

The New York Peace Meetings

LABOR INTERESTS FOR PEACE

A United Press dispatch from New York, dated June 19, says: William Jennings Bryan and peace received one of the greatest ovations ever accorded any man or cause in New York when the former secretary of state addressed a packed audience in Carnegie hall tonight, under the auspices of the newly organized national labor peace council. His prepared address was the first shot in his battle for peace in this country and abroad and in it he hotly attacked former President Roosevelt and criticized former President Taft. When Roosevelt's name was mentioned by Bryan the speaker was stopped for a full minute by the hisses and catcalls of the crowd.

Visibly affected by his theme, as was his rapt audience, Bryan plunged into a passionate plea for support of his peace campaign. He announced before he read his prepared speech that when he had finished he would "talk about the war." Carried away by the prolonged cheering and applause of the crowd Bryan suddenly switched from the role of lecturer to the character that won him fame—the political stump speaker.

A wave of stirring enthusiasm at Bryan's declaration that there was more patriotism for peace in this country than for war, so affected him that he threw up both hands above his head and stamped both feet, in hammering home his point, combined all the jumping tactics of "Billy" Sunday and the fierceness of Roosevelt at his best. The applause was deafening and though painfully laboring under great stress, Bryan's eyes shone with pleasure.

Attack the Press

His greatest moment came when he launched into a bitter and scathing attack on the metropolitan press, saying the papers care more for startling headlines than for the welfare of the nation. All through his speech he reiterated that he was working to aid President Wilson by arousing a solid public sentiment behind the nation's chief executive. He accused the papers of attempting to dictate the policy for the administration.

Congressman Meyer London, the only socialist in congress, was wildly cheered, as was Joseph Cannon, the western federation of miners delegate, who retold the details of the Colorado labor war. A resolution demanding an embargo be placed on the exportation of arms, food and everything else used by the European armies was adopted. It also bitterly attacked the judiciary of the country and the trusts.

A letter was read from President Gompers, of the American federation of labor declaring abhorrence of war, but pledging labor to support the president, if national honor requires.

Gomper's Letter

"I am not willing to have either labor or our men and women placed in a false position," said Gompers, who was unable to attend the meeting. "The United States will not voluntarily enter the war. Of that I am confident. If, despite our reserve and self control, we shall be dragged into it, whether we like it or not, there will be but one position for us to take, and that is to be true to ourselves, true to our fellows, true to the highest ideals of humanity for which our movement stands.

"There are some things even more abhorrent than war, that is to be robbed of the birthright of freedom, justice, safety and character."

70,000 FLOCK TO GARDEN TO HEAR BRYAN ON PEACE

[From New York World, June 25, 1915.]

Police experts say that 70,000 people sought admission to Madison Square Garden last night when William Jennings Bryan talked on "National Honor" at the mass meeting of the Friends of Peace, an emergency organization of the German, Irish, Austrian and Hungarian societies of New York, co-operating with the socialist party.

Those in charge of the meeting estimated the crowd at 100,000, and there can be little doubt that the capacity of the garden might have been met three times over. Its seats numbered 12,243, and when the former secretary of state arrived at 8.25 o'clock 3,000 more, at least, filled such standing room as could be wheedled from the firemen on duty. Not since Mr. Bryan's appearance at the garden during the presidential campaign of 1900 has such a tide of humanity beat against its doors.

When the doors were opened at 7 o'clock the streets surrounding the garden were packed almost beyond the control of the 300 police on duty. An hour later, when enough had been admitted to fill most of the seats, there had been no appreciable lessening of the crowd, as it looked to those who viewed it from the streets. Lines that thrice encircled the great building waited patiently for the chance to take any seat that might be vacated.

Bands and cart-tail orators kept the overflow in such contentment as was possible, and at the four corners of the garden organized meetings were held, though Mr. Bryan had no part in them. He began to speak at 9.10, and just an hour later he left with Mrs. Bryan for the Holland house, going on to Washington at midnight. It was the old Bryan, too, that returned to Washington. The outpouring itself, the adulation of the audience, the intensity of feeling that found expression at every opportunity, brought back the flashing eye, the passionate gesture, the ringing voice of fifteen years ago. Claspings in his arms a great bunch of roses, capped by a dove with outspread wings, Mr. Bryan was radiantly happy as he said goodby.

The German-American officers of the meeting gave full credit to their Irish-American co-workers. Irish-Americans were there in considerable numbers, of course, but from the high platform where the speakers stood it seemed that the proportion of German-Americans was fully nine to one.

"Jawoh!" punctured Mr. Bryan's address till it may fairly be said to have been the cry of the evening, and those who sold Kaiserblumen were as numerous in the aisles as those who sold little bottles of grape juice.

In enthusiasm the outpouring was as notable as in its numbers. Applause came in roars, deep-chested and sincere, at each reference to the two things that seemed to be the burden of every mind—the possibility of war with Germany and the attitude of the American newspapers. With each roar would come a waving of American flags that blotted out the blue and white which forms the Garden's summer dress. And with each roar would come, too, a bar of the "Star Spangled Banner" from the bands at either end of the hall.

27,000 ROAR AS BRYAN ASSAILS PRESS OF NEW YORK

[From the New York Sun, June 25, 1915.]

"Tonight I plead against war with Germany. Should similar circum-

stances arise with France, England or Russia, I would plead just as ardently against war with any of those countries."

