

Mr. Bryan Resigns as Secretary of State

[From Washington Star, June 9, 1915.]

William Jennings Bryan of Nebraska, who is the author of thirty peace treaties which the United States government has negotiated with foreign countries, today left his position as secretary of state, following an announcement from the White house last night that President Wilson had accepted his resignation, tendered because Mr. Bryan, as a matter of principle, has been unable to agree with Mr. Wilson on the note to Germany, which, Mr. Bryan fears, may lead this country into war.

Mr. Lansing Acting Secretary

Robert Lansing, counselor of the state department, was today appointed by the president as secretary of state ad interim "for not more than thirty days," and after a conference with President Wilson at the White house he announced that the note to Germany had been signed by him as acting secretary, that the work of enciphering it had begun and that it would be dispatched to Berlin as soon as possible.

The note went forward this afternoon, and will be given out for publication in the Friday morning newspapers.

Makes a Farewell Call

Mr. Bryan was in farewell conference with the president early this afternoon after saying goodbye to the employes of the state department with tears in his eyes. Mr. Lansing spent half an hour with the president, the face of the secretary ad interim being careworn. He appeared to have aged since taking over the responsibilities which the dramatic international and national situations have thrust upon his shoulders. Shortly after seeing Mr. Lansing the president departed, alone, for an automobile ride, his face also appearing grave and careworn.

Reports that Secretary Daniels had resigned or would do so were current early this afternoon, but were denied on authority, the rumors having grown out of the known friendship and long intimacy in national politics between Mr. Bryan and Mr. Daniels.

Foreboding as to Effect

What effect the resignation of Mr. Bryan is to have upon the international crisis, as to the demands which the United States is making upon the German government that the latter shall safeguard the lives of American citizens in its submarine war upon shipping, it is too early yet to state, but there is grave foreboding that Mr. Bryan's attitude may be seized upon to make trouble for the United States. Likewise the political effect of Mr. Bryan's action within the United States is today a subject of the most serious consideration and anxiety for officials of the administration.

The change in the cabinet at a critical moment in the nation's history took effect with the dispatch of the note to Germany.

Differing, not in the object sought—the prevention of war—but in the method of approaching the problem, Mr. Bryan resigned rather than sign his name to the note which states in unmistakable, determined and emphatic terms the demands of the United States.

Affection for President Unchanged

Mr. Bryan told his colleagues and friends today as they gathered about him in farewell that his affection for President Wilson was unchanged and that he knew the president felt as warmly toward him. Firmly believing

he can advance the cause of peace outside of official life and build up a sentiment in the United States that will assist the president in maintaining friendly relations with all nations, Mr. Bryan today went back to private life.

The resignation of the secretary of state of the United States over a difference on a vital question of foreign policy—itsself unusual in the annals of American history—was most dramatically touched by numerous manifestations of personal regard for Mr. Bryan and his own emotion at leaving the office he held so dearly.

Tears stood in his eyes while friends commended his courageous fight for principles and his determination to eliminate himself rather than continue in the cabinet as a possible embarrassment to the president.

Story Yet to be Told

The story of his fight to sway the president's judgment on the method of dealing with the situation with Germany is, as yet, untold. He made no effort to align other members of the cabinet with him, and when he came to the parting of the ways, on an irreconcilable question of principle, he did not tell his colleagues generally, hoping that his action to the last would not produce any complications in the cabinet.

For three days—from Saturday to Monday—the president had Mr. Bryan's resignation under consideration, and the secretary did not go to yesterday's cabinet meeting until the president's letter of acceptance reached him. The president had invited him to attend after letting the cabinet know of the situation. Quietly the consideration of the note continued and at the end of the meeting the president and remaining members of the cabinet expressed to Mr. Bryan their sense of personal regret.

Plans to Aid President

The close personal relationship of Mr. Bryan and the president will be reflected in the former secretary's future course, it was learned today authoritatively. Mr. Bryan intends to continue a staunch political supporter of Mr. Wilson on domestic affairs and believes he can even assist him in the sentiment he hopes to build up for the principle of investigation of disputes before hostilities are begun. It was this idea which was embodied in thirty peace treaties negotiated by Mr. Bryan with the principal nations of the world—all but Germany, Austria and Belgium and Japan, the first three of which had accepted the principle.

Late today, after the note to Germany is on its way to Berlin, Mr. Bryan plans to issue from his home a statement outlining his position on the questions that have arisen on the relations between the United States and Germany. Mr. Bryan contends it would be better to submit the entire question to an investigating commission and, pending its deliberations, have Americans refrain from taking passage on ships carrying contraband or which venture into danger zones on the high seas.

Where Views Are Apart

President Wilson is said to have been opposed to that idea not only because he believed the United States, in effect, would thereby be yielding its rights under international law, but because there was no guaranty that lawful American commerce would be free from dangers during discussion.

That these principles are not of sufficient strength in American public opinion for the Washington gov-

ernment to commit itself to so firm a policy as might result in war, is the conviction of Mr. Bryan, and he hopes to test public sentiment in a way that will assist the president as the American government's policy is developed.

