

Republican Solicitude Unnecessary

The republican press has seized upon Mr. Bryan's resignation as an excuse for giving expression to a vast amount of unnecessary solicitude. The editors who have made it their business for several decades to point out the menace involved in democratic success are now lying awake nights worrying about the possibility of discord in the democratic household. Insomnia is such a frightful disease that the democrats, out of human sympathy if for no other reason, ought to exert themselves to allay these fears. What is there in Mr. Bryan's resignation that can give hope or encouragement to a republican? No personal element enters into it; it was simply an irreconcilable difference of opinion as to the methods to be employed for settling a dispute which had arisen between this country and Germany. Unless the veracity of both the president and Mr. Bryan is to be impeached, the sole cause of the resignation is set forth in the letter of resignation and in the letter accepting it.

This is not like a republican quarrel over office—it is not a conflict between two ambitions. In other words, it is not a Chicago (republican) contest, with two men splitting the party rather than that either should surrender to the other the prize which they both coveted. The fact that the republicans and progressives are "getting together" without any change in principle or policy shows that it was not a principle or policy that ruptured the party.

The president and his secretary of state were seeking to promote peace but they differed as to the methods most likely to result in peace. They agreed to disagree—they separated, each respecting the other's position. Their purposes have not changed—their zeal for the party's welfare has not abated—they are alike wedded to the principles and policies for which the democratic party stands.

The republicans are singularly dull of comprehension if they think that the difference between the president and Mr. Bryan will redound to the benefit of the republican party.

W. J. BRYAN.

A NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW

Before leaving Washington for the west, Mr. Bryan gave out the following statement to the press under date of June 27:

"I have noticed that a number of the jingo papers are publishing a statement to the effect that after the sending of the first note to Germany, I gave Ambassador Dumba the impression that the note was not intended to be taken seriously. I am not willing that the uninformed shall be misled by that portion of the press which is endeavoring to force this country into war.

"I reported to the president the conversation which I had with Mr. Dumba, and I received his approval of what I said. When we learned the conversation has been misrepresented in Berlin, I brought the matter to the attention of Mr. Dumba, and secured from him a statement certifying to the correctness of the report of the conversation which I had made to the president.

"Ambassador Dumba's statement was sent to our embassy at Berlin and Ambassador Dumba also telegraphed the German government affirming the correctness of my report of the interview and denying the construction that had been placed upon it. These are the facts in the case."

The suggestion of Governor Whitman as a republican candidate for president has apparently had a bad effect on the New York executive or possibly he is listening to the boys at his ear hinting that political suicide lies along the road of being a people's governor, a title he bore as a candidate for chief executive. The certainty that William Barnes, jr., will be the leader of the New York delegation in the next republican national convention must make the governor wonder if it would be worth while being a candidate.

In the frontier days a large percentage of the men who walked the streets of the cattle or mining towns went prepared for war—trouble. The small minority did not carry guns. Anybody who has ever read the story of the wild days of the west will recall that the graves in the hill cemetery were invariably filled by the "killers." The unarmed minority usually lied in bed.

AN ODE TO FREEDOM

(By Edwin Markham, author of "The Man with the Hoe, and Other Poems." Read at Independence Day celebration, July 5, 1915, Panama Pacific Exposition.)

Here in the forest now,
As on that old July
When first our conscript fathers took the vow,
The bluebird, stained with earth and sky,
Shouts from a blowing bough
In green aerial freedom, wild and high.
And now, as then, the bobolink,
Out on the uncertain brink
Of the swaying alder, swings,
Loosing his song out, link by golden link;
While over the wood his proclamation rings,
A daring boast that would unkingdom kings!

Even so the wild birds sang on bough and wall
That day the Bell of Independence Hall
Thundered around the world the Word of Man,
That day when Liberty began
And mighty hopes were blown on every sea,
But Freedom calls her conscripts now as then—
Calls for heroic men:
It is an endless battle to be free.

As the old dangers lessen from the skies,
New dangers rise.
Down the long centuries to be,
Again, again, will rise Thermoplae—
Again, again, a new Leonidas
Will hold for God the imperilled Pass.
As the long ages run
New Lexington will rise on Lexington;
And many a Warren fall
Upon the endangered wall.

Yet the black smoke of battle, it will pass—
Sometime, sometime—like vapor from glass.
There will be rest for all the weary flags,
And rest for bugles on the battle crags.
Still there will be no rest for man's strong soul
Before him shines an ever-flying goal.
Still must he seek for freedom evermore:
No halt for any soul on any shore.
Man is the conscript of an endless quest,
A long divine adventure without rest.
Each hard-earned freedom withers to a bond:
Freedom forever is beyond—beyond!

