

The Issues for 1916

[Interview given by Mr. Bryan to Spokane, Wash., Chronicle, Aug. 3, 1915.]

"What do you think will be the issues in the coming presidential campaign?" Mr. Bryan was asked.

"Well, you must distinguish between permanent and temporary issues in considering that sort of a question," he said. "Economic issues are permanent in character, and upon them we can calculate with some accuracy.

"For instance, we know that the tariff is likely to be an issue, also the currency and trust issues are likely to be up again.

"These are a prominent part of the record of achievement of the present administration. Under ordinary conditions and times, the campaign would turn upon them. The country would either indorse or condemn the action of the present administration. Believing in the wisdom of measures that have been enacted by the democratic party, I would expect them to be approved by the general public.

"But war questions that are temporary in character may even overshadow for a time the more permanent issues. Unexpected crises may arise; no one can make prediction with any accuracy in regard to the relative importance of issues that may be raised, or their effect upon the campaign."

War Preparedness "Frenzy"

"Does the subject of national preparedness come in this category?"

"Yes, it does," Mr. Bryan responded. "The question is receiving special attention just now. Some people have been frightened into the belief that we should get ready for war; a smaller number find pecuniary profit in furnishing the preparation.

"But my observation is that the frenzy for preparedness is somewhat like the rabies in two respects; first, it is a serious disease for those who have it, and second, very fortunately, few have it."

"Do you consider that Colonel Roosevelt may have some of these symptoms?" he was queried. "Oh, well, now," Mr. Bryan responded, smiling broadly, "I'd far rather indulge in general definitions than specify illustrations of what I mean in this matter."

Taking up prohibition and woman's suffrage, on direct questions as to his attitude, in view of the experience of Washington state, Mr. Bryan said:

Prohibition Pleases Him

"I am very much gratified with the progress that prohibition is making in states like Washington. Aside from the benefits which come from the removal of the saloon there is a great advantage to be derived politically from the fact that party organizations are freed from the demoralizing influence of groups of men who, so long as saloons exist, have a pecuniary interest in controlling conventions and public officials.

"We have long been hampered in the discussions of economic and social reforms by the fact that this sordid element has constantly obtruded itself, and diverted attention from needed remedial measures.

"I believe and hope that a national constitutional prohibition amendment will not be submitted at the coming session of congress. Such an amendment at this time could not secure the support of the necessary three-quarters of the states, and it would divert attention from the questions upon which the country as a whole is united. I am in favor of a national amendment when enough of

the states have expressed themselves favorably upon it to make its adoption probable. In the meantime my sympathies are with the prohibitionists in states wherever the question is submitted to the people.

Suffrage in Same Category

"What I have said about prohibition applies to woman's suffrage. I favor it, and shall be glad to support the cause in states where it is raised. I believe that the war in Europe and the peace movement in this country will strengthen it. But I would not like to see a national constitutional amendment submitted now, for the reasons that I have explained in discussing prohibition, because it would divert attention from those issues on which the whole people are ready to act, without bringing any prospect of immediate favorable action on suffrage itself.

"In saying this, I do not criticize those who give their entire thought to either question, and I am sure they will understand the position of those of us, who, favoring both, are trying to assist in the securing of several reforms. Parents with one child are not to be blamed for giving all their attention to it, but parents who are raising several can not neglect all of the others for the benefit of one, or even two."

THE CAUSE OF WAR

"The first fifteen years of the present century exhibit an unwonted stir among many millions of men," wrote Tolstoy, in War and Peace. "They are seen to quit their avocations; to rush from one side of Europe to the other, to plunder and kill each other; to triumph for a while, and then, in their turn, be beaten. During this period the course of daily life undergoes a complete change, until suddenly this ferment, which at one time seemed as if it must go on increasing, utterly subsides. What was the cause of this phenomenon? What laws did it follow? By way of reply, historians narrate the deeds or report the speeches of a few score men in a building in Paris, to which they give the name of the Revolution. They next give us an elaborate biography of Napoleon Bonaparte, and of certain other persons who became his friends or his foes. They tell us of the influence these persons exercised on one another; and they say: 'These were the causes of the phenomenon; these were its laws.' But reason refuses to accept such an explanation, because the cause is clearly inadequate to the effect. It is the sum of human energy which produced the Revolution and Napoleon, and it was that which maintained and overthrew them."

So, to tell what the Kaiser did, or what a few persons in Vienna, Petrograd, London and Paris did—or to take the entire contents of all the white, green, blue, yellow, gray and green books—goes only a little way in explaining the causes of this war. The war is a product of the sum of human energy in Europe. This little particular act or that one may have applied the spark to the powder; but all Europe had been industriously manufacturing the powder for many years. All Europe had thought war. The competitive arming—with the ridiculous pretext, which really deceived nobody, that thereby peace was to be maintained—the continual stirring of international jealousy and suspicion, made war not only possible but eminently probable.

The war was a: output of Europe's mind. If it is followed by enduring peace it will be because Europe gets a different mind. That we have maintained peace the last

eighteen months is a reflection of the national mind. — Saturday Evening Post.

