite of the fact that congress and the president stood by him, you can see in reality that it is not congress which declares war, although congress is the sole authority to declare war, according to the terms of the constitution. It is rather a single naval officer who, acting on the spur of the moment and in an impassioned mood, dares to embroil the whole country in war. Does this not show conclusively that our peace, despite the enlightenment of the age is not sufficiently safeguarded—that, in fact, it hangs on a very thin thread? Now it is a "casus belli" like this that the peace party propose to guard against. Perhaps we can not prevent the occurrence itself—at least not as long as our battleships are moving around the world fomenting trouble—but we can guard, and ought to guard, against such trivial incidents plunging the country into the horrors of war. Gentlemen, if but the American people and all the other nations of the world would take these lessons to heart, the Mexican embroglio might eventually be hailed as a blessing in disguise!

Take also the measure of greatness which Christ presents—one that we all recognize to be true—and yet how slowly it has made progress. It is the most revolutionary of doctrines that greatness is to be measured by service. The selfish idea is that greatness is to be measured by what you can compel people to do for you; but the real measure of greatness is what you voluntarily do for others. Life is not to be estimated by what you get out of it; it is to be estimated by what you put into it. Now, this needs no proof. It is a self-evident truth, and yet how slowly this doctrine makes progress throughout the world.

You are engaged in the promotion of a great cause, and because it is great it does not move rapidly. The trees that stand the blasts of the storm are the trees of slow growth. Those trees that spring up quickly have not great strength. It is because your cause takes hold upon that which is most vital in life and of that which is fundamental in civilization that you must not expect it to run—you must be content if it walks. But it is growing, and we could not face the future with hope if it were not growing. If we could be convinced that the idea of peace was going backward, there would not be a single star in the sky. It is only because we do believe, and believe with all our hearts, that the peace movement is making progress; for that reason, and for that reason only, we believe that the future is bright. We must not expect that the progress will be the same everywhere throughout the world. We have to meet conditions, some of them far from ideal. The ideal inspires, and we look to it and work toward it. We must not be disappointed if we find it impossible at once to realize the ideal. It would not be a high ideal if it were within our reach; it would not be a worthy ideal if it were not lofty enough to keep us looking upward all the time; it would not be an ideal worth while if we ever expected fully to attain it.

But our cause is making progress. There is not a country in the world that has not felt to some extent the impetus of the peace movement; if you have any doubt of it, let me give you evidence that I regard as conclusive and most encouraging. Your chairman has been kind enough to refer to the peace plan which has by the president's authority, been presented to the world. It was, on the 26th day of April—a little more than a year ago—presented to the foreign representatives residing in Washington. Before a year had expired the principle had been accepted by more than thirty governments, representing more than three-fourths of all the people of the world. Now, when the governments

Boys, Will You Sign the Pledge With Me?

A pledge of total abstinence is being signed by a host of boys in Michigan—why not the boys of other states as well? A book will be opened at The Commoner office, wherein will be entered the names and addresses of those who sign this pledge with me. Cut out the pledge, paste it on a piece of paper and sign it. Lay the pledge away that you may have it as a reminder of the decision you have made, but send a postal card to The Commoner, stating that you have signed it, and giving your age and address. If you do

not care to state your age, use the word "adult," instead of giving the number of years. Receipt of these pledges will be acknowledged by publication in The Commoner in which only the name and address will be given. Ask others to sign with you—secure as many signatures as possible—and thus be the means of spreading the influence of the pledge. Those who abstain from drink do good not only to themselves, but to those also who are encouraged by their example.

W. J. BRYAN.

Total Abstinence Pledge

I, the undersigned, promise, God helping us, never to use intoxicating liquors as a beverage.

Date	Name	Age	Residence
Nov. 28, 1914.	William Jennings Bryan	54	Tonawanda, N.Y.

(This is the temperance pledge in Mr. Bryan's own handwriting that he presented to 5,000 boys at Ann Arbor. It will be circulated all over the state by boys of the Y. M. C. A. Mr. Bryan believes that 50,000 Michigan boys will sign with him.—Detroit (Michigan) Times.)

While Mr. Bryan asks the readers of The Commoner to sign with him, he desires it understood that his object is to secure signers, not merely to enjoy the honor of signing with others. If any one prefers to sign by himself, let him do so. Or, if he prefers, let him ask any one he pleases to sign with him. But whether alone or with another, let him SIGN.

representing more than three-fourths of all the human beings on this globe will endorse a plan that contemplates a period of deliberation and investigation before there can be a declaration of war or the commencement of hostilities; when that can be done by governments representing more than three-fourths of the peoples of the world, and done in a single year, certainly there is no reason for discouragement. Not only has this been done, but treaties have been signed with fifteen of these countries, and ten more have their treaties practically ready. Among the ten whose treaties are practically completed are Great Britain, France, and China, and the three greatest republics of South America. When the ten now approaching completion are signed, as they will be at no distant day, we will have considerably more than one-half of the people of the world living under governments which are linked to us by treaties which provide that neither side shall fire a shot until the cause of dispute has been investigated by an impartial commission. (The nations above mentioned have since signed—thirty is the total number at this time.)

That is the progress that has been made in a little more than a year, and yet this progress would not have been possible had it not been for the preliminary work done in the years that have passed. I rejoice in the prospect today and in the progress that we now witness; I am grateful to those who have given to this movement enthusiastic support, and who, so many years before we were born, realized that there was a higher plane than the plane of physical force upon which to settle international differences. Their labors have not been in vain. We shall not know the names of all, nor shall we be able to estimate with accuracy the contribution that each has made. But what difference does that make? What if the world does not know? He who from a worthy motive strives for a noble cause is not concerned whether others know what he does or speak words of praise; it is sufficient for him that he has done his part and lived up to the opportunities that have come to him.

It takes the work of all to accomplish the total result. A few years ago my wife and I visited the Grand Canyon in Arizona. We went down 4,600 feet from the top of the Canyon to where the Colorado river wends its way, and

there we saw evidences of the action of the waters through the ages. As we looked upon that stream, I wondered how many drops of water had found their way through that canyon. No arithmetic would enable us to compute them; neither could we tell just what influence each one had had—it was the work of all. And so with every great movement—it is the work not of one, or of a few, but of the multitude. I am glad to be with those who, as a part of the multitude, are working for peace. — From the Advocate of Peace.

George W. Wickersham, who was attorney general of the United States under President Taft, has endorsed as good and fairly sure to be effective the Clayton law and the law creating a federal trades commission. He is inclined to believe that with a trades commission wisely constituted and the law properly administered, the new policy towards business will prove of great value. Mr. Wickersham is guarded in his commendation, but it is something to secure from a republican so conservative as he is, the admission that the democrats have enacted two good laws that are calculated to end vexatious conditions in commerce.

A FRIEND

Not since the acquaintance was formed at the Chicago convention in 1896, have I lost a more devoted friend than Charles Henry Daugherty, of Philadelphia, who died on the 18th of last month.

He went to the Chicago convention opposed to the financial policy endorsed by the convention, but left the city as earnest and zealous a supporter as any of those who went to the convention instructed. During the nearly two decades which have elapsed since, he was, in season and out of season, a friend. Whenever I had occasion to visit Philadelphia, no matter on what mission, his genial face welcomed me and his God speed cheered me on my departure. However large a circle of acquaintances one has he can not but miss one so genuine, so loyal, so constant as the one whose death is now recorded. Public life has its trials and burdens, but such affection as Charles Daugherty's weighs heavily in the balance against them.

Peace to his ashes; to his bereaved family, sympathy.

W. J. BRYAN.