

Letters from Commoner Readers on Mr. Bryan's Resignation

Edward P. Hughes, Wheeling, W. Va.: William J. Bryan once said in a speech; "A leader is a man who is going in the same direction that the people are going only a little ahead." That is why I have always followed him, because he is going in the same direction in which I am going, only far ahead. I see no reason why I should desert Mr. Bryan now. I have been a warm supporter of Woodrow Wilson, and was among the first to advocate his candidacy in West Virginia. I am willing to stand on a statement made by the president at a gathering of naturalized American citizens in Philadelphia a few days after the sinking of the Lusitania, "There is such a thing as a man being too proud to fight. There is such a thing as being so right that it does not need to convince others by force that it is right." It is my fervent prayer that the administration will not be drawn into the war.

Herbert E. Waters, St. John, Kansas: I have been an admirer and supporter of Wm. J. Bryan since 1896, when I cast my first ballot in a presidential election. In every test that has come to my knowledge he has stood for truth. I see by the press today that he has resigned his cabinet position, and I am glad that the author of the "Prince of Peace" can cast his lot as a citizen of the greatest republic of this age, in accord with the doctrine he has done so much to promulgate to the whole world.

S. B. Mosher, Falconer, N. Y.: Mr. Bryan has said and done a great many good things, but none equal to his resignation from the cabinet and accompanying statement of his policy.

J. C. Remington, Twin City (Buckeye City and Danville, Ohio): I am about to perform a long neglected duty, to write you concerning the Commoner and call your attention to our weekly, The Twin City News, which we established here about six months ago. It is dedicated politically to the upholding of political principles as enunciated by W. J. Bryan, that great and good citizen of our country who, by withdrawing from the Wilson cabinet added new laurels to his imperishable fame. I want the Commoner, now more than ever because I want the truth. I am sending a copy of the News under separate cover with the request that you place it on your exchange list. With the hope and firm belief that W. J. Bryan will win the battle in favor of peace, I beg to be and forever remain, etc.

J. E. Leiser, Westgate, Iowa: Under date of May 16, 1915, I wrote you as follows: "Please discontinue sending me your Commoner. I have received the Commoner for many years as your list will show. I have been a staunch supporter and have held you in love and esteem continually since 1896. Knowing as well as I do—a result from close and continual reading of your magazine—I deem it entirely unnecessary to state wherein I find you at fault. However, I believe it conservative to state that when a supporter of my calibre drops out of your ranks there are very many over our broad land who are doing likewise." Since learning of resigning from the high office of secretary of state and your noble reasons therefor the mist has cleared. I believe that I am but a unit among a multitude and a majority of our country who hasten to rally to the cause and leadership of the "Prince of Peace." By all means let's have the Common-

er. Yours for peace and neutrality—it's worth the effort.

O. B. Menees, Canon, Ga.: I wish to congratulate you on the stand taken for peace with the German government. I am sure you are right and that the president is wrong. I feel sure that if our nation is plunged into war now it will be all uncalled for, and regret very much that the president did not see the matter as you did. Please enter our name on your list of subscribers to your paper, and send me a bill for the subscription for two years. I have been an admirer of yours since the first speech you made in Nashville, Tenn.

Col. W. R. Crabtree, Chattanooga, Tenn.: I regret the conditions which made W. J. Bryan feel that it was his duty to leave the cabinet. At the same time his course in resigning rather than violate his conscientious convictions as to the method of procedure in handling the delicate and dangerous situation with Germany will finally command the approval and admiration of people everywhere who govern their own conduct by moral principles. Mr. Bryan would not be the great leader he is if he had less courage and unselfishness than he has shown in this instance. In every struggle in this country between right and wrong since Mr. Bryan has been in public life, he has taken the side of right. While he may have made mistakes of policy, the world knows that he would not do an intentional wrong. There is no doubt that our great president and Secretary Bryan were seeking to accomplish the same end, and which was right can only be determined by ultimate results. Whatever the outcome, President Wilson has the assurance of the patriotic support of the man who had the largest share in his election to the presidency.

Rev. Geo. E. Haas, Huntville, Illinois: Please continue Commoner; don't want to miss a number. Will remit subscription very soon. Our last copy is the May number. Sorry that W. J. B. resigned. He and Wilson make a mighty team for good for all. It will please the political trucksters so much to see them separate. However, Mr. Bryan has always done the right thing (and away ahead of the rest) in the past and I feel that this move will be for the best also.

A. S. Roscam, Wichita, Kansas: Since you have decided to place before the American people your views on international disputes, I feel that those who approve should express their sentiments. I hope we may see in the pages of the Commoner thousands of letters approving your policy. To my mind your action in resigning from the cabinet was one of the strongest steps that could possibly be taken by you just now to advance the cause of world peace and to fasten that idea on the mind of the world. The reason you give for taking this step will be endorsed by thousands of peace-loving Americans. How can we hope to keep out of war if we are ready to throw away our ideals and go to war with no more motive than now exists between our United States and Germany? You have surely strengthened the esteem of the American people by your determination in advocating the principles of peace. As a private citizen we will receive more benefits from your efforts that we could hope to get from your services as secretary of state. The position and honor of an office

fade into nothingness when they are compared to the influence that can be wielded by a man who stands up for his principles, when those principles must be acknowledged by the world, to be for the best good of humanity, and according to the teachings of the great Book by which alone mankind can hope to be saved. If the United States wants to take the foremost position in a movement for world peace, it does not seem that there should be delay in taking the world's Savior as our guide, for by man-made methods we have brought about all the chaos in the world, and men have failed by their methods. Therefore we can not hope to improve if we continue as we are. Greed and selfishness caused the war, and it is the greed and selfishness of the United States that is helping to carry it forward. If two men want to fight a duel and a third party takes away the weapons, there can be no duel. The United States is in the position of the third party if we will act. Wishing you success in your stand for peace, I am, etc.