LOGANBERRY HAS A DAY

The following is special correspondence by Anne Shannon Monroe from Oregon Exposition building, San Francisco, under date of July 29:

Loganberry day at the exposition was a tremendous success. Fifteen hundred gallons were served, and also jam and biscuits. Thousands of packages were given away and more were ordered.

Judge James Logan, of Oakland, originator of the berry 35 years ago, made a speech in which he paid tribute to Oregon as the perfect climate for the loganberry. He is 75 and hale and hearty, and has a 3-year-old baby, who was with him.

John F. Logan made a speech, in which he said that, since he had married into the Berry family, it was proper that he should introduce the berry that William Jennings Bryan already had made famous.

Ed. J. Rainey, secretary to Mayor Rolph, blessed loganberry juice as a drink that one doesn't need to find the excuse of a mean liver or a scolding wife to make one partake of it. He quoted Sam Blythe as saying that the ringing need of the age is a drink which a man can guzzle all night, if he wants to, and still stand in the morning; and this, he declared, was it.

LISTEN TO BRYAN AND PROFIT MUCH THEREBY

[Sacramento, Cal., Bee, July 27, 1915.]

William Jennings Bryan will speak to the citizens of Sacramento and vicinity this evening.

That his address will be well worth hearing goes without saying. That it will create thought and discussion also is beyond dispute.

For Bryan always has something to say, and says it well — probably better than any other could say it.

But back of the felicity of thought, and the facility of speech of the man lie his sincerity, his earnestness, his unselfishness, his courage, his humanity and his soul. Who sneers at Bryan—no matter how much he may differ with his principles—is either shallow-minded or blinded by prejudice.

The world has grown to estimate William Jennings Bryan as one of her greatest, and the shafts of cheap wit and jaundiced satire hurled at him but return, boomerang-like to plague their inventors.

BRYAN'S RESIGNATION

To the Editor of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

I differ radically from the views expressed by the majority of our American editors about Mr. Bryan's purpose in retiring from Mr. Wilson's cabinet. I have never been a Bryan partisan in the past but now I acknowledge that this is the greatest act of his entire career.

Far from looking on it as prompted by selfish motives, I believe it to be an act of supreme self sacrifice. With his long experience in public life he could not fail to know the storm of ridicule and criticism that his action would provoke and that it would entirely destroy his political future and render impossible the realization of his most cherished ambition. Yet to save his country from a course which might lead to war, he deliberately sacrificed himself in order to shock his fellow countrymen and the citizens of other countries from their mental attitude toward war and peace. And in a measure he has succeeded and there is a distinct relaxation of the pressure to-

wards war, not only here but all over the world.

Such an act requires the highest kind of moral courage, unselfish devotion to his own country and love of humanity.

The fact that it has raised a hue and cry against him rather confirms and strengthens me in this belief. The great unthinking majority are always ready to crucify those who try to save it from its own follies.

In a world gone mad with war Mr. Bryan has sounded the first strong note of peace and it has rung around the world and I predict that his act will be remembered in history long after the present insanity will have passed into oblivion.

The words of Lowell are still true:

Once to every man and nation
Comes the moment to decide
In the strife of truth and falsehood,
For the good or evil side.
Some great cause, God's new Messiah,
Bringing each the bloom or blight,
Parts the goats upon the left hand,
And the sheep upon the right,
And the choice goes by forever
'Twixt that darkness—and that
light.

Count me o'er earth's chosen heroes,
They are men who stood alone,
While the crowd they agonized for,
Hurled the contumelious stone;
Stood serene and down the future
Saw the golden beam incline
To the side of perfect justice,
Mastered by their faith divine.

By the light of burning martyrs,
Christ's bleeding feet I track,
Toiling ever up new Calvaries,
With the cross upon his back.
But these mounts of anguish number
How each generation learned
Some new word of that grand credo,
Which in prophet hearts have
burned.

For humanity sweeps onward;
Where today the martyr stands
On the morrow is acclaimed a saint
with clapping hands;
For in front the cross stands ready,
And the crackling faggots burn,
But the hooting mob of yesterday
In silent awe return
To glean up the scattered ashes
Into history's golden urn.
—Wm. Preston Hill.

COMMENTS ON "MYSTERY OF BRYAN'S RESIGNATION"

Et tu Brute! Well could Mr. Bryan exclaim as he read Richard L. Metcalfe's article in the Nebraskan last week on "The Mystery of Bryan's Resignation." No man in Nebraska has more reason to stand for Mr. Bryan than Richard L. Metcalfe. For years they have been so closely associated in matters of politics, business and friendship that the possibility of a severance of any or all of these relations was as far removed from consideration as heaven from earth. And we can not believe that this severance today is of Bryan's choosing. If, and we say it in sadness, for we have been a follower and an admirer of this brilliant writer for years, there was ingratitude shown by any man, it is here demonstrated in the words of Mr. Metcalfe when he says in commenting on Mr. Bryan's resignation from President Wilson's cabinet, "I am not Mr. Bryan's partisan, nor his confident, nor, indeed, am I his follower." Once before in the long ago, was there such a case as this. The trusted disciple, Peter, thrice denied that he knew Him who came to a sinful world to teach mankind the truth and the way. Peter was afraid of the popular feeling. In a moment of weakness he feared if he did not plead ignorance of knowledge of the man who had proven his love and saving power in a thousand