

A National Bulletin Needed

For a long time the government has been publishing a Congressional Record which gives a complete review of the action of the senate and house, together with a full report of the speeches made. A number of the departments also send out bulletins covering their special work, but the time has come for the government to enlarge its activities in this direction. The Congressional Record is limited in circulation and too bulky for the average reader; and the department bulletins only cover a part of the government work. The public welfare demands the publication of a digest of the government's work in the form of a bulletin, published weekly, or at such other intervals as may be found best, and sent free to all postmasters, state, county and city executives, libraries, colleges, high schools, newspapers, periodicals, and other public centers of information. It should also be furnished at cost to such individuals as may desire to subscribe for it, as the Congressional Record now is.

Such a bulletin, under the control of a bipartisan (not non-partisan) board, giving the laws passed by congress, a digest of less important things done by congress and by the various departments of the government, reporting the important speeches delivered, and furnishing voters with the information necessary to pass intelligent judgment upon the acts of their public servants, would be of incalculable value.

Without attempting to go into detail it is suggested that a board of three, one appointed by the President, one selected by the majority party in the senate and house, acting jointly, and one by the minority party in the senate and house, acting jointly, would give assurance that both sides would be properly represented in the control of the paper.

Congress could from time to time direct what MUST be put into the paper and what should be left to the discretion of the managing board.

To make the plan complete a certain amount of space should be left for editorial comment, and this space should be divided among the parties represented in congress in proportion to each party's strength in congress. This would enable the readers of the bulletin to know not only what was being done, but why it was being done, and at the same time have the benefit of the views of the opposition. Such a bulletin would be an authentic source of information, and the voters of the country would find in it the best arguments from the highest source on each side of every disputed national question. The democratic theory of government is that the people THINK FOR THEMSELVES and select representatives to give expression to public opinion. This is the theory of our government, but the masses find it impossible at present to secure that reliable information to which they are entitled. The local press has not the space necessary to furnish the information needed, and the metropolitan press is not always disposed to furnish impartially the matters necessary for the formation of an intelligent judgment.

This democratic congress could render no greater or more lasting service to the country than to establish such a bulletin as is above outlined. Once established it would remain, for no party would dare to withdraw from the people the advantages of such a publication.

It would not interfere with any legitimate newspaper enterprise; on the contrary, it would give to the press of the country what every editor ought to desire, namely, an unimpeachable source of information, a reservoir from which to draw facts that can not be controverted and arguments worthy to be considered.

W. J. BRYAN.

A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT

At this Christmastide let America's message to war-stricken Europe be the message that came o'er Judea's hills: "Peace on earth, good will toward men." This is not a time for war talk, but the opportune time for our country to extend the hand of fellowship to our brothers across the sea.

The adoption of the army and navy program would increase the profits of the sugar trust and also increase the cost of living for the masses.

A MINISTER'S POINTED QUESTIONS

Dr. John E. White, pastor of the Baptist church at Anderson, S. C., and one of the most prominent ministers in the south, in introducing Mr. Bryan at Anderson college, said: "There are some questions which the plain citizen does not find answered in his newspapers at this time." Dr. White said:

"First—We want to know what has become of the fine enthusiasm of fifteen months ago, for America, the one great nation, which was to keep itself cool in order to act nobly when the time came in behalf of humanity, and so be a peace maker among the wrecked kingdoms of Europe? What has happened to divest our country of this moral mission and opportunity which we believed belonged to us, only fifteen months ago?"

"Second—We want to know why the obvious lesson of the European war, of horror for militarism and military state craft is now turned around and made to teach something exactly contrary. Fifteen months ago Europe was a warning, now we are to believe that Europe is an example to follow. How is that?"

"Third—We want to know where the assertion that this republic is the most hated nation in the world, originated. Did it originate in London, Paris, Berlin, Petrograd, or is it an American fabrication originating in the neighborhood of New York? Is it a simple truth which it is well for us to know, or is it a sinister lie held necessary in order to generate fear and distrust and to transform American sympathy for the suffering people of Europe into suspicion and enmity for a bellicose basis of big army and big navy?"

