

## A Bit of History

Truth grows; back of it are forces as irresistible and as constantly at work as the force of nature that assures us that harvest will follow seed time. To illustrate: In February, 1905, Mr. Bryan wrote an editorial for *The Commoner* suggesting that our nation make treaties providing; first, for the investigation of all disputes; second, for a limited time for the investigation, during which there should be no resort to force; and third, for the reservation of independence of action at the conclusion of the investigation.

The reservation for independence of action was necessary if ALL disputes were to be investigated. The arbitration treaties excepted from their operation certain privileged questions. The investigation treaties were intended to fill the gap left by the arbitration treaties. During the period of investigation passions could subside, questions of fact could be separated from questions of honor and the peace forces of the world could be given an opportunity to mobilize.

The plan attracted no attention at the time. Mr. Bryan hoped that President Roosevelt might be willing to make use of it, but he did not seem to be impressed by it (if it was ever brought to his attention) and the public did not seem to take an interest in it.

In September of that year, Mr. Bryan and his family started on a trip around the world. In Tokyo, Japan, he laid the plan before the guests at a luncheon given in his honor but it did not seem to make any impression.

The next summer he was invited to attend the Peace Congress at London. Lord Wear-dale, who extended the invitation, approved the plan as did Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the premier. The Premier was the first man of prominence who gave his endorsement to the plan. He also aided in bringing it before the peace conference where it was unanimously approved by the representatives of twenty-six leading nations.

With this encouragement Mr. Bryan presented it from time to time as opportunity afforded. When Mr. Taft was preparing treaties with Great Britain, and France, Mr. Bryan called at the White House and laid the plan before him and, later, at his request, before Senator Knox. Part of the plan was included in the treaties, but they were rejected because of other provisions that were offensive.

When Mr. Bryan was offered a place in the cabinet he laid the plan before President Wilson who cordially approved of it. Soon after inauguration he formally laid the plan before the President who in turn laid it before the cabinet. After approval by the cabinet Mr. Bryan, with the President's approval, laid it before the Foreign Relations committee of the Senate and secured its approval. Then he called together the ambassadors and ministers representing the various nations and laid it before them, and they in turn laid it before their respective governments.

Little Salvador was the first nation to conclude a treaty embodying the plan and four other Central American nations followed before any European nation was ready to negotiate a treaty.

Finally the Netherlands joined in one of the treaties and then others followed more rapidly.

The first big treaty day was July 24, 1914, the day when Brazil, Argentina, and Chile joined in the execution of treaties according to this plan. Mr. Bryan was so delighted at the progress that was being made that he gave a luncheon to the representatives of these three nations in honor of the event and served grape juice from a bowl ornamented by doves.

A still greater day followed, the fifteenth day of September, 1914, when the ambassadors from Great Britain, France and Spain, and the minister from China joined with the United States in signing treaties embodying the plan. On that day this nation was lined by these treaties with nations exercising authority over almost half the globe.

Within two years from the time the plan was proposed to the world thirty nations, representing more than three-quarters of all the people on God's footstool, had entered into these treaties making war almost impossible between the contracting parties. Eighteen of these treaties were ratified in one day (after discussion on the day before)—fifteen of them without a dissenting vote.

President Wilson took the plan to Paris and had two-thirds of it (investigation of every dispute and time for investigation) incorporated

in the Covenant of the League of Nations. The time for investigation was reduced from a year to nine months, but that was enough.

The British ambassador declared soon after war broke out in Europe that it could have been prevented if they had had two weeks time to arouse the friends of peace. The Covenant allowed EIGHTEEN TIMES TWO WEEKS for investigation and report.

When the Treaty of Versailles was laid before the Senate this was one provision that received no criticism. President Wilson called attention to this fact at Indianapolis when he started west. He called it the "heart of the covenant" and emphasized the fact that no senator had criticized it. The treaty failed of ratification, not because of the plan incorporated but because an important part of the plan was left out. Each one of the Thirty Treaties contained, as has been said, a sentence reserving to the contracting parties the right to act independently at the conclusion of the investigation. This reservation was left out of the Covenant of the League of Nations. Not only was this reservation omitted, but Article Ten embodied a moral obligation which had no value except as it suspended the right of Congress to declare war. If Congress was as free as before to decide the question of war when the time came for action, then the moral obligation was of no value; if the moral obligation interfered with the freedom of Congress, then to that extent it suspended the right of Congress to exercise its judgment freely in deciding questions of peace or war.

The Arms Conference was in harmony with the principle embodied in the Thirty Treaties; the nations came together for conference without being bound to accept the conclusions of the conference. And the Four Power Pact, as finally ratified, was almost identical with these treaties as finally ratified. As drawn, this Four Power Pact provided for conference concerning matters in dispute and those who drew it no doubt intended to imply a reservation of independence of action. When the question was raised as to whether the treaty did imply such a reservation the committee naturally decided to make the reservation specific so as to leave no doubt as to the meaning of the treaty. The committee amendment negated the idea of alliance or moral obligation and was identical in purpose with the reservation contained in each one of the Thirty Treaties. It is interesting to note that this amendment of reservation was adopted in the Senate by a vote of ninety to two and it is equally interesting to know that without that amendment or reservation the treaty could not have secured the Democratic votes necessary for its ratification. As it was, twelve Democrats voted with the Republicans to ratify the treaty as amended.

