

The New Peace Proposition

on the consumer what neither the government is able to collect as taxes, nor the manufacturer to appropriate as profits. They lessen the productive power of human labor, as if God had cursed it with ungenial climate or sterile soil." And in a speech at Chatham, Columbia county, in September of the same year: "These taxes carry with them other incidents, which greatly increase their burden. They fall most heavily upon men of small incomes, the proceeds of whose labor and industry are consumed to support themselves and their families. Every man who has attained a situation of comfort and prosperity can in some way stand them. But take the poor man—take the man not poor, whose annual income is consumed in his annual support—and he pays a most disproportionate amount from his earnings or income for the taxes levied upon the country. It is not for myself that I speak today to you, yeomanry and citizens of Columbia; it is for you, and because I have cherished from my childhood, and still cherish, the thought that America is to be the home of its people, and not a state in which the wealthy are prosperous at the expense of toiling millions." In his annual message for 1876, I find this: "The consequence is that the pecuniary sacrifices of the people are not to be measured by the receipts into the treasury. They are vastly greater. A tax that starts in its career by disturbing the natural courses of private industry and impairing the productive power of labor, and then comes to the consumer distended by profits of successive intermediaries and by insurance against the risks of a fickle or uncertain governmental policy and of a fluctuating governmental standard of value, blights human well being at every step. When it reaches the hapless child of toil who buys his bread by the single loaf and his fuel by the basket, it devours his earnings and inflicts starvation. "Another evil of such a system of excessive taxation is that it creates and nourishes a governmental class with tendencies to lessen services and to enlarge compensation, to multiply retainers, to invent jobs and foster all forms of expenditure, tendencies unrestrained by the watchful eye and firm hand of personal interest, which alone enable private business to be carried on successfully."

CALIFORNIA, JAPAN AND THE ADMINISTRATION

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"This expresses the views of the president. He desires me to say that if such a law is passed he will recognize his duty as president to do all in his power to minimize the ill-feeling that might be aroused. At the same time he believes it his duty as president to urge earnest consideration of such advice, which is given here with no desire to interfere with what you may regard as necessary. And further, he urges that if you proceed at once you consider the advisability of using language that can not be justly criticised as offending these nations with whom we are friendly."

The afternoon session of the conference beginning at 4 and lasting until 7 o'clock brought a climax to the day's proceedings. Question after question was hurled at Secretary Bryan who admitted his inability to answer many of them. Towards the close of the meeting he arose and said:

"I have said all that I came to say. I have answered all the questions that I have been asked and my mission here is ended whenever you may feel that you have conferred as much as you like with the representative of the president. I came with no program, simply to confer. I have presented the president's views as I understand them. I have communicated to him this afternoon several propositions after listening to what you have had to say. Tonight I shall submit to him the further questions you have asked me, calling attention to the statutes of Washington and Arizona and I shall be prepared tomorrow, I hope, to give you his answer."

Senator Boynton called attention to the wording of the Arizona law, asking Secretary Bryan what would be the effect upon the national government if California placed a similar restriction upon her land.

"I am not prepared to answer that question," replied Secretary Bryan, "but will have to ask for instructions from Washington."

Governor Johnson made a brief but intense speech in defense of the position taken by the majority party in California. He told Secretary Bryan that the right of California to follow the lead of other states was unquestioned, and declared that such a course now seems assured.

The address was brief, but it indicated plain-

ly that the opinion of the administration remained unchanged by the arguments put forward by Mr. Bryan. When Governor Johnson took his seat there was a general feeling that the alien situation had been settled regardless of what may be forthcoming from Washington.

On another page will be found reference to the peace proposition which the secretary of state, by direction of the president, submitted on Thursday last to the representatives of the foreign nations residing at Washington. The plan contemplates an agreement, to be entered into between this country and all of the other countries severally, providing for the investigation of all questions in dispute before war is declared or hostilities begun. The United States government announces its willingness to make such an agreement with every other country, whether that country be great or small. A permanent commission is proposed, the composition of it to be agreed upon between the contracting countries, and it is to be the duty of this commission to investigate such dispute, when diplomatic efforts fail, and the investigation is to be made as a matter of course, without the formality of a request by either party. This provision is intended to save either nation from being compelled to ask for an investigation at a time when excitement might make both parties hesitate to ask for investigation, lest the request might be considered a sign of weakness.

