

The Commoner

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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President Wilson in History

Like all men of positive character, President Wilson had ardent friends and bitter enemies; he could not have one without the other. Both groups are large because gigantic tasks have fallen to him and his audience has been the world.

Tested as few men have been, he has exhibited great ability and a rare courage—he has written a conspicuous page in history at a momentous period.

It is too early to pass judgment on the merit of the measures with which his name is identified—it takes time to determine whether they are permanent. He did not, like Jefferson, Madison and Jackson, turn over the administration to a successor of his own choice, but the years will pass the final verdict on his efforts.

He retires with a vast accumulation of information and with a rich store of wisdom derived from experience. It would be a graceful thing—and a blessing to the country—if Congress would give to him and to ex-President Taft the privileges of Congress to the extent of allowing them to speak to the country through the Senate and House.

W. J. BRYAN.

RETIRING WITH HONOR

Vice-President Marshall has been a success. He has, thanks to his good sense, met the requirements of an office of great actual importance and of still greater contingent importance. His sense of humor has rescued him from many embarrassing positions. He retires with honor after having won the affections of the people. The Commoner wishes him and his very helpful helpmeet many years in which to enjoy the distinction they have so fairly earned.

EX-SPEAKER CLARK

In the death of ex-Speaker Clark the nation loses one of its most conspicuous public servants and the Democratic party one of its most influential leaders. He was a member of Congress for twenty-six years and rose by merit until he became the speaker of that body. He was a unique character: his place will be hard to fill.

THE TARIFF FIGHT ON

The President's veto of the tariff bill was proper and to be expected. The Democratic party would stultify itself if it joined the Republicans in restoring protective rates. The Republicans will, of course, put through a high tariff bill at the first opportunity, but it will be well to let them take the whole responsibility. The Democratic party can afford to wait until the Republican tide recedes, as it will. Then the people will return to a low tariff. They can not be frightened as they were in years gone by—prosperity under a low tariff exposed the fallacy of the arguments used as threats by the beneficiaries of protection.

W. J. BRYAN.

GOD GIVE US MEN

God give us men. A time like this demands STRONG minds, GREAT hearts, TRUE faith and ready hands.

God give us men.

MEN whom the lust of office does not fill!
MEN whom the spoils of office CANNOT buy!
MEN who possess opinions and a will!
MEN who have honor! Men who will not lie!
MEN who can stand before a demagogue
And damn his treacherous flatteries without winking.

Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog,
In public duty and in private thinking.
For while the rabble, with their thumb-worn creeds,

Their large professions and their little deeds,
Mingle in selfish strife—lo! Freedom weeps,
Wrong rules the land and waiting Justice weeps.
GOD GIVE US MEN.

—J. G. HOLLAND.

LABOR'S PROGRAM

The program published by the labor organizations will, for the most part, appeal to the general public. But why were peace plans overlooked? The right to organize and persuade will not be questioned. The right to strike can not be denied, and the right of employees to withdraw trade is surely as indisputable as the right of the employers to withdraw employment. But what of the third party—the people who furnish the money for both employers and employees? Have they not a right to be informed as to the facts in industrial controversies? How can they sympathize intelligently unless they know what the dispute is about. If labor wants to win all the fair-minded and disinterested public to its side, it should insist upon a tribunal that can INVESTIGATE—NOT ARBITRATE, but INVESTIGATE.

The lockout and the strike are cruel—they are to industry what war is to the nations. They are a last resort and should be avoided if possible. Machinery for investigation is necessary if we are to have peace in industry.

W. J. BRYAN.

PRESIDENT HARDING'S CABINET

The country will not prejudice Mr. Harding's cabinet. A man's record may serve to indicate his future course where he acts on his own volition and is free to follow his judgment (even than his sense of responsibility must be taken into account), but a cabinet officer carries out the will of the President who, in any important matter, must render the final decision.

Secretary Hoover enters the office of secretary of commerce in President Harding's cabinet with a host of friends; it will be his own fault if he does not strengthen himself in office.

Secretary Hughes

President Harding begins well in selecting for the highest place in his cabinet, Charles Evans Hughes, ex-governor of the state of New York, ex-member of the Supreme Court of the United States, and ex-Republican candidate for president. The premier of the new administration has fairly won the great honor conferred upon him. He was a lawyer of prominence before he became chief executive of the largest state in the union. From that office he was raised to the supreme bench and from that position was called to the leadership of his party in 1916. It is betraying no secret to say that the Democrats even yet shudder when they think how near he came to defeating the Democratic candidate.

This is rather an unusual record for a public man in the United States. Secretary Hughes also has a record in international affairs that strengthens his claim to the position given him. He favors the promotion of World Peace through co-operation with other nations, thus reflecting an overwhelming sentiment.

Secretary Hughes is in harmony with a large majority of people on another question with which his department will have to deal; he is in favor of the enforcement of the prohibition amendment. He was chief counsel for the dries in their last fight before the Supreme Court and helped to secure the decision that overthrew every contention advanced by the wets. As soon as internal sources of supply dry up, the enforcement of prohibition will depend largely upon the success of the government's efforts to prevent smuggling, and it will not be long before the state department will be called upon to take up this subject with the nations that allow their flag to protect conspiracies against our law.

In assigning Mr. Hughes to this important position, President Harding has performed an act which will be generally commended and against which there can be little criticism.

W. J. BRYAN.

MANDATES ARE FOR ALL

In insisting that all the Allies have equal rights in the mandates, whether in the League or not, President Wilson has only done what the Allies should have done without prompting; mandates are not special privileges—they are international responsibilities.

A DAY OF SENTIMENT

March 4th, 1921, will be remembered as a day of sentiment. As President Wilson retires in broken health a nation forgets differences of opinion and the bitterness of the fights that have characterized the past years and bestows unstinted sympathy upon him. It wishes him a return to health and years of usefulness.

The welcome extended to President Harding is as universal as the kindly feeling that follows the retiring executive. He enters upon his duties in the full strength of a vigorous manhood, and every citizen wishes him well. W. J. BRYAN.