

European Newspapers And The Peace Amendment

at the Royal Gallery, house of lords, by one of America's political gladiators—Mr. W. J. Bryan, who has already fought one strenuous contest for the chief magistracy of the North American republic, and who, if rumor speaks truly, will wage another in a couple of years' time. It was known that the famous orator would address the congress shortly after its meeting, and as a result the hall was well filled at the outset with an audience on the tiptoe of expectation. A good speech was expected, and those who listened were not disappointed. Mr. Bryan's fine voice rang like a silver clarion through the spacious gallery—music to the ear, even of those who did not understand the language in which he was speaking—whilst his imposing presence captivated the eyes. The audience was spellbound when Mr. Bryan mounted the tribune, nor was the effect dissipated as his words went out. There was something in the melodious voice which brought home to old British parliamentarians a recollection of the mellifluous accents of John Bright."

The Daily Mail, of July 25, says: "Although French is the official language of the inter-parliamentary union, Mr. W. J. Bryan used his native tongue yesterday in the eloquent and characteristic speech in which he advocated an appeal before resort to war to impartial arbitration on any issue, whether it fell within the competence of an arbitration treaty or not."

The London correspondent for the Paris edition of the New York Herald, says: "A great speech on the benefits of arbitration was delivered yesterday at the Westminster conference of the representatives of the world's parliaments by Mr. William Jennings Bryan. 'The silver-tongued orator,' says the Standard, was in his best form, his eloquence completely taking the assembly by storm. At the close of his speech the delegates cheered for fully a minute, and some of them were so deeply moved they rushed forward and shook Mr. Bryan by the hand. The speech was made in reply to the announcement of Baron von Plener, of Austria, that an amendment which Mr. Bryan had put forward was to be combined with the original resolution. The council's proposal provided only for the mediation in a dispute of friendly powers, but Mr. Bryan wished to lay it down that contracting parties should agree to a reference to a commission of inquiry. The resolution as altered and adopted read: 'If a disagreement should arise between the contracting parties, which is not one to be submitted to arbitration, they shall not resort to any act of hostility before they separately or jointly invite, as the case may necessitate, the formation of an international commission of inquiry or the mediation of one or more friendly powers. This requisition will take place, if necessary, according to Article VIII. of The Hague convention for the peaceful settlement of international affairs.' When Mr. Bryan rose to speak he had a great reception."

The Paris edition of the New York Herald makes the following editorial reference: "Mr. Bryan's reputation as a public speaker, already well known in the United States, was enhanced internationally yesterday by an eloquent address in London, delivered before the conference of the inter-parliamentary union. His subject, broadly speaking, was arbitration versus armament, and his handling of it caused great enthusiasm among his hearers. A report of Mr. Bryan's speech appears on the first page."

The London Daily Express for July 25, says: "The leading feature of yesterday's sitting of the inter-parliamentary conference at Westminster was a speech by the silver-tongued orator of America, Mr. W. J. Bryan. The stately Victoria hall was crowded early with delegates from all countries. Even a representative from Japan came to give greeting to his brother legislators. The delegates entered in groups, chattering and gesticulating. The attendants were kept busy. All the visitors are not accustomed to English habits. 'Votre chapeau,' said one attendant to a portly gentleman, who was looking absently around him. The stranger did not grasp the meaning till the attendant shot a hand out towards the hat perched jauntily on the offending deputy's head. Then it was promptly removed. They walked around, studied the great picture on the wall that faced the canopy, and talked on regardless of the chairman's opening speech. Suddenly an awed silence fell upon the assembly. A portly, impressive man was on his feet. It was the man who may sometime be America's president. It was a peace speech—terse, rapid, epigrammatical. He pleaded for arbitration in ques-

tions generally considered out of the sphere of arbitration. The special advantages of arbitration were, he said, that facts could be separated from questions of honor; that it gave time for calm consideration; that it permitted the mobilization of public opinion in favor of peace."

The London Times of July 25, prints a long editorial, from which this extract is taken: "Mr. Bryan's eloquent speech to the conference yesterday should do much to rekindle interest in these issues. The well-known American orator covered a wide range—a wider range, indeed, than may seem to most people to be within practical bounds today. But the force and fire of such an appeal are not lost because they transcend the actual. It was well that the conference should set about their labors with such inspiring words ringing in their ears, and it was appropriate enough, at this moment, that those words should have fallen from an American speaker."

