

they will no longer be the catspaws of selfish interests, or be played upon by the fears of selfishness.

The destiny of America is wrapped up in the destiny of humanity. Let us answer the appeal of Europe with plans for peace, for the organization of the world. This is not the time to answer the appeal of our brothers in Europe with deeds of hate and acts of fear. Now, if ever, is the time to recognize America's opportunity for seizing the moral leadership of the world. I agree with the high sentiment and noble truth uttered by Theodore Roosevelt in his Carnegie hall speech, "We here in America hold in our hands the hope of the world: and shame and disgrace will be ours if in our eyes the light of high resolve be dimmed, if we trail in the dust the golden hopes of men."

And I believe that sober-minded America agrees with William Jennings Bryan, that the time has come "to invite the nations of the world to adopt a new diplomacy built upon the spirit of love and brotherhood, instead of resting upon the doctrine of force and fear." One evidence of this is the 5,000 majority received by Henry Ford in the Michigan republican primaries. This was the response by the people of Michigan to the peace program. The toiling masses of Europe, the suffering women and children, the men in the trenches who are pledging themselves that this shall be the last war, are calling us to be true and faithful to the high ideals of democracy.

Men and women of America hear this appeal; this Macedonian cry! Let America send fleets laden with grain and love to the starving people of Europe. Let America send men of good will across the seas. Let America spend its energy, its thought on preparation for peace, for the establishment of the "Parliament of man," and the organization of "the Federation of the world." Then generations of grateful peoples will salute our flag in reverence and our beloved country will be first among the nations of the earth.

#### BRYAN SEES LEADERS

[Washington Post, April 21, 1916.]

William J. Bryan, former secretary of state, is in Washington to exert every ounce of influence he has with public men to prevent congress taking an action that might seem to countenance war with Germany. On his way from Omaha to New Orleans, when he read the President's message to congress. Mr. Bryan hurriedly changed his plans and hastened to Washington. He will remain until a late train south tonight and possibly over tomorrow.

Mr. Bryan avoided the hotels, and is stopping with his son-in-law, Richard L. Hargreaves, on Girard street. He arrived in town yesterday in ample time to hold a number of conferences with some of his political and personal friends, among whom was Majority Leader Kern, of the senate, early last evening.

#### DAY OF CONFERENCES PLANNED

Mr. Bryan will see a number of other leaders today, and it is safe to assume that every member of both houses of congress known and recognized as "Bryan men" will listen to his advice before he leaves Washington. It is not the purpose of Mr. Bryan to visit the capitol. He will not issue any formal statements, believing that he can more firmly impress his ideas upon those he meets through personal interviews. This will be a very busy day for the former secretary, and a number of very distinguished members of his party will be conspicuous at times throughout the day by their absence from their seats either in the senate or house.

Mr. Bryan evidently considers the existing international situation with gravity. He is sincerely, intensely opposed to war. The President having asked to be let alone in his effort to dispose of the differences between the two governments through the channels of diplomacy, Mr. Bryan does not indicate any purpose of fighting the President. He hopes, even if his belief may not be strong, that the administration may see the situation in such a way as to make an amicable settlement possible.

#### WORKING UPON CONGRESS

But what Mr. Bryan is vitally interested in is the attitude that congress shall take when diplomacy has been exhausted and the matter, as he expressed it last night, is no longer in the hands of the executive. Then it will be the

duty of congress to act, and it is there that his influence is now being exerted.

"I am so intensely interested in the maintenance of peace that I came here," said Mr. Bryan, "for the purpose of contributing whatever I can to the cause of peace. It would be a crime against civilization for this country to go to war and I want to do all I can to prevent such a thing. The responsibility for declaring war is upon congress, not upon the President. It is only fair to assume that congress will act as independently in the discharge of its duties as the President has in the discharge of the duties connected with the executive office.

"I earnestly hope that Germany will accept this government's proposition. If she fails to do so, I as earnestly hope that diplomatic relations will not be broken off, and that negotiations will continue with a view to reaching a settlement on the theory that nothing is final between friends.

#### CONFIDENT OF PEACE

"I feel sure that congress will not regard the matter in dispute as a sufficient reason for plunging this country into war.

"The President asked the congress not to embarrass him by expressing an opinion while he was dealing diplomatically with the situation, and I take it for granted he will not embarrass congress by urging it to sustain his views as to Americans traveling on belligerent ships, if this seems likely to become a cause for war.

"The responsibility for declaring war is upon congress, not upon the President.

"In Europe the executives do not feel free to veto an act of parliament, although they have the legal right to do so. Parliament speaks for the people, and its will is supreme. The same theory underlies our legislative powers in this country. The President can not act until after congress has acted; a bill must pass both houses before the President is called on to participate in the making of law.

