

# PEACE TREATY NUMBER ONE

The readers of *The Commoner* have been kept informed of the progress made by the peace plan which, last April, by authority of the president, the secretary of state presented to all the nations represented at Washington.

## Twenty-five nations—

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|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1—Italy         | 14—China              |
| 2—Great Britain | 15—Dominican Republic |
| 3—France        | 16—Guatemala          |
| 4—Brazil        | 17—Haiti              |
| 5—Sweden        | 18—Spain              |
| 6—Norway        | 19—Portugal           |
| 7—Russia        | 20—Belgium            |
| 8—Peru          | 21—Denmark            |
| 9—Austria       | 22—Chile              |
| 10—Netherlands  | 23—Cuba               |
| 11—Bolivia      | 24—Costa Rica         |
| 12—Germany      | 25—Salvador,          |
| 13—Argentina    |                       |

have accepted the principle. This represents more than four-fifths of the population of the world.

Salvador, the twenty-fifth to accept the principle, went further than the rest and, accepted all the details. Thus, she wins the distinction of being the first to join in the treaty with the United States.

None of the other nations have made objections to any of the details, but have them under consideration. But for the fact that this is the vacation season and most of the representatives are away, it is probable that a number of other nations would have before this come to an agreement with the United States as to the details. However, the movement is now under way and the first treaty, which may be considered as presenting the views of the administration, is set forth below. This government is willing to agree to any reasonable change in details—the principle only is important. It will be sent to all of the American embassies and legations and the readers of *The Commoner* will be notified as the nations severally come to an agreement.

It is the belief of many that the treaty marks

a new era in peace negotiations and that the principle embodied in the plan which the president has offered to all nations, great and small, will ultimately be accepted in treaties which other nations make with each other. Surely war is made more remote in proportion as time for investigation and deliberation can be secured. It will be next thing to impossible for nations to engage in war if they take a year to think about it and look into the disputed facts.

## Text of the United States-Salvador Peace Treaty

The text of the United States-Salvador peace treaty follows:

"The United States of America and the Republic of Salvador, being desirous of strengthening the bonds of amity that bind them together and also to advance the cause of general peace, have resolved to enter into a treaty for that purpose and to that end have appointed as their plenipotentiaries:

"The President of the United States, the Hon. William Jennings Bryan, Secretary of State; and the President of Salvador, Senor Don Federico Mejia, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Salvador to the United States;

"Who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, found to be in proper form, have agreed upon the following articles:

"Article I—The high contracting parties agree that all disputes between them, of every nature whatsoever, which diplomacy shall fail to adjust, shall be submitted for investigation and report to an International Commission, to be constituted in the manner prescribed in the next succeeding article; and they agree not to declare war or begin hostilities during such investigation and report.

"Article II—The International Commission shall be composed of five members, to be appointed as follows: One member shall be chosen from each country, by the government thereof; one member shall be chosen by each government from some third country; the fifth member shall be chosen by common agreement between the two governments. The expenses of the commission shall be paid by the two governments in equal proportion.

"The International Commission shall be appointed within four months after the exchange of the ratifications of this treaty; and vacancies

shall be filled according to the manner of the original appointment.

"Article III—In case the high contracting parties shall have failed to adjust a dispute by diplomatic methods, they shall at once refer it to the International Commission for investigation and report. The International Commission may, however, act upon its own initiative, and in such case it shall notify both governments and request their co-operation in the investigation.

"The report of the International Commission shall be completed within one year after the date on which it shall declare its investigation to have begun, unless the high contracting parties shall extend the time by mutual agreement. The report shall be prepared in triplicate; one copy shall be presented to each government, and the third retained by the commission for its files.

"The high contracting parties reserve the right to act independently on the subject matter of the dispute after the report of the commission shall have been submitted.

"Article IV—Pending the investigation and report of the International Commission, the high contracting parties agree not to increase their military or naval programs, unless danger from a third power should compel such increase, in which case the party feeling itself menaced shall confidentially communicate the fact in writing to the other contracting party, whereupon the latter shall also be released from its obligation to maintain its military and naval status quo.

