

Mr. Bryan's Resignation

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

[From the Jeffersonian, Los Angeles, Cal.]

The resignation of W. J. Bryan as secretary of state brings into prominence his courage and consistency. It also emphasizes the fact that he has always been true to his convictions since his first candidacy for the presidency in 1896, and that he has never deviated from the principles of democracy for personal gain or honor. No man in this country has ever been so beloved by the common people as has Mr. Bryan, and that love is greater and stronger today than ever before. However much many democrats have differed with him, no syllable ever passed the lips of honest and fairminded people derogatory to his character. He is a typical American, one of the greatest and one of the grandest the country has ever produced. He has lost no prestige by resigning. Rather has he increased it.

It is not the purpose at this time to analyze or criticize the opinions held by the administration regarding Germany or any of the other belligerent nations. Neither do we feel called upon to say whether or not they are just and fair alike to this country and the European nations at war. Neither will we say the opinions of the administration, in so far as they have been made public, are tinged with jingoism. We do not believe in hasty judgments based upon incomplete information. More harm than good follows them. It is sufficient to say that Mr. Bryan's position is clear and unmistakable. And however much his resignation may be regretted and deplored, it was the only step he could consistently take, and we honor him for it.

Mr. Bryan would resort to war only after all honorable measures had been exhausted to prevent it. The Examiner of Wednesday contains an editorial, under the caption, "The Spirit of the Nation Is for Peace and Justice," remarkable for its phraseology and admirable for the sentiment it conveys. We take from it the following extract, which fairly expresses the position of Mr. Bryan, and no one will accuse the Examiner of being at any time favorable to Bryan. It reads:

"That majority believes in practicing still the strict neutrality which the president preached so earnestly ten months ago.

"That majority can see no reason at all why American blood should be spilled to save Great Britain and her allies from defeat any more than American blood should be spilled to save Germany and her allies from defeat.

"That majority can see no reason why British aggressions upon our commerce should not be resented and German aggressions upon our commerce should be resented.

"That majority can see no reason why Americans should attempt to dictate to Germany how she should carry on warfare with Great Britain any more than Americans should attempt to dictate to Great Britain how she shall carry on warfare with Germany.

"That majority is willing to spend the last dollar and risk the last life in an American quarrel, and is sternly willing to spend a dollar or lose a life in a German quarrel with Great Britain or a British quarrel with Germany.

"Mr. Wilson has declared not once only, but many times, that the voice of the plain people could not be heard in Washington; that the truth is seldom heard in those political circles; that the environment is highly unfavorable to any right appreciation

of the common people's desires and opinions.

"That is the truth. "And never was that more true than in this critical time."

No man more truly and earnestly represents the common people than Mr. Bryan, and he "has far more accurately judged the temper and the sentiment of his fellow citizens than those who eat government bread in Washington." We sincerely thank the Examiner for its fairness.

How different is the tone of the Times. Since the resignation of Mr. Bryan was made public the Times has not ceased in its efforts to belittle him. "It is impossible for Mr. Bryan to be great," it says. "The leopard can not change its spots." Here is another phrase from the Times: "Mr. Bryan was not equal to the demands of the occasion; he was not large enough to endure a little personal mortification; he chose to gratify his own spleen, hurt the president and place the whole country in a false light in the eyes of foreign peoples."

The Times can not lessen the standing of the great Commoner with the plain people. That is not its intention. It knows that Mr. Bryan has the greatest political following any man ever had in the United States, and through three presidential campaigns this following was never practically lessened in numbers. It knows that in each of the three campaigns Mr. Bryan's popular vote was much larger than the popular vote for Mr. Wilson. The Times' purpose, therefore is not so much to injure Bryan as it is to strike a deadly blow at the democratic party. Its pretended admiration for the foreign policies of President Wilson is of the same character, and all may be fittingly characterized as "rank hypocrisy." It says: "Mr. Bryan is your actor man." This is mere assertion with not a particle of evidence to sustain it. This is low-down politics, and at this critical time should receive the condemnation of every lover of his country.

Keep in mind the fact that whenever an organ of special privileges heaps abuse on Mr. Bryan, it strikes at the democratic party. The Times has no love for the common people. That is why it strikes at Mr. Bryan.

MR. BRYAN'S RESIGNATION

Mr. Bryan's resignation, as secretary of state has evoked a large amount of caustic comment, especially by the jingo press and the worshippers of the bloody god Mars. In the face of many obstacles and vicious taunts, he did his best to promote the interests of peace between this country and all other nations. His thirty arbitration treaties, so much ridiculed by short-headed and narrow-minded individuals, will remain a monument to the Christian statesmanship of William Jennings Bryan when his detractors shall be sneered at as the enemies of mankind. Only a poor judge of human nature believes that wars will ever cease so long as the earth stands. Any man of common sense, with a knowledge of history and human nature as they actually are, knows that the day will never arrive, before the final cataclysm, when international strife will cease; but every step honestly taken by statesmen to make war less probable is a step forward. The consciences of the better men of every state will approve what William Jennings Bryan has done for the avoidance of war and bloodshed between the nations.