"As a declaration of war is the most solemn exercise of legislative power, we may take it for granted that the senate and house will be very slow to declare in favor of resort to arms, and it may be compelled to decline to support the view which the President has felt it his duty to take in regard to American citizens traveling on belligerent ships into zones which they knew to be dangerous."

The democratic national administration is going to issue bonds, just as expected, choruses the republican press that takes its tips from Jonathan Bourne's publicity bureau. It proposes an issue of fifteen millions for the establishment of water power plants for the manufacture of nitrates to be used in the production of munitions and for fertilizers. The money is to be procured by the issuance and sale of canal bonds authorized by a republican administration, but never used. The presumption, of course, is that if the republicans had been in power they would not need to borrow any money to carry out a preparedness program of many millions. They would simply have waved the tariff wand and taken it directly out of the pockets of the consumers.

Somebody has pulled this extract from an article that appeared in his department of the Outlook, September 23, 1914, to confute his later criticism of Mr. Wilson in not protesting against the violation of the neutrality of Belgium: "It is certainly eminently desirable that we should remain entirely neutral, and nothing but urgent need would warrant our breaking our neutrality and taking sides one way or the other. Of course it would be folly to jump into the gulf ourselves to no good purpose, and very probably nothing we could have done would have helped Belgium." This is valuable also in showing that on September 23, 1914, Mr. Roosevelt had not yet thought of running for the republican nomination for president.

The exact quality of the sincerity which the brewers use in their declaration that they sell just as much liquor in dry territory as they did when it was wet territory, can be ascertained by comparing the increase of dry territory last year with the decrease of production of beer. The report of the collector of internal revenue which is the accurate index of production, shows a decrease of over 6 million barrels of beer alone in the last year. Since that report was compiled seven more states have banished the saloon.

#### HOBBLLED

On August 1, according to a London financial expert, the debts and annual interest charges of the leading belligerents will be as follows: Germany, \$16,000,000,000, carrying \$762,500,000 interest; Russia, \$15,000,000,000 with \$725,000,000 interest; France, \$14,600,000,000, with interest of \$625,000,000 a year; Great Britain, \$13,050,000,000, bearing \$550,000,000 interest. In all cases the annual interest charge at the close of the war will not be far from the total annual expenditures, including interest, before the war occurred.

The United States, which is richer than any of these nations, has a debt of about one billion with an annual interest charge of about one-tenth that which Germany will be paying in case the war runs no longer than August. All these European nations use methods of raising revenue which lay burdens upon their industries, increasing the cost of production and distribution. It is nations so hobbled by debt and taxes whose competition, in war and in industry, certain Americans are terrified over. We are of little faith in ourselves to suppose we can not hold our own against such a lot of cripples.—Nebraska State Journal.

#### MIGHT AS WELL BE FRANK

Mr. Woolner, president of the national association of liquor dealers, could hardly have chosen a more inopportune time to denounce Mr. Bryan for being governed in his fight against liquor by motives of self interest. The defeat of Mr. Bryan in the Nebraska primaries, due to his canvass for statewide prohibition, is too recent.

But the charge against Mr. Bryan or against any other man of political ambition that he has taken up the fight against liquor to serve his personal interest is absurd, whenever it is brought, for everybody knows that the most unpopular cause of the past twenty-five years has been the fight on the saloon.

Mr. Woolner, talking at this late date for the liquor interests, would have talked much more to the point if he had recognized the spirit that has animated the anti-saloon crusade, and had confessed frankly to the evils of the saloon system as we know it. Privately, the liquor leaders acknowledge this. The time has come when they might just as well talk frankly to the public.—Des Moines (Ia.) Register and Leader.

It is rather difficult to satisfy all of the critics. Some time ago it was pointed out by some of the President's critics that there was a marked difference in the sort of language he employed in dealing with mighty Germany and that employed in ultimatums to the lowly Mexicans. Now comes the republican publicity bureau and points out there is a marked difference in the President's language as between Germany and Mexico, showing that the President uses harsh and prepotent language towards Germany between whom and the United States there rolls an ocean three thousand miles in width and controlled by the British navy, while he uses honeyed words to Carranza just across the Rio Grande.

As sure signs of the approach of another presidential campaign there might be mentioned the appearance of the news stories telling of the return to the republican party of prominent progressive party leaders of whom we never heard, and the declaration of unknown lifelong democrats of state eminence that they have joined the republican party because of their inability to longer approve of the tariff policy of the democratic party.

A league to enforce peace has an alluring title, but the fact that it requires force to enforce any decree whether of a single nation or of a confederation of nations, robs the organization of any appeal to a man really desirous of seeing the world at peace.

Those critics of the President who declare that he ought to have "cleared up this Mexican mess months ago," are the same men who had nothing at all to say when Mr. Taft had the same mess on his hands.

A hint on how to keep well and happy: Have your ticket to Europe read "not good on the armed merchantmen or passenger ships of belligerents."