

separating questions of fact from questions of law, and by affording time for passion to subside and for the peaceful forces of the country to operate, will make war a remote possibility. Surely this plan will appeal to the women of the United States as it has appealed to the men. It not only has the approval of the president, but it has been endorsed with practical unanimity by the senate. It goes farther than any other peace plan has ever gone and has been endorsed more widely and more rapidly than any previous plan.

Do not be surprised if you find this plan misrepresented; misrepresentations may usually be regarded as an admission of the correctness of the position opposed. If the opponents could answer the arguments advanced in support of these treaties they would rely upon their answer; when they can not answer they are driven to the necessity of substituting something which they think vulnerable. Finding themselves unable to defend "war at any cost," they accuse peace advocates of favoring "peace at any price." To show how inexcusable this misrepresentation is, I need only remind you of the fact that all of these treaties SPECIFICALLY RESERVE to the contracting nations the right to act independently on the subject matter AFTER the investigation is concluded. The world is not yet ready for the arbitration of all questions, but the negotiating of these treaties shows that the world is ready for the investigation of all disputes. Arbitration contemplates a decision which will be binding upon the parties to the arbitration; investigation merely provides for the securing of more accurate information upon which the parties may act. Those who are interested in the promotion of peace believe, however, that the investigation of all questions, while reserving to the contracting parties the right to engage in war if they so desire, will, in nearly every case, avert war, because investigation is almost sure to result in the finding of some amicable basis of settlement.

Surely the time has come when the doctrine of human brotherhood is sufficiently understood and widely enough accepted to justify the hope that the world will soon come to the acceptance of this plan or some other plan of promoting universal peace. This nation can render no higher service to the world than to maintain such a position of neutrality as will enable it to mediate with the warring nations, when they are ready to accept mediation, and, when the war is over, to exert its great influence toward making this the last great war.

A poet, vividly describing a scene of the civil war, tells of a soldier who, thrusting his bayonet through one of the opposing line, was overwhelmed with grief to find, as he drew his bayonet forth, that he had killed his brother. It is not too much to hope that the day will yet come when men will so recognize the tie that binds him to all his fellowmen that he will find it possible to settle all his disputes without resort to blood; and in the bringing of this day women, "last at the cross and first at the sepulchre," will play an important part.

SOCIETY REGRETS WITHDRAWAL

The political excitement aroused by the resignation of Secretary Bryan was accompanied during the past week by general expressions of regret in the social world, because of the withdrawal of Mr. and Mrs. Bryan from the head of the cabinet circle. Their home in Calumet Place has been the scene of many notable gatherings, some of them of historic importance, and all of them animated by the spirit of cordial hospitality.

During the trying period following the outbreak of the war, when nice discretion and tact were indispensable requisites in the wife of the American premier, Mrs. Bryan discharged with charming grace the social duties imposed upon her. She had previously won the praise of official society by her generous attitude in the unfortunate misunderstanding that threatened to develop between the cabinet women and the congressional circle. Few women who have occupied the conspicuous position to which Mrs. Bryan was entitled have made and held such sincere friendships, and the entire assembly of society—administrative, diplomatic, congressional and residential—will regret the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Bryan.

Secretary Bryan, although he was beset by manifold duties, especially since the outbreak of war, was a conscientious host and a delightful companion. The humor which was never permitted to obtrude upon official propriety found appropriate expression among his friends

in privacy, and gave them a glimpse of a most attractive side of Mr. Bryan's character. The strong attachment of both Mr. and Mrs. Bryan for home ties, home duties and home friends gave an atmosphere to Calumet Place that was quite distinct from austerity, even upon formal occasions. This was appreciated and often commented upon by members of the diplomatic corps, who felt that the welcome officially extended to them was based upon personal regard.—Virginia Tatnall Peacock, in Washington Post.

REASONS WHY BRYAN RESIGNED

[From Raleigh, N. C., News and Observer, Secretary Daniels' paper.]

"God bless you" were the words which came simultaneously from President Wilson and Secretary of State Bryan as they closed their conference when Mr. Bryan paid his last official call on the president just before the telegraphing of the note to Germany which brought about the resignation of the secretary of state. Those words came from impulses in the hearts of two men who understood each other, both open-minded, big-brained, patriotic Americans. Mr. Bryan withdrew from the cabinet with the good will, with the confidence and with the expression of "more than deep regret" and "with a feeling of personal sorrow" of the president.

This is the view of the man most concerned in the resignation of Mr. Bryan, and these are the expressions which came from the man to whom Mr. Bryan had given his reasons for resigning from the cabinet. These are circumstances which should be kept in mind in considering that resignation. Some critics of Mr. Bryan are trying to manufacture different reasons why he resigned and are trying to forecast what will be the political results because he returned to President Wilson the commission of secretary of state, and are engaged in the suggestion of ulterior motives, in place of holding Mr. Bryan as the honest man he is, and taking him at his word.

What are the reasons?

The answer to that question is not difficult.