From the news report of the London Times, the following is taken: "Great interest was taken in the subject as it was known that Mr. Bryan, whose fame as an orator is world-wide, would speak in support of his amendment. Before the conference met an arrangement was come to, whereby the resolution and the amendment were combined. Mr. Bryan, whose appearance at the tribune was greeted with loud cheers, spoke in support of the resolution in its altered form. He was heard with the greatest attention, and was frequently applauded as he made his points in favor of the settlement of disputes by peaceful means. His speech was the outstanding feature of the day's deliberations, but the rest of the proceedings was followed with marked attention and interest by the delegates."

From the London Times' news report of the luncheon given in Westminster hall, at which luncheon Mr. Bryan spoke, the following is taken:

"The lord chancellor, in proposing 'The Inter-parliamentary Union,' said that he esteemed it a conspicuous honor that he had been privileged to take the chair on that occasion, when so many had come from the uttermost parts of the earth in order to attend that conference. There were assembled there men of many languages, many creeds and many nations, interested in subjects that stirred human nature to its depths; but he thought that already, short as the time had been, they had discovered that they did possess common ideals and common purposes. The chief among these was a craving for peace (cheers) and he thought that there could be no more proper place for the expression of that wish than England, where every one, from the sovereign on the throne to the poorest person in his majesty's dominions, had but one feeling and one aspiration. He believed that it was not sufficient to wish for peace; it was necessary to aim at methods by which it could be obtained. The first of those methods was by arbitration. (Cheers.) He would express his sympathy with the purposes expressed by Mr. Bryan in regard to arbitration. If time and deliberation could only be secured, the dangers of war would almost disappear, and he was looking forward to the time when those who had in obscurity struggled for the cause would stand in the opinion of mankind alongside the greatest heroes who had secured victories in time of war. (Cheers.) The other method was diminution of armaments, as to which he would only say that an ounce of example was worth a ton of precept, and he trusted that some nation might soon show an example in that respect. (Cheers.) He concluded by expressing his cordial and hearty welcome to those who had done them the honor of coming there that day and by proposing the toast, coupled with the distinguished names of Count Apponyi, a famous Hungarian statesman, the Hon. W. J. Bryan, one of the greatest orators and public men in the United States of America, and Baron d'Estournelles de Constant, than whom no one had rendered more service to the cause of international good will. (Loud cheers.)

"Mr. Bryan, in the course of his speech, said that the rivalry in the building of warships might be illustrated by a simple story of three men who lived about a little lake. One of them, suspicious of the other two, decided to build a boat to protect himself in case of attack. Then the man who built the boat went to the next nearest neighbor and, pointing to the boat, took aside the second man and urged him to build two, so that he would be ready for the attack if the first man made it. And having secured the building of the two boats, he went to the third man and pointed out that both the other neighbors had

boats and that he must have three in order to be prepared against the other two. By the time he had secured three he could go to the first man and point out how insufficient his protection was. (Laughter.) And so there was no limit to the rivalry in regard to armaments but the absolute exhaustion of the nation. Those present were one in their desire for peace, and that unity on that great question reminded him that as they got nearer the heart their differences grew less and less. While he feared the plutocracy of wealth and respected the aristocracy of learning, he thanked God for the democracy of the heart. (Cheers.) It was one of the objects of that inter-parliamentary conference to present to the world an ideal consistent with peace, and that ideal was that moral courage must not be placed below physical courage in the estimation of man's worth. (Cheers.) He would even place it above, for man shared physical courage with the brute, but in moral courage he stood alone in God's universe. (Cheers.) He appreciated the courage of the man who, under the inspiration of shout and drum and fife, rushed into the midst of carnage and gave his life for his country; but he admired no less the moral courage of the man who, in the face of danger, not to body but to position in society, dared to stand steadfast against the wrong and defy the world if he thought himself in the right. (Cheers.) He thought the value of a human life had been too little considered. Who was prepared to tell us that the world had won more by war than it had lost? He could not love a God who made man's progress depend upon his taking his brother's life, nor could he revere a God who formed a plan of the universe that made it necessary for men to fight and kill each other in order that they might reach the highest stage of human progress. He stood the other day by Shakespeare's birthplace, and he asked himself what the world would have lost if, instead of devoting his genius to verse, Shakespeare had been a Tommy Atkins, and had in the early bloom of youth died upon some battlefield. Let them measure the influence of such a life upon the world. (Cheers.) He stood also by the birthplace of the Scotch poet, and he asked what the world would have lost if Burns had never sung his immortal songs to the world. (Cheers.) He rejoiced in that peace movement because it had for its object the elimination of war and the promotion of the world's welfare by peaceful means. (Cheers.)"

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