According to the peace plan proposed, the report is to be made within a time to be fixed in

A FAMILY CUSTOM

The following Associated Press dispatch is self-explanatory: Washington, April 24.—Comment upon the substitution of unfermented grape juice for the wine usually served on such occasions at the dinner given by Secretary and Mrs. Bryan Monday evening in honor of Ambassador Bryce caused the secretary to issue a statement today explaining the incident. In it for the first time Mr. Bryan made public that the question of how the fact that it was contrary to the customs of the Bryan household to serve wines, would be received in official society, was discussed with President Wilson before he accepted the portfolio of state.

The statement follows:

"We did not intend to magnify by mentioning it, the importance of the non-use of wine at the dinner given to Ambassador Bryce Monday night, but as the papers have made some inaccurate references to the matter the facts might as well be known.

"This was the first dinner which we have given to members of the diplomatic corps and therefore the first time when we came into conflict with the social custom of serving wine at dinner. The seven other ambassadors then in the city and their ladies were invited to meet Ambassador and Mrs. Bryce, and as all the gentlemen guests were from foreign countries I thought it proper to explain to them the reason for our failure to conform to what seems to have been customary in this matter. Believing that the issue should be met frankly in the beginning, I told them when we sat down to the table that Mrs. Bryan and I had been teetotalers from our youth, as were our parents before us, and had never served liquor at our table; that when the president was kind enough to tender me the portfolio of state I asked him whether our failure to serve wine would be any embarrassment to the administration and that he generously left the matter to our discretion. I suggested that I thought it unfair to assume that those coming to us from abroad would judge us harshly or would be unwilling to tolerate the maintenance of a traditional custom and expressed the hope that our friendship would be made so apparent to them and our hospitality so cordial that they would overlook this weakness in us, if they regard it as a weakness. My remarks were applauded by the company and we never spent a more enjoyable evening.

"That is all there is to the matter and we can consider the incident closed and the custom established so far as we are concerned."

the agreement and the parties reserve the right to act independently after the investigation, is concluded. It will be seen that it is INVESTIGATION, not arbitration, that the plan provides for. All the arbitration treaties except from their operation certain disputes—the most important ones that can arise, in fact—and these disputes are the ones which usually lead to war. The plan proposed by the president supplements the arbitration treaties now in existence and those that may hereafter be made, and makes war remote by compelling a delay during which feeling can subside and questions of fact be separated from questions of honor. It is not likely that war will ever be declared if the declaration can be postponed for a year or even for a few months. The time required for investigation will be used for the formation of a public opinion which will coerce the nations into a settlement upon some equitable basis.

The plan was very favorably received by the foreign representatives and is being favorably commented on abroad. If, as now seems probable, such an agreement can be entered into between this country and the other nations, it will be a long step in the direction of universal peace and our nation will have set an example of great value to the world.

CHINA'S REMARKABLE APPEAL

The department of state has received from the legation at Peking a telegram to the effect that on Friday, April 18, the following message was adopted by the Chinese cabinet and sent by the Chinese government to the provincial authorities and the leaders of Christian churches in China:

"Prayer is requested for the national assembly now in session; for the new government; for the president who is to be elected; for the constitution of the republic; that the government may be recognized by the powers; that peace may reign within our country; that strong and virtuous men may be elected to office; and that the government may be established upon a strong foundation. Upon receipt of this telegram you are requested to notify all churches in your province that April 27 has been set aside as a day of prayer for the nation. Let all take part."

China's appeal is a remarkable document; it is probably the highest compliment ever paid to Christianity by a non-Christian nation. But a small percentage of the people of China are adherents of Christianity and yet a new government, popular in character, and representing the China of today, appeals to all the Christian churches of the land to observe April 27th as a day of prayer! And behold the objects of prayer. Prayer is requested for the national assembly, now in session; for the new government, just assuming responsibility; for the president yet to be elected; for the constitution upon which the framework of government is to rest—surely these things are worthy of prayerful consideration. But prayer is to be offered up that the government may be recognized by the powers—what power can withhold recognition long in the face of such an appeal? Prayer is to be offered in behalf of peace and that "strong and virtuous men may be elected to office," and all these things are summed up in the final object of their prayers, namely, that the government may be established upon a strong foundation. Surely the missionaries have done their work well if, entering into the great empire of the Orient, they have in a comparatively short time so deeply impressed the people of that country with the truths of the Christian religion as to bring forth such an appeal as the above. The Christian churches of China will, of course, respond promptly to the summons and many a heart outside of the Celestial empire will be lifted on that day to the throne of the Almighty in behalf of the government of China. That the prayer may be answered, every plea, must be the earnest wish of Christians outside of China as well as inside, and of non-Christians as well.