

# President Wilson will need a Democratic Congress during the coming two years.

## The Peace Treaties

It may not be out of place to recall to the readers of The Commoner two editorials which appeared in February, 1905 — nine years ago. The first was published on the 17th of February, 1905, and reads as follows:

### "TIME FOR MEDIATION"

"It is time for the leading nations to join together in proffering their good offices for the settlement of the war in the east. There must be mediation some time, why not now? Russia can not hope to retake Port Arthur in years, if at all, and Japan will find war more expensive and more hazardous the farther her army marches inland. There has been killing enough on both sides to satisfy that absurd sense of honor which requires bloodshed. There never was a time when the Christian nations were under a more imperative duty to throw their influence on the side of peace, and the United States can well afford to take the lead because our relations with both Russia and Japan are such as to relieve us of any suspicion of selfish interest. And when peace is restored our nation should take the initiative in promoting a system of arbitration so comprehensive that all differences will be submitted to the arbitration court, reserving to each nation the right to refuse to accept the finding if it believes that its affects its honor or integrity. Such a system would make war a remote possibility."

Here will be found the germ of the plan which has since been accepted by thirty-four nations, and which has been embodied in twenty-six treaties. The system as proposed was to provide for the investigation of ALL cases, the contracting nations reserving the right to refuse to accept the findings.

The second editorial appeared on February 24th, 1905, a week later, and presented the idea more at length:

"It is possible to provide for the impartial investigation of any international dispute, leaving the final submission to arbitration to be a matter of treaty. The president might be authorized to enter into an agreement to submit any and every international dispute to The Hague court for investigation. When the court reports upon the facts and presents the real issue between the parties, then the parties can decide intelligently whether it involves a proper question for arbitration or affects the integrity and honor of either nation. Such an investigation would, in most cases, remove the misunderstanding and bring about a reconciliation, and public opinion would exert a powerful influence in harmonizing any differences which might be bound to exist. \* \* \* If such a plan had been in operation the Russian-Japanese war might have been prevented. It is quite certain that a preliminary investigation by an impartial board would have prevented most of the international wars of the last half century, and would be still more effective in the future."

In the fall of 1905 at a banquet in Tokyo Mr. Bryan presented the plan in a speech. He later secured an endorsement of the plan at a peace conference held in London in July, 1906. It was afterwards endorsed at a peace congress in New York, and still later at a peace meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland. It was then partially embodied in the peace treaties proposed by President Taft, and this clause of the treaties was approved by the senate, but objection was made to other provisions which limited the right of the senate to decide what questions should be submitted to arbitration.

The plan has grown until it is now an accepted fact, and is likely to be adopted by other nations in their dealings with each other.

The idea of investigation was suggested by the methods employed for the settlement of industrial disputes. Investigation is usually successful in bringing the parties into agreement, and it was an easy step from the industrial dis-

pute to the international controversy. If investigation will, as a rule, bring about an adjustment of differences between employers and employees, why should not investigation be employed to bring about an adjustment of international disputes? That it can be so employed is now universally admitted, and twenty-six nations have agreed with the United States that it shall be employed in disputes between them and this country.

How simple the truth is—and how easily understood! It only needs to be stated clearly to be accepted, for it appeals to common sense and to the common conscience.

The speech of Mr. Bryan at the London peace congress will be found on another page.

### SENATOR NEWLANDS

In the candidacy of Senator Newlands for reelection the people of Nevada have a rare opportunity to demonstrate their desire to support the administration, their loyalty to democratic principles, often tried and never found wanting, and their disposition to recognize long and able service. The public work of Mr. Newlands forms a record of which the party is justly proud.

He was a leader in the campaign for the national control of irrigation development in the west and author of the law bearing his name. He has always been an earnest and consistent friend of the settlers under the reclamation projects.