"Article V—The present treaty shall be ratified by the President of the United States of America, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof; and by the President of the Republic of Salvador, with the approval of the Congress thereof; and the ratifications shall be exchanged as soon as possible. It shall take effect immediately after the exchange of ratifications, and shall continue in force for a period of five years; and it shall thereafter remain in force until twelve months after one of the high contracting parties have given notice to the other of an intention to terminate it.

"In witness whereof the respective plenipotentiaries have signed the present treaty and have affixed thereunto their seals.

"Done in Washington on the seventh day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and thirteen.

"WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN.  
"FEDERICO MEJIA."

## Reform Moves On

Tariff reform and currency reform are moving on, slowly but steadily, and with certainty of triumph. The tariff bill as it passed the house was a splendid measure—the best that the country has seen since the war. It gives more relief to the taxpayers than any previous democratic measure would have given. This, however, is only natural, because tariff bills, like other bills, reflect public sentiment, and public sentiment today is ready for a more radical reduction than would have been possible thirty, twenty, or even ten, years ago.

But the senate, instead of emasculating the bill, as previous senates have done, has actually improved it, and, as reported by the finance committee, it is better than when it passed the house. It is difficult to over-state the credit which the democratic leaders of the senate deserve for the manner in which differences have been harmonized and the entire party brought to the support of the bill. It is sure now that on final passage not more than two democratic senators will oppose the bill, and it will not be surprising if, when the roll is called, even the senators from Louisiana vote "aye" on the theory that, taken as a whole, the bill will bring more benefit to their constituents by the reductions made, than free sugar can do harm.

While the democrats of the senate and house have done their duty manfully, the president deserves a large amount of credit for the firm stand he has taken in favor of a reduction that will be substantial and far-reaching in its effect. The country is beginning to realize what it means

to have a people's president—a champion in the White House who has the courage to fight their battles for them, and who knows not the word "surrender."

The currency bill is not as far advanced as the tariff bill, but it is steadily gaining ground. The measure favored by the president is under consideration in both houses and there is now little doubt of its passage. In fact, it is likely to have a larger majority in both houses than the tariff bill. The tariff measure must rely largely upon democratic votes for its success because it is more purely a party issue; but party lines are likely to be disregarded to some extent in the vote upon the currency question; the bill will gain more republicans than it loses democrats.

Let the readers of *The Commoner* keep in mind three things:

First—The bill recognizes the sovereign right of the government to issue money.

Second—The bill provides that the people, through their governmental agents, shall regulate the issue of the currency provided for. This gives protection from a selfish use of the regulating power.

Third—The bill extends to state and national banks alike the help which the federal government offers in times of emergency.

If the details of the bill can be regarded as foothills, these three provisions stand out like mountain peaks. If the people can secure the three advantages named above, they can afford to accept any details that a majority of the senate and house may write into the bill. A detail can be changed when experience shows it to be unwise, but a change in a fundamental principle is more difficult. The more this bill is studied

the more widespread will be the feeling that never since the civil war have the people in general been so largely considered in the framing of a money measure.

And to the president must be the thanks for having thrown the tremendous weight of his influence on the people's side. It is probable that the fact that he is an eastern man has enabled him to do more than a western or southern man could have done under the same circumstances. The Wall street crowd is not able to excite the same fear of him that it has successfully endeavored to arouse against those who live beyond the Alleghenies and south of the Potomac.

Let us rejoice that times, conditions and circumstances are combining to strengthen the president in his fight and to offer new hope to those who have, for so many years, been combating the influence, open and secret, of "the money power."

There are other questions which will demand the president's attention when the regular session opens, for his work has just commenced, but with two great victories to his credit, his prestige will be increased, and that prestige will be used in the people's cause. W. J. BRYAN.

In view of the attempt of some of the sensational newspapers to stir up war between the United States and any country with which it has a diplomatic controversy, one recalls the wise witticism of Mr. Dooley in discussing the Spanish war. Mr. Hennessey asked him: "Are you going to the depot to see the soldiers off?" Mr. Dooley replied: "When THOSE WHO GOT UP the war ENLIST I will go to see them off."