This bit of history is presented to show how a simple proposition can grow until it becomes of vital importance to the people of the world. A lesson can be drawn from the growth of the peace plan above recorded, namely, that questions of government are not difficult to understand when simply stated. Government problems are not complicated; they are simply big.

If one visits the Panama Canal he finds that it is not so much a great undertaking as a big undertaking. The Culebra Cut is the biggest cut in the world—nine miles long and three hundred and fifty feet deep at the highest point in the range, but it is a little cut, such as is made for a railroad through a hill, only the little cut is multiplied a million times. So, the Gatun Dam is the biggest dam in the world; it makes a lake with a surface area of more than one hundred square miles, but it is in principle like the little dam that makes a pond in the pasture, only the little pond is multiplied millions of times. The locks are big locks but they are in principle just like the lock on the little canals that carry small barges and have a tow path along the side. The locks at Panama Canal are little locks multiplied many times.

So with questions of government; they are solved by every day common sense applied on a big scale to problems that are big.

Jefferson said that the art of government is the "art of being honest," and that the principles of right and wrong are easily discerned, requiring not the aid of many counsellors. Jefferson was right. The plain common people can understand all the big problems of government as soon as the moral questions involved are clearly stated. That is why popular government is possible. The people can be trusted; all they need is to understand the questions and they will understand them if you will just give them a little time. They will understand them in spite of the influences that are subservient to predatory wealth. They would un-

derstand them more quickly if they had a national bulletin in which exponents of both sides could present their analysis of the issues.

—W. J. BRYAN.

### THE RADIO-PHONE

The reader will find in this issue an abstract of an address delivered in the Point Breeze Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, Pa., on the evening of March 12. A radio-phone was attached to the pulpit—a little barrel shaped instrument four or five by six or seven inches—by means of which my voice was carried to an invisible audience estimated at seventy-five thousand. I have no way of knowing how many heard, but reports have been received from about eleven hundred and forty who wrote for copies of the speech.

Telegrams were received from Hot Springs, Arkansas; Tupelo, Mississippi; and Plymouth, Indiana. The letters reported that the speech was heard as far south as Cuba, as far north as Canada, as far west as Kansas, and as far east as Porto Rico. The most remote report came from a ship in the neighborhood of Porto Rico fourteen hundred miles away. The wireless operator on the vessel said that my voice was as clear as a bell. Others reported hearing it with great distinctness.

It seems impossible that the voice should, by means of the radio, be made to fill the air—every cubic foot of the air—throughout an area with a diameter of nearly three thousand miles. Anyone within that area who had an instrument attuned to the instrument sending out the message could take the words out of the air and follow the speech as easily as if he were in the hall where it was delivered. To what a wonderful discovery the radio has led! The Westinghouse Company, of Pittsburgh, installed the radio above mentioned and supplied the receiving instruments which heard the Pittsburgh address.

It is impossible to look ahead and see what use will be made of the radio-phone or to what new discovery this discovery will lead. As the receiving instruments are supplied to an increasing number, it will be possible for a great singer to delight an increasing multitude. The time will come when a President can sit in the White House and deliver his message to the nation. It is a great world we live in; wonders follow upon wonders.

—W. J. BRYAN.

### A RIGHTEOUS PROTEST

Governor R. A. Nostos of North Dakota, in a speech delivered at the University of North Dakota on Founders' Day, published in the Grand Forks Herald of February 23, 1922, fired a shot that will be heard throughout the United States. So far as I know, he is the first state executive who has ventured to hurl his lance against the atheist and agnostic professors who insolently assail the fundamental truths of the Christian faith under the guise of science or philosophy. The governor's speech will be found on another page and should be read by every believer in God, whether he be a Jew or Gentile; and by every believer in Christianity, whether he be Catholic or Protestant.

These pseudo-scientists have entered upon a crusade to banish real religion from the life of the students. They bombastically assert the superiority of the guesses of science over the Word of God. Some, like Professor Conklin, dare to warn Christians against trying to "confute science by the Bible."

If other governors will join the governor of North Dakota it will not be long before these men who boast of monkey blood will be eating out of the hands of the tax-payers. There is no martyr blood in a brute and little, if any, in those who think themselves the descendants of apes. They will not die for anything; they will not even risk their salaries to teach anything. They will teach that the earth is either round, flat, or square, whichever is desired by those who make out their salary checks.

Governor Nostos has raised the standard of revolt against the agnosticism and atheism that has invaded our institutions of learning. Even denominational schools and theological seminaries are being contaminated.

Strength to the arm of North Dakota's brave governor!

—W. J. BRYAN.

The government of Austria has appropriated fifty million kronen for beginning a campaign to reduce the drink evil in that country, which is costing the people 200 billion kronen a year. The American prohibitionist who feels like faltering in the face of the organized propaganda in this country to bring back liquor ought to be cheered by proof of this character that the example of this nation is reaping results.