There was a well defined trend of opinion in official quarters that the resignation of Mr. Bryan would go far in impressing Germany with the earnest intention of the United States to insist on its rights.

It is understood that the United States has from time to time received authoritative information that high German officials believed the administration was committed to a policy of uninterrupted peace and did not intend at any time or under any circumstances to go to war.

Mr. Bryan's resignation, many officials thought, would remove all doubts in Berlin, and if Germany were sincerely desirous of averting war would arrange for a way out of the problem that has arisen which could honorably be accepted by the United States.

The view that Mr. Bryan's action therefore might favorably influence the situation was shared by some of his closest friends.

"God Bless You," Exclaim President and Mr. Bryan as They Say Farewell

William Jennings Bryan, who has just resigned as secretary of state, went to the White house to say farewell to the president at 12:35 p.m., when the latter returned from his automobile trip. He was immediately shown into the green room. The President and Mr. Tumulty were there to receive him, and after greetings had been exchanged Mr. Wilson and Mr. Bryan sat down to talk.

Cordially and without any trace of feeling, the two men discussed the situation which resulted finally in Mr. Bryan's resignation. They spoke dispassionately of their differences over the manner in which the pending dispute with Germany should be handled, and each gave credit to the other for being honest in his convictions and doing what he thought was for the best interests of the United States.

Witnesses Are Touched

Throughout the interview the faces of Mr. Wilson and Mr. Bryan were grave and sad, and each showed that they were deeply sorry over their official parting. Persons who witnessed the interview were deeply touched with the regard which the two men displayed for each other while they talked, each with a hand on the arm of the other. They told each other how sorry they were to sever their official relations.

Finally Mr. Bryan remarked that he knew the president was a busy man and that he would not detain him longer.

The two men who have stood together during the last two years in one crisis after another rose to their feet simultaneously and clasped hands.

"God Bless You," They Exclaim

"God bless you," said each as their hands touched. Mr. Bryan then gave another grip to the president's hand and left the White house.

Mr. Bryan, accompanied by Secretary Tumulty, walked down the steps. Waiting near the steps were a woman and two small children. Mr. Bryan shook hands with all three. On the way from the White house to the executive offices the former secretary of state and Mr. Tumulty walked arm in arm, talking confidentially.

As Mr. Bryan walked from the White house he was met by J. J. Jusseraud, the French ambassador, and Col. Vignal, the new military attache of the French embassy, who were

calling to pay their respects to the president.

While the colonel, in the dress uniform of the French army, stood at salute, the ambassador advanced quickly and shook hands warmly with Mr. Bryan.

Photographed With Writers

A newspaper photographer was waiting at the executive offices and asked Mr. Bryan to pose for a picture with Mr. Tumulty. He readily consented, but insisted that an assembled group of newspaper men be included in the picture.

"That is, I want them in the picture if they are willing to be taken with me," said Mr. Bryan.

FAREWELL TO OFFICE ASSOCIATES

[From the Washington Star, June 9, 1915.]

Mr. Bryan was up early today to begin closing up his affairs at the state department. Before breakfast he took a long horseback ride alone through Rock Creek park, and then, returning to his home, Calumet Place, formerly the mansion of Gen. John A. Logan, received one caller, Louis F. Post, assistant secretary of labor, who stopped on his way to his office to speak a word of regret at the secretary's departure.

Mr. Bryan said he would issue his promised statement, giving in detail his reasons for resignation, some time today after the note to Germany has been started on its way to Berlin.

When Mr. Bryan started for his office Mrs. Bryan walked down the drive with him to his carriage, and at the approach of the couple, John Barry, the old state department coachman, who for many years has driven the carriages which are assigned to the secretary, got down from his box and, hat in hand, told them both how much he regretted to see Mr. Bryan go and how much he had appreciated the secretary's kindnesses.

Many to Say Goodbye

As the secretary drove to his office, probably for the last time, he passed throngs of government clerks on their way to office reading in the morning papers the news of his resignation. He was surrounded by scores who wanted to say a word of goodbye as he entered his offices.

Farewell to Associates

In his closing hours at the department Mr. Bryan bade farewell to his associates there, looked after minor executive matters, received newspaper correspondents, made a tour of the state, war and navy building to call informally on executive colleagues and turned over the affairs of his office this afternoon.

As soon as he reached his office for the official day Mr. Bryan called in Chief Clerk Davis and went over the messages, also arranging to meet the employes of the state department at noon.

Then the secretary started out alone to visit government officials in the building. He first went to the war department to see Secretary Garrison, who was not in his office. Mr. Bryan wrote a short note and left it with Mr. Garrison's messenger. Assistant Secretary of War Breckinridge was next on the calling list. He, too, was away, and the secretary of state left word with his clerk.

"Now I want to see my old friend, General McIntyre," Mr. Bryan said, as he left Mr. Breckinridge's office. A messenger escorted him to the bureau of insular affairs, where Mr. Bryan and General McIntyre, chief of the bureau, chatted for several minutes. Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt was next honored by a visit from the secretary. With him