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An Epoch-Making Decision

On this page will be found President Wilson's decision in the matter of the six-power loan. The president has reached the only conclusion that a democratic president could reach. President Taft and Secretary Knox acted in good faith in asking a New York syndicate of bankers to join with similar syndicates in five other countries to finance a Chinese loan but they looked at the matter from their standpoint, which is essentially different from the democratic standpoint. The conditions upon which the six power loan was to be made would be entirely in keeping with the principles upon which the republican party has administered affairs at home, but a democratic president, committed to the program which President Wilson has outlined, looks at the entire situation from a different standpoint, and it is well that the announcement of the president's position came at the beginning of his administration. It clears the air and gives our financiers at home and the borrowing nations abroad notice of the change that has taken place in the government at Washington.

This administration will encourage the extension of trade but it will be an extension open to every legitimate trader—not trade limited or restricted to a few. Other nations, too, will understand that the United States does not propose interference with foreign governments or the independence of nations when it encourages American capital to invest abroad. China will breathe easier as she recognizes the friendliness of our country and measures the force of the example which our nation sets. President Wilson could have done nothing better calculated to promote American commerce—nothing better calculated to promote peace and friendship between our nation and the nations whose resources await development.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY ON CHINESE LOAN

The following is the text of President Wilson's statement concerning the administration's policy on the Chinese loan as concurred in by the members of the cabinet:

"We are informed that at the request of the last administration a certain group of American bankers undertook to participate in the loan now desired by the government of China (approximately \$125,000,000). Our government wished American bankers to participate along with the bankers of other nations, because it desired that the good will of the United States towards China would be exhibited in this practical way, that American capital should have access to that great country and that the United States should be in a position to share with the

THE NEW CABINET

Kansas City Star (Ind.): With the exception of Mr. Bryan and Mr. Franklin K. Lane the members of President Wilson's cabinet are comparatively little known in national affairs. But, making no exceptions, the new president's new cabinet seems to be a fine body of men. It is a novel idea and a promising idea to take into the presidential counsels men who come with a fresh point of view. The idea comports with much that Mr. Wilson has said recently of his democratic notion that affairs should be taken back to the people and to the larger forum of discussion. The "New South" scores in the cabinet pretty heavily, but not enough to give it a sectional complexion. Factionalism and sectionalism are absent from it—while it seems to be all progressive. There is every reason to believe that the new cabinet will march in harmony with its chief and that it will reflect his courage and progressiveness.

other powers any political responsibilities that might be associated with the development of the foreign relations of China in connection with her industrial and commercial enterprises.

"The present administration has been asked by this group of bankers whether it would also request them to participate in the loan. Representatives of the bankers through whom the administration was approached declared that they would loan under the proposed agreements only if expressly requested to do so by the government.

"The administration has declined to make such request, because it did not approve the conditions of the loan or the implications of responsibility on its own part which it was plainly told would be involved in the request.

"The conditions of the loan seem to us to touch very nearly the administrative independence of China itself, and this administration does not feel that it ought even by implication be a party to those conditions. The responsibility on its part which would be implied in requesting the bankers to undertake the loan might conceivably go the length in some unhappy contingency of forcible interference in the financial and even the political affairs of that great oriental state, just now awakening to a consciousness of its power and its obligations to the people. The conditions include not only the pledging of particular taxes, some of them antiquated and burdensome, to secure the loan but also the administration of those taxes by foreign agents. The responsibility on the part of our government implied in the encouragement of a loan thus secured and administered is plain enough and is obnoxious to the principles upon which the government of our people rests."

TILLMAN'S BEAUTIFUL SPEECH

Senator Tillman's speech, accepting the situation when his colleagues refused him the chairmanship of the appropriations committee, will shine out as one of the most beautiful delivered in recent years. He said:

"Under the rule of seniority I was entitled to the chairmanship of the committee on appropriations. I asked for that committee, but my colleagues on the steering committee—and I know that every member of that committee is my friend—thought that I ought to retire to the still waters and let the battleships go out into the open. I bow respectfully to that decision and cheerfully submit."

It was brief but the spirit touched those who heard it as it will those who read it. No victory could have given him such an opportunity to endear himself to those who know him. It illustrates an old truth, that "darkness brings out the stars."

A Democratic Decision

The senate is to be a democratic body. Senator Kern, chairman of the democratic caucus, describing the changes proposed in the rules, says:

"We propose that this great body shall be democratic not only in name, but in practical reality, and that the charge so often made that it is controlled by a few men through committee organization and otherwise shall no longer have any basis in fact."

The proposals made by the committee to the caucus provided that a majority of the democrats on any committee can call it together at any time; that the committee shall elect all members of conference committees, and that the committee members shall elect their chairmen, and that all appointments by the "steering committee" shall be approved by the full democratic caucus.

"These resolutions, if adopted, will we believe, enable the senate to become a more powerful agency for the registration of the public will, and to respond quickly to the desires and demands of the people as expressed at the polls," said Senator Kern. "Speaking for the entire committee, I hope these resolutions may be adopted to the end that the country may know in advance that the senate of the United States, under democratic control, is an active, efficient, and sympathetic branch of this great popular government."

What a revolution has been wrought under progressive leadership! The senate is now in harmony with the president and ready to hold up his hands while he realizes the hopes of an expectant nation. The popular election of senators is near at hand, and a senate, chosen by the people and governed by the rules announced by Senator Kern, will be worthy of the confidence of the nation—it ought to be the highest legislative body in the world.

The new caucus leader has already vindicated the wisdom of those who selected him and delighted those who five years ago tried to make him vice president. The steering committee is steering in the right direction and all is well.

ONLY FIVE MORE NEEDED

Thirty-one states have ratified the proposed constitutional amendment providing for the direct election of senators. The Washington correspondent for the Philadelphia North American gives these states as follows: New York, North Carolina, Minnesota, Massachusetts, Arizona, Michigan, Colorado, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Washington, Texas, Montana, Wyoming, Illinois, Wisconsin, Kansas, Vermont, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Maine, West Virginia, Arkansas, Iowa, California, Oklahoma, New Mexico, North Dakota.

It is evident that this amendment will be adopted so quickly as to break the record for the adoption of constitutional amendments. The house of representatives on four occasions adopted a resolution submitting this amendment but in each instance it was defeated by the senate. The reform so grew in popular favor that the senate finally yielded and the amendment was submitted by the last congress.

Mr. Bryan is among those who feel particularly gratified by the prospective success of the reform for which democrats have so long and persistently fought.

There will be strong rivalry for the honor of being the thirty-sixth state to ratify this amendment. But every state voting favorably will have an honor all its own. Indeed, the result will be so glorious that there will be honor for every state and for every individual that has helped to bring about this important work.

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