Senator Newlands has recently added to his record a signal achievement in carrying out a part of the administration's program for the regulation of trusts. Always a progressive, he has been a leader of thought on this subject, upon the soundest lines. The federal trade commission act recently passed by congress contains every essential feature of a bill introduced by him more than three years ago. It is a singularly happy circumstance that the chairman of the senate committee entrusted with this important legislation should be the man who had been the pioneer in that field of thought. In conducting this legislation Mr. Newlands showed ability of the very highest order. His committee brought out a bill which was a model of well-considered, carefully-drawn legislation; and he piloted it safely through much opposition in the senate, and secured its passage in a form not weakened, but strengthened and improved. The passage of this act is one of the most important achievements of President Wilson's administration, and the work of the commission is expected to mark a new epoch in the effective regulation of trusts.

Mr. Newlands was a pioneer in advocating the formation of a reserve board system for the reform of our banking laws. In this he anticipated the national monetary commission. He was the first democrat in congress to bring out a definite proposal for a democratic program of banking reform in opposition to the Aldrich plan. The work of framing this important legislation fell to other hands, but this does not alter the fact that he anticipated, in the main, the most important features of the legislation which was finally passed.

Senator Newlands is a consistent friend of the working man, and has an unbroken record of having supported all the reasonable demands of organized labor. He was active and effective in the legislation for the eight-hour law, for the benefit of railroad telegraphers, for automatic-couplers and other safety-appliances on railroads, for the employer's liability bill, and other similar legislation.

His most valuable contribution to the cause of industrial peace was last year, when, as chairman of the senate committee on interstate commerce, he introduced and expedited the passage of a bill in time to prevent a most disastrous railroad strike on the lines east of the Mississippi river. This legislation, generally known as the "Newland's Arbitration Act," is the most important step which has been taken in this country for the peaceful adjustment of labor disputes. It has already prevented many rail-

road strikes, the most recent instance of which is the arbitration of the threatened strike of Southern Pacific employees—a matter in which the people of Nevada are deeply and directly interested. Senator Newlands is entitled to be considered a benefactor of the whole country for his efficient services in this matter.

The most recent service to the cause of free labor performed by Senator Newlands was the favorable reporting by his committee of a bill to limit the interstate character of goods made by convict labor. The effect of this legislation, when passed, will be to reduce the competition of such goods with the products of free labor.

Mr. Newlands belongs to that class of men who, having imagination and the constructive faculty largely developed, are often in advance of their times; but he has had the good fortune to see many of his ideas enacted into law and others on the highroad to enactment, thus proving his claim to practical constructive statesmanship. He has been an earnest advocate of a legislative program, to be formulated at the beginning of each session, to put the work of Congress upon a more orderly footing, and thus reduce the length of its sessions. He is a leader in the propaganda for the scientific co-ordination of the work of river regulation and flood reduction, by putting the work upon a national, instead of a local, footing. His efforts along this line, long continued under the most discouraging circumstances, have recently received the approval of the secretaries of war, interior, agriculture, and commerce, and have been adopted by the administration as a part of its program for the near future. He is a believer in the up-building of a well-proportioned navy, by the construction of auxiliary ships in proportion to the battleship fleet, so that in case of war we will not be dependent upon the buying of boats for scouting and other similar duty. This plan has the approval of the present secretary of the navy.

Senator Newlands has long been a national figure, but it is only since the democratic party came into power that he is beginning to see the ideas for which he has so long contended carried into effect. He is popular in Washington, and occupies a position of power and influence there. The fact that he had no opposition at the primaries for the democratic nomination for senator is a cause for congratulation. That Nevada should send anyone else to the senate now, after the services which Mr. Newlands has rendered to the state, the party, and the country, is unthinkable. The Commoner earnestly commends Senator Newlands, not only to all the democrats of Nevada, but to members of all parties. The nation can not afford to lose the services of such a public servant.

W. J. BRYAN.

The fact that in every state from which reports have come, the democratic campaign managers propose to make national issues and the support of the national administration the basis of their fight, is excellent proof of the strength of President Wilson with the masses. The additional fact that most of the republican campaign managers in these states want to shift the campaign to state issues is the best possible proof of the fact.

### A MAN AT THE HELM

Fortunately, we have at the head of the government at this critical time a man in whose calmness and judgment we have as great a confidence as we have in his patriotism. He will, we are sure, make no mistake, nor will he permit any to be made if he can prevent it. The American people must do everything in their power to help the president. They should be as neutral as their government is, and as it must remain.—New York Herald.