The National Security league has been sending letters broadcast to the clergy asking them to speak on "National Defense," and suggesting several topics. Frederick Lynch, editor of the Christian Work, who received one of these letters, wrote the New York Times that in the opinion of the ministry of the country "if there ever was a time when great nations as well as great men should be thinking of what they can do for the rest of the world rather than of taking care of themselves it is now." Mr. Lynch also wrote that a referendum he recently took showed that twenty-nine out of every thirty were opposed to the movement for an increased armament.

The New York World discovered, in this communication from Henry J. F. Truelson of Belfield, N. D., printed in its June 21st issue, that it was not voicing the sentiments of the people in its denunciations of Mr. Bryan: "After canvassing forty-seven votes in regard to the resignation of Mr. W. J. Bryan, among professional men and farmers in his community, the following is the result: Forty-six approved of Mr. Bryan's course and but one was in favor of the president's course. Among them are nine democrats, personally known to me. The people here do not want war at any price."

The entire effort of those gentlemen who are now pointing the republican party in the way that it is necessary to go in order to achieve success is directed towards making the people believe that the business interests are opposed to a continuation of the democratic party in power. Just note what business interests in your section are objecting to the democratic policies and you will get a very fair idea of the kind of business interests that are generally looking hopefully towards the reincarnation of the old republican party.

A Nebraska woman has been waiting for fifty-three years for the return of her husband, and is reported as still cheerful. This is not mentioned particularly as an item of interesting news, but to encourage that part of Big Business that is waiting for the return of old and to it happy conditions. It proves that human endurance is limitless.

GERMAN NOTE CHANGED

The Washington Post of June 13, 1915, contained the following news item:

"Former Secretary of State Bryan, who resigned his portfolio rather than sign the second note to Germany, issued another statement late yesterday, declaring that the note was materially revised following the presentation of his resignation. The revision, Mr. Bryan averred, softened the note, but was not sufficient to justify him in withdrawing his resignation.

"It is true," said Mr. Bryan, "that I saw the final draft of the note just before my resignation took effect, but it contained an important change. I had no knowledge of this change at the time my resignation was tendered and accepted.

"This change, while very much softening the note, was not, however, sufficient, in my judgment, to justify me in asking permission to withdraw my resignation.

"As Germany had suggested arbitration, I felt that we could not do less than reply to this offer by expressing a willingness to apply the principle of the peace treaties to the case."

"What was the change in the note?" Mr. Bryan was asked.

"I can not discuss that," he replied.

It was suggested that the clause added to the note was that saying the United States would entertain any evidence Germany might have that officials of this government had not thoroughly performed their duty in examining the Lusitania before her departure to see that she was not armed for offensive action. Mr. Bryan only smiled at the suggestion.

Secretary Lansing also declined to discuss changes made in the note.

The clause referred to follows:

"If the Imperial German government should deem itself to be in possession of convincing evidence that the officials of the government of the United States did not perform these duties with thoroughness the government of the United States sincerely hopes that it will submit that evidence for consideration."

"Irrespective of whether that clause was inserted or not," Mr. Bryan was asked, "does it not open the way for further negotiations with Germany?"

"I can only reiterate what I have said, that the note was softened," Mr. Bryan replied, "but not sufficiently to justify me in asking permission to withdraw my resignation."

INTERVIEW BY MR. BRYAN

The following interview was published June 12, 1915:

The next two weeks will be devoted largely to rest. During the two years and three months which have elapsed since I entered the state department I have had but little vacation—considerably less than the time which the law gives to all government employees. If any historian is interested enough to examine the record he will find that no former secretary has been at his desk a greater number of hours each day or a greater number of days in the year, and I am sure none of my predecessors has had to deal with more problems of the first magnitude. It has been a long and severe strain, and Mrs. Bryan has shared it with me. We both feel the need of rest and shall avail ourselves of this opportunity to secure it. We shall go to Old Point Comfort tonight, spend Sunday and Monday there, and return Tuesday morning. By that time we shall have our plans matured for the remainder of June and possibly for a longer period.

MR. BRYAN CONGRATULATES SECRETARY LANSING

June 24, 1915.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Allow me to extend to you my cordial congratulations and to let you know how much gratified I am that you have been selected as my successor. The year during which we have been associated together in the state department has given me an opportunity to become intimately acquainted with you, and confidence and affection have followed acquaintance.

May every success attend you, personally and officially.

Mrs. Bryan joins me in kindest regards to Mrs. Lansing and in good wishes for you both.

With assurances of respect, I am, my dear Mr. Secretary,

Very truly yours,

(Signed) W. J. BRYAN.

Honorable Robert Lansing,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.