"Fourth—We want to know, since the sparks of the great conflagration across the Atlantic are falling on this side, how we may best protect ourselves from catching fire and burning up along with Europe? Shall we get out a billion dollars worth of fresh inflammables and combustibles, oil, gasoline and gunpowder and spread them in full exposure on our roofs, or shall we turn on the hose, spread wet blankets and watch the sparks vigilantly like sensible men?"

"Fifth—We want to know the truth about the clamor of 'Preparedness.' The word is smooth enough and sounds extremely prudent, especially to a man who is well scared, but we want to know what 'Preparedness' means. What will it mean twenty-five years from now? Does it mean the same thing in America it meant in Europe? Is 'Preparedness' for war the slogan of an unselfish patriotism that is willing to pay the price of it—the enormous price—or is it a slogan most vociferated by those who live in the centers which will get the price when it is paid?"

"Sixth—We want to know more than anything else how the military regime relates itself to Christianity? This is the issue that goes deepest, this is the challenge that is flung before the door of every Christian church and conscience. Is Christ a real conviction with a citizen or just a real convenience? Is He absolute or relative, sovereign or subordinate? Is Christianity to be crumpled up as easily in the fingers of statesmen in this country as it was crumpled up in the fingers of kings, kaisers and czars in Europe?"

The unreliability of the sensational press is well illustrated by the report that China was intending to enter the war. After numerous dispatches affirming that this was under consideration, giving the reasons therefor, etc., word comes from China that the Chinese government had never considered the possibility of joining the Allies or been requested to do so. What fake will be sprung next?

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The association of wets in the city of Washington declares that prohibition in the District would be tyranny, but when the wets fill themselves with booze and then go out to ruin men and menace a community—they call it personal liberty!

The Advocates of Peace

Comparatively few of the advocates of peace can properly be described as non-resistants, and those who use the term as a term of derision are, as a rule, too intelligent not to understand that it is a misrepresentation of the attitude of those who favor the substitution of reason for force in the settlement of international disputes. The question is not whether a nation will resist an attack if it is actually attacked, and, of course, no one thinks that is the question at issue in the United States today. The real question is whether, under the guise of preparing for defense, we shall load ourselves down with unnecessary taxes, stir up a war spirit in the country, create a military class among us, adopt false standards of honor, swagger about and by threats excite hatreds which lead to war. The advocates of peace believe that the philosophy which preserves peace in a neighborhood is the best assurance of international peace, and they seek to substitute the spirit of peace which acts through friendship, for the spirit of war, which acts through ultimatums. W. J. BRYAN.

HELP FROM THE SOUTH

The south promises to render the country signal service in the fight against preparedness. Majority Leader Kitchin has already taken a strong stand against the proposed increase in the expenditures of the army and navy. Other southern congressmen and senators have also announced their opposition to the program. The south is democratic, and it knows that militarism is undemocratic; the south also knows something of the horrors of war and does not want to invite war by adopting the policy of the war-like nations.

Here's to the south—champion of peace and of the policy of good will. W. J. BRYAN.

WHY CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS

Why do the advocates of preparedness ask for continuing appropriations, running five years? Because they know that the present frenzy will subside when the war is over and the exhausted nations turn to peaceful pursuits. It is now or never, and the men interested in spending the money want a contract that will continue in spite of the people. They would secure a perpetual contract if they could. But will congress invite the wrath of the voters by tying the people's hands by a five years' contract?

W. J. BRYAN.

STOP ADVERTISING LIQUORS

Georgia has followed the example of Alabama and prohibited liquor advertisements. Good. All prohibition states should do the same. And why should high license states allow the liquor sellers to subsidize the papers of the state?

HAS WON IMMUNITY

The fact that Sir Edward Carson scolds the United States for not entering the present war, has pleased the jingoes and saved him from being criticised for resigning from the cabinet while his country was at war.

SUCCESS THROUGH SUFFERING

"Suffering and success are intimately related. If we succeed without suffering, it is because some one suffered before. If we suffer and do not succeed, it is that some one later on may succeed." —Dr. Edward Judson.