1. Mr. Bryan's reasons are so straightforward that there is not just cause for speculation. As stated by himself in his letter to President Wilson they are as follows:

"Obedient to your sense of duty and actuated by the highest motives, you have prepared for transmission to the German government a note in which I can not join without violating what I deem to be an obligation to my country and the issue involved is of such moment that to remain a member of the cabinet would be as unfair to you as it would be to the cause which is nearest to my heart, namely the prevention of war. * * * Alike desirous of reaching a peaceful solution of the problems arising out of the use of submarines against merchantmen, we find ourselves differing irreconcilably as to the methods which should be employed. It falls to your lot to speak officially for the nation; I consider it to be none the less my duty to endeavor as a private citizen to promote the end which you have in view by means which you do not feel at liberty to use."

Mr. Bryan believed the note might cause war and that a different note might make war impossible. When these two great men, Wilson and Bryan, with the same objects in view, could not agree, Mr. Bryan, acting as he always does from strong and honest convictions, resigned. We may feel that he should have remained in the cabinet—as we do—but no matter what may be the opinions on that point, the country will never be persuaded that Mr. Bryan could be anything but an unselfish patriot.

2. Mr. Bryan and Mr. Wilson are agreed upon the great constructive legislation enacted by congress, and co-operated to secure it. It is our firm and fixed opinion that Mr. Bryan has no object except to advance such principles, and he can do much to advance them. Many believe he can serve them better as a private citizen than with the limitations which office imposes. At any rate all the twaddle about Mr. Bryan's having in view politics or helping other parties is the silliest nonsense. He is not that kind of a man. He is too great to be made greater by office, too honest to lose the confidence of the American people in his integrity by laying down office.

Mr. Bryan is a man fully known by the people of this country. It is his due that any criticism of his course be made upon the facts, not the assumptions and the conjectures of critics who draw upon their imaginations, or the dec-

larations of those who have never been able to rise above small prejudices and recognize the true Bryan. He has set forth the reasons for his resignation, he has set forth his purposes, and those who esteem honesty and truth and right will accept these in their words and in their spirit. They will recognize that what Mr. Bryan has done has been because of convictions which are implanted in him, that he is obedient to his sense of duty, and is actuated by motives which he holds high above personal aggrandizement or popular applause.

The fact that the food producing units of Europe are engaged in war and that the nations there are securing as much food from America as they can pass through the various blockades, has given the producers of this country a splendid opportunity to reap a golden harvest. As a result, on some articles of food, there have been slight raises beyond the prices obtained after the democratic tariff went into effect. The republican press is now using this as a taunt that the democrats have failed to reduce the cost of living, and sapient editors point out that it proves that a protective tariff does not make high prices and that the tariff is but an infinitesimal factor in retail prices. Unconscious humor is a never missing element in a high tariff debater. According to this logic a high tariff that is levied in order that a manufacturer may get more for his products than if there were no tariff does not increase prices and has very little effect on them. Who is supposed to possess the most perfect faith, the manufacturer or the consumer?

Senator John W. Weeks, the Massachusetts statesman who recently visited the west in an effort to find out whether his presidential aspirations would receive kindly treatment in that section, returned in an enthusiastic mood. He says that he found "business men certain that the lease of power now held by democracy would be terminated next year," and says "they feel that conditions are safer and more substantial with a republican president and congress." It would not be difficult to pick out the kind of men Mr. Weeks interviewed. That sort of business men always did feel safer with a republican president and congress, but they are no longer running politics in the United States.

The revelations at the hearing in Annapolis, where a court of inquiry has been trying to find out who was responsible for the epidemic of cribbing and cheating at the naval academy, rather shock those gentle souls who supposed from the speeches of naval officers that honor was the principal study. Not the least repulsive feature of the whole proceeding has been the fact that the cheating aroused no great resentment among the corps and that the only honor mentioned in the transaction was that which forbade telling how examination papers were stolen and distributed.

Nebraska will vote on prohibition in 1916, and some of the weekly newspapers are printing matter sent out by the liquor dealers' association intended to show that crime, poverty and insanity are less in those states where the saloon is licensed than where it is prohibited. Anybody who believes that using as a beverage that which disturbs a man's moral centers, reduces his earning capacity and makes him a nervous wreck will not increase crime, poverty and insanity should immediately furnish his address to those smooth gentlemen who deal in green goods.

It would seem an act of economic folly for the voters of the United States to run all the risks attendant upon the putting of the government again into the hands of the unregenerated wing of the republican party merely to re-inaugurate an era of high tariff. At least so long as the British fleet, by barring German manufactures from the American market, is maintaining a tariff wall higher than any republican statesman has ever dared suggest be built.

A stock dividend of 250 per cent has been declared by the New Jersey Zinc company, which now boasts of a ten million dollar stock issue. A democrat is naturally timid about pointing this out as one proof that the last tariff law did not throttle business, because he knows that a republican is certain to reply by saying that the dividend might easily have been 350 per cent if the people had not been "misled" into electing Wilson.