William Jennings Bryan has performed the heroic act of trying to carry out his Christian faith regard-

less of consequences to himself personally. He has tried to make this nation act according to the precepts of Christ and to accept the consequences—the material loss, the blows to vanity, the jeers of the ignorant, the contempt of the worshippers of war.

The bully, the militarist, the rowdy in a silk hat, are too coarse-grained to appreciate a Christian character like William Jennings Bryan. He found that he could not carry his ideals into effect, and, like Mr. Moreley in the British cabinet, resigned from office. If he had been indispensable to the administration, he would no doubt have remained and done his duty to the best of his ability; but Mr. Bryan was not indispensable. Some will say he should have resigned when the first note was prepared for Germany; but that is all a matter of opinion. Even though Mr. Bryan has committed a tactical mistake as to the timeliness of his resignation, the essential fact remains that he did resign and resigned because his conscience as a Christian statesman no longer permitted him to remain in Mr. Wilson's cabinet as the secretary of state.

The verdict of the metropolitan press is a false and vindictive conclusion which will not harmonize with the judgment of history. Mr. Bryan is one of the ablest statesmen living, and certain editors of metropolitan papers are but pygmies intellectually in comparison with him. He is pronounced Christian statesman. That is one reason why certain publicists and leaders of American politics have no use for him. He is too much of a Christian to fit into their scheme of international politics. They are too intense in their propaganda to enmesh our country in the European war to admit that Mr. Bryan is a man of ideals infinitely loftier than their own.

These same jingoists do not hesitate to ascribe to Mr. Bryan the mean motive of playing a political game with a view to entering the presidential candidacy. Mr. Bryan may be a candidate for president again. The people know a true man when they see him, in spite of the detractions of a lower order of men.

In the meantime, Mr. Bryan has acted the Christian statesman. We only wish that there were more of his kind among the leaders of thought and action in our country.—Editorial from official organ of a branch of the Lutheran church.

PUTTING A CITY GOVERNMENT ON A BUSINESS BASIS

(Continued from Page Twenty-Seven) are in need of work at a time when their work is not needed in other channels, and it will enable contractors, farmers and other employers of labor to secure men during the busy seasons, during summer building and harvest when they have to have hands and are unable to secure them.

22. The city charter provides that the distribution of the funds to be used in the various departments of the city shall be decided by a majority vote. To enable the commission to vote intelligently in the matter of funds for the various departments for extension, maintenance and development and for the council to determine jointly what developments and extensions for the coming year are needed in the various departments, the mayor recommends that each commissioner submit to the council at the earliest possible moment a detailed estimate for all extension, development and improvement needed in their respective departments and which they desire to recommend for the consideration of the council. So that the rearrangement of the departments can be economically, safely and efficiently

handled in accordance with the intent of the charter and ordinary business principles be carried out as far as possible, the mayor recommends and requests that his recommendations for the redistribution and re-establishment of work of the commissioners be considered first; that the recommendations as to the necessity of appropriations for the additional department and suggestions which he has recommended be considered second; and that third the recommendations for extensions, developments and improvements recommended by the various commissioners for their respective departments be considered in connection with the mayor's recommendations for additional departments and specific appropriations, after which the budgets shall be made up by the commissioners in joint session by a majority vote.

23. It is recommended that the superintendent of public accounts and finances submit as early as possible for the consideration of the commissioners an estimate of all moneys that will be on hand at the end of the fiscal year, the amount of money that will be raised by taxation and an estimate of all other funds and receipts subject to use for the operation of the city's business affairs. The mayor believes after investigation that the additional departments and specific appropriations to carry out the recommendations made by him can be provided for by an equitable distribution of the public moneys between the various departments of the city's activities apportioned on a basis of the public service in the various departments.

NEBRASKA STATE FAIR

The Nebraska State Fair, to be held at Lincoln, Nebraska, September 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, will be an exposition of unusual interest throughout Nebraska and the middle-west. Nowhere else could a few days' visit give one a better idea of the great resources of Nebraska and the reason why it occupies such an important place in the agricultural world. This year's fair will have an unusually large list of exhibits, drawn not only from Nebraska, but from a number of other states in the great corn belt and other sections of the country. The state fair management has provided many attractive features for the comfort, entertainment and enjoyment of its thousands of visitors. The educational features of the fair are given particular attention, and a high standard is maintained throughout all departments. A visit to the Nebraska state fair will be a source of inspiration, enjoyment and profit.

SAVED HIS LIFE

It is probable that no class of men is lampooned more unjustly than doctors. Many of the stories at their expense, however, are both amusing and good natured. A recent addition to the list is the tale told about the Chinaman who was asked if there were good doctors in China.

"Good doctors!" he exclaimed. "China have best doctors in world. Hang Chang one good doctor; he great, he saved my life."

"You don't say so! How was that?"

"Me velly bad," he said. "Me callee Doctor Han Kon. Give some medicine. Get velly, velly ill. Me callee Doctor San Sing. Give more medicine. Me grow worse—going to die. Blimebly callee Doctor Hang Chang. He got no time; no come. He saved my life."—Tit-Bits.

Luke McLuke has discovered that the way to avoid having enemies is to "say nothing, be nothing, do nothing."