Those words were uttered last night by William Jennings Bryan in the course of his speech on "National Honor" at a meeting held under the auspices of the "Friends of Peace" in Madison Square Garden.

As Mr. Bryan banged his fist on the railing of the speakers' platform, his eyes flashing—it was not the sleek secretary of state—12,000 men and women in the Garden leaped to their feet. They waved American flags. They shouted; they whistled; they stamped their feet and they shrieked.

Outside the Garden 15,000 more persons, roused by the emphatic demonstration within, took up the cheering and it rose and swelled from the throats of the vast throng in the thoroughfares surrounding the building, extending west to Broadway and along Madison avenue to Twenty-third street.

Between 27,000 and 30,000

There were conservatively between 27,000 and 30,000 persons assembled to emphasize the peace movement and to voice their approval of resolutions against war. The chairman of the meeting put the number at 100,000; the police inspector in charge of police arrangements estimated it at 70,000.

For minutes the crowd cheered Mr. Bryan when he entered the hall. They greeted him impressively when he was introduced and kept on cheering until he forced them to silence by beginning to speak. They interrupted his address many times and at the end they cheered him vociferously. The majority of the people present were German-Americans, with a sprinkling of members of Irish and

BRYAN'S BRUTUS

[From the Clarion-Ledger, Jackson, Miss., Wednesday, June 30, 1915.]

The Vicksburg Herald, which has never liked a bone in Bryan's body, and has printed more unkind things about him than any paper in the state, does not endorse the remark of the Clarion-Ledger that "sentiment is changing" towards Bryan, and challenges the question. It takes little stock in what Herbert Quick says about Bryan as quoted by this paper, and introduces expressions of R. L. Metcalfe, in rebuttal quoting him as follows, to show that Bryan is really dead:

"Strange as it may seem, I think that at last Mr. Bryan is practically out of the democratic party. I have no idea that he realizes it, but I think it will dawn on him in a very short time.

"Generally Mr. Bryan is not credited with having given the real reason for his retirement from the cabinet. At this moment Bryan's stock is lower than at any time in his history. This does not mean that any one imagines that he will be without political influence. But in an international controversy there is only one leader for Americans, and that is the president of their country. In this instance there is such widespread confidence in the president that no one can even seem to contend with him and win public favor. Everywhere one hears predictions on the outcome of this matter, and today the general prediction is that Bryan is forever dead."

In view of the fact that Metcalfe occupied to Bryan the same intimate relation that Brutus occupied towards Caesar, and was regarded as his "angel," there is cause for expressions of surprise because of his action, which is disloyal if not traitorous, in view of the fact that Bryan, realizing that he could not devote

Scottish societies; also a few socialists.

Eloquently and idealistically as he pleaded for universal peace, just as emphatically as he assailed the New York newspapers, saying they never had been on the side of the people in all the time he has been in politics, and assailing them for seeking for more than two years to assassinate him.

It was not until 9 o'clock that Henry Weismann, chairman of the meeting, finished a long address eulogizing Bryan and attacking Colonel Roosevelt. Then Mr. Bryan stepped forward to the railing and though he had prepared a formal address, he spoke for fifteen minutes before he reached that. Mr. Bryan said he found it impossible to measure his "small part" with the standards set by the chairman.

"It did not require much courage to resign," he said, in referring to his departure from the state department. "It would have required more courage to have remained, for I could not have remained without violating what I believed to be the requirements of duty. I call your attention to the fact that in this separation of officials there is no personal element.

Parted as Friends

"When history writes this page it will be said that two men, each doing what he believed to be right, found it impossible to share the responsibility together. The president could not have done otherwise, believing as he did, and I could not have done otherwise, believing as I did. We separated as friends and I am trying outside of the cabinet to assist him.

"It is my duty to crystallize the sentiment for peace until the demand for peace shall drown the demand for war."

sufficient time to editing the Commoner, appointed Metcalfe as his editor-in-chief.

Then, when Bryan was honored with the portfolio of secretary of state, he had Metcalfe appointed to a most lucrative federal position, who, Brutus-like, turns and thrusts a dagger in the breast of his benefactor "Et tu, Brute." "This was the most unkindest cut of all."

"Kings may love treason, but traitors they hate;" and in the latter class Metcalfe has placed himself.

Metcalfe, according to his own ill-limed language, bows before the rising sun and turns his back upon the setting orb, treating Bryan almost as Hitchcock did after he became a United States senator, deserting Bryan and the democratic party and voted against the ship purchase bill, following the lead of O'Gorman of New York, who always puts the dollar above principle.

In this connection, and under the circumstances, publication of the following letter from Mr. Bryan, is permissible, in reply to one written him by the editor of the Clarion-Ledger, soon after his resignation from the cabinet, and when criticism was fiercest:

Washington, D. C., June 18, 1915.
Mr. R. H. Henry, Jackson, Miss.

My dear Henry: Your kind and characteristic letter at hand. I appreciate the loyalty of friends who were willing to stand by me on faith before they had the facts which would enable them to form an independent judgment. By this time you know what the facts are, and I think you will find from now on the number of those who commend will increase and the number of those who condemn or criticize will decrease. I am proving what I have said, namely, that I could be of more service outside than I could inside the cabinet.

Yours very truly,
W. J. BRYAN.