

# The Commoner.

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## Two Historic Documents

President Wilson's letter of recognition, delivered to the president of the Chinese republic upon the organization of the legislature, and the reply of Yuan Shi Kai, the provisional president, deserves a place in the school books of both countries. The United States took the initiative in welcoming the great republic which has just been established in the orient. The president's letter reads as follows:

"The government and people of the United States, having recently testified their sympathy with the people of China upon their assumption of the attributes and powers of self-government, deem it opportune at this time, when the representative national assembly has met to discharge the high duty of setting the seal of full accomplishment upon the aspirations of the Chinese people, that I extend in the name of my government and my countrymen, a greeting of welcome to the new China thus entering into the family of nations.

"In taking this step I entertain the confident

hope and expectation that the Chinese nation will attain the highest degree of development and well being and that under the new rule all established obligations of China which pass to the provisional governor will in turn, pass to and be served by the government established by the assembly."

The pleasure which it gave our chief executive to extend this welcome to the nation which has just secured for its people participation in their government is manifested in the language employed by President Wilson. The reply that comes back from China is as cordial in sentiment and as beautiful in phraseology. It reads:

"In the name of the republic of China I thank you most heartily for the message of recognition which you have sent to me through your honored representative in this capital. The sentiments of amity and good will which it speaks, and the expressions of greetings and welcome which it conveys, at once testify to the American spirit of mutual helpfulness and

friendly intercourse between China and the United States. Though unfamiliar with the republican form of government, the Chinese people are fully convinced of the soundness of the principle which underlies it and which is so luminously represented by your glorious commonwealth. The sole aim of the government which they have established, therefore, is and will be to preserve this form of government and to perfect its workings, to the end that they may enjoy its unalloyed blessings; prosperity and happiness within, through the union of law and liberty; and peace and friendship without, through the faithful execution of all established obligations."

The little children of this and succeeding generations can use the letters exchanged upon this epoch-making occasion as models in statescraft as well as in composition. The names of the two executives are linked together in history and each has helped to make the other's fame more enduring by the sentiments expressed and the language employed.

## California-Japan Situation

As the readers have been informed through the newspapers, Mr. Bryan has just returned to Washington from a two weeks' trip to the Pacific coast, where he went at the direction of President Wilson to confer with the governor and legislature of California in regard to anti-alien land legislation. The important facts relating to the trip have been spread before the readers in the Washington and Sacramento dispatches, but the story is more accurately told in the resolution introduced by Senator Curtin, which was defeated, in the law passed, in the final statement made to a joint session of the legislature by Mr. Bryan and in the response made by Senator Gates, the leader of that body. Mr. Bryan set forth the object of the trip, the president's preferences and his objections to the bill as it had passed the senate, and as it later passed the assembly. Senator Gates expressed, in graceful language, the state's appreciation of the president's efforts, its respect for his wishes and its regret that it could not agree with him as to the language to be employed in the measure which the legislature felt it its duty to pass.

The experiment made by the president, in sending a member of the cabinet to confer with the state authorities, was a new one, and whatever the outcome of the conference may be, some satisfaction can be derived from the fact that the president's representative was welcomed with cordiality and treated with courtesy. He was, while in California, the guest of Governor and Mrs. Johnson, who proved most hospitable hosts; he occupied while at the capital the office of Lieutenant Governor Wallace, met the members of the assembly at a dinner given at the Hotel Sacramento by Speaker Young, and, upon invitation, visited both the senate and the assembly at session when they were not considering the alien land bill.

There were three executive sessions at which he addressed the members of the senate and assembly and answered questions submitted by the members of the two houses. The final session was an open one and was confined to the

reading of the address of Mr. Bryan which appears in this issue, and the delivery of the response by Senator Gates.

### MR. BRYAN IN CALIFORNIA

Mr. Bryan's address to the California legislature upon leaving the state is in full, as follows:

Governor Johnson, Lieutenant Governor Wallace, Speaker Young, and Members of the Legislature: As I am departing this afternoon for Washington, I deem it proper that I should say a final word to you. My coming, at the president's request upon the mission that brought me, was unusual, and yet in the president's opinion, not only right in principle but wise in policy. It was in keeping with his own course in appearing in person to deliver a message to congress. He recognizes the division of the powers of government among the three departments, the executive, the legislative and the judicial, but he feels that, as they must cooperate in the conduct of the government, there should be the utmost frankness and cordiality between them in the performance of their respective duties. In like manner, while he recognizes the division of responsibility between the federal government and the several states, he believes that this division should not preclude conference and consultation between the executive of the nation and those entrusted by your state constitution with the exercise of state authority.

A question having arisen which, while local in its immediate operation is yet national and even international in some of its phases, he ventured to advise against the use of certain language in bills which were under consideration. When it seemed probable that the words would be used, notwithstanding the advice which he had earnestly given, he asked whether it would be agreeable to the legislature to have the secretary of state visit Sacramento to confer in regard to the national and international phases of the question. The reply made by the legislature was in the form of a resolution which reads as follows:

"Resolved; by the senate of the state of California, that while this senate respectfully maintains the right of the legislature of the state of California to legislate on the subject of land

ownership within the state, it will be entirely agreeable to the senate to have the secretary of state of the United States visit Sacramento for the purposes indicated in the president's telegram; and, be it further

"Resolved, that in view of the probable early adjournment of the legislature, the secretary of the senate be and he is hereby instructed to transmit forthwith these resolutions by telegraph to the president."

The assembly passed a similar resolution.

If these resolutions could not be construed as an invitation, it at least, expressed full acquiescence, and the president felt so deeply upon the subject that he sent me here to confer with you.

I need not recount the experiences through which we have passed. The legislature, in so far as it has acted, has found it inconsistent with its view of its responsibilities to follow the president's advice in the wording of the bill which it regarded it as its duty to pass. While I shall not attempt to form a judgment as to the action of the assembly on this subject, I have so fully presented the president's views that I do not deem a longer stay necessary. On the contrary, I feel that I can be more useful at Washington when the president has before him the bill as it reaches the governor, if it shall finally pass the assembly.

I can not, however, take my departure without giving expression to my appreciation of the spirit in which, as a representative of the president, I have been received, and of the courtesies that have been shown me at all times by Governor Johnson, by Lieutenant Governor Wallace, by Speaker Young and by the members of both the senate and the assembly. The amity that has characterized the intercourse between the officials of this state is in keeping, I think, with the course that should be pursued by those who, acting under a sense of responsibility about matters in which they are jointly concerned, are unable to agree upon the means to be employed for reaching the end in view. The president has impressed upon me at all times that I should emphasize the fact that his only purpose is to confer with the legislature as to the national and international phases of the question under consideration, and that he confers as a not unsympathetic friend who desires to aid to the extent of his ability in a