Richard Geyler, Naco, Arizona: Enclosed please find my check for \$1.00, for one year's subscription to the Commoner. Since Mr. Bryan's action a few days ago, the subscription list of the Commoner should increase by the thousands and thousands.

Henry H. Wilson, Beaver, Pa.: Enclosed find check for \$1.00 for which please renew my subscription to the Commoner. Bryan is right. The democrats are with him. Make the Commoner a weekly again—and tell the insiders. If it's "The Cleveland Tragedy" again, we want to know, and know now.

John Hetrick, New Kingston, Pa.: Mr. Bryan is to be congratulated on the stand he took relative to the German affairs.

R. L. Mac Gugin, Washington, Ia.: Enclosed hand you herewith one dollar for subscription to the Commoner and would ask that you include last month's issue. Accept my congratulations for the stand that you have taken in your recent and sincere attempt to keep this country from a possible controversy with Germany and an entanglement in the present war. You have displayed to the whole world the highest type of an American citizen in your patriotic action and you are a greater political power today than you have ever been. The American people will admit that you are the greatest force in the United States right now and your keen insight into the machinations of the political powers that be and your action toward them will bring you still a greater number of followers before the close of the next campaign. Your Iowa friends are still behind you good and strong despite newspaper talk. Trust that your health will hold out and you will lead in 1916 the greatest campaign that has ever been recorded in political history and win. With personal regards for your success, I am, etc.

Harvey Burtis, Asbury Park, N. J.: Tell W. J. to go to them; we are still with him.

L. W. Finley, Norwood, Ohio: Success to the Commoner, and strength to the arm and steadiness to the brain and heart of its illustrious founder in this great crisis.

Wm. Smith, Alta, Iowa: I am a "sucker," born near where Mr. Bryan was born; am seventy-three years old; have been a democrat for seventy-three years. Voted for Mr. Bryan three times, and still hope to see him president of the United States. Am more proud of him than ever for re-

signing from his high office rather than sign his name to that note to Berlin.

E. H. Morris, Modesto, Cal.: It may be unfortunate for the country at large just at this time to have you hand in your resignation, but I believe you are right in what you have done. I am for peace first, last, and all the time. Have always admired you for your peace plan, your stand on moral and temperance questions, and your Christian character above all. May God bless our president and his cabinet in their deliberations and you in all your future work.

John Patton, Clarksburg, W. Va.: Am with Bryan in his latest move, viz.: his self-sacrificing efforts to stem the tide of war, and think it opportune; a month from now might be too late.

C. W. Sage, Minneapolis, Minn.: To Secretary of State W. J. Bryan, I would say that I endorse his action in resigning, much though I deplore the circumstances that led to it. I am sorry that it did not precede his signing of the previous note, which he evidently did not fully endorse. Doubtless he has his reasons for choosing the time he did, and can explain it to the people. And yet many, many others are sad today, as well as myself, that William Jennings Bryan is no longer our secretary of state.

J. C. McWilliams, Lake Charles, La.: My reason for again subscribing for your paper, is the most commendable action of Mr. Bryan in regard to the present "crisis," and being so thoroughly in sympathy with him in the stand he has so bravely taken. I do not want to miss any of his writings or utterances.

G. J. Mustad, Sherbrooke, N. D.: Please enter my name for subscription to the Commoner for one year. The writer takes off his hat for Mr. Bryan, because—he has been an ardent advocate for submitting international controversies to courts of arbitration for settlement. (War is hell.) He is consistent even to the extent of resigning as secretary of state when the president threatens to use strong arm methods to gain his end. He has the backbone to fight for principles not in harmony with the president under whom he holds his appointment. Further, his principles are right. I wish him good health and long life. He has done all that can be expected of him as secretary of state to keep the United States out of war, and I believe he can do even more as a private citizen. The memory of William Jennings Bryan will be cherished by our posterity when the militarists are forgotten or despised.

Wm. E. Isley, Newton, Ill.: Enclosed find check for one dollar in payment of one year's subscription to the Commoner. You may credit this subscription as my expression of approval of the attitude of Mr. Bryan in the present international crisis.

A. B. Russell, Sheffield, Pa.: I read in this morning's paper that our great man W. J. Bryan had resigned from the cabinet. I certainly am sorry for our country to lose the counsel of such a man, but I felt like giving three cheers for a man that will stand for a principle. I certainly feel more than ever that he thus shows forth his greatness. I only wish I could personally extend to him my deep feeling of personal high regard for him. My wish is more strength to his pen and voice which silences the cannon.

W. W. Young, Liberty Center, Ohio: Find enclosed P. O. order \$1.00