

## Views of Johnstown Democrat

[From Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat.]

### NO FOURTH CUP OF COFFEE

It was quite to have been expected that Mr. Bryan's retirement from the cabinet should have been interpreted by certain of his critics as a step preliminary to a demand on his part for a fourth cup of coffee. Nothing so pleases these critics as to attribute to the Nebraskan an unquenchable thirst for office — or at least for nominations.

A few days ago the Pittsburg Dispatch printed an absurd special from Atlantic City, written by its Washington correspondent, Mr. Louis Strayer, setting forth details of a movement about to be launched by Mr. Bryan and his friends with the object of nominating him for the presidency on a platform pledging him to a program of peace, prohibition and female suffrage. It was said that Mr. Hobson is to be his running mate.

That no such movement has been started or even considered either by Mr. Bryan or by any of his real friends goes without saying. Mr. Bryan is at least not a fool. And certainly he would prove himself one were he to lend himself for a moment to a purpose so utterly fantastic as that of hitching himself up with Hobson in a race for the presidency.

In this connection it may be worth while to recall a speech made by Mr. Bryan in the closing hours of the Baltimore convention, after some one had stupidly proposed to select him for Governor Wilson's running mate. Mr. Bryan took the platform and in a short address which was wonderfully impressive, he said:

"For 16 years I have been a fighting man. Performing what I regarded as a public duty I have not hesitated to speak out on every public question which was before the people of the nation for settlement; and I have not hesitated to arouse the hostility and the enmity of individuals where, in behalf of my country, I felt it my duty to do so. If I have any enemies in this country, those who are my enemies have a monopoly of hatred. There is not one human being for whom I feel a hatred.

"I recognized that a man who fights must carry the scars and long before this campaign commenced, I decided that I had been in so many battles and had alienated so many, that my party ought to have the leadership of some one who had not thus offended and who thus might lead with greater hope of victory.

"Tonight I come with joy to surrender into the hands of the one chosen by this convention a standard which I have carried in three campaigns, and I challenge my enemies to declare that it has ever been lowered in the face of the enemy. The same belief that led me to prefer another for the presidency, rather than be a candidate myself, leads me to prefer another rather than myself to be a candidate for vice-president."

This was a public confirmation of what he had been saying privately to his friends for months. Time after time before the Baltimore convention, as well as during its sessions, he had told reporters who were accusing him by implication of a dark design on the nomination, insisting that he was endeavoring to create a situation out of which he could pluck another personal triumph, that he had no desire to continue in the party leadership, using almost the exact words and the exact argument put forth later in the speech just quoted. But so besotted was the anti-Bryan press with its own conception of the

man, so bent was it on discrediting him before the country, that over and over again the lie was repeated, that he was scheming to grasp the nomination himself.

Months before the Baltimore convention Mr. Bryan told the editor of this paper that he was not a candidate and would not be a candidate, expressing the hope that no friend of his would do anything to support the false impression that "his hat was in the ring." He gave the same frank reason for his attitude in the matter that he voiced at Baltimore when it was proposed to put him in second place. "For sixteen years I have been a fighting man," he said. "I have not hesitated to speak out; I have not hesitated to arouse the hostility and enmity of individuals where, in behalf of my country, I felt it my duty to do so. I recognize that a man who fights must carry scars and long ago I decided that I had been in so many battles and had alienated so many that my party ought to have the leadership of some one who had not thus offended and who thus might lead with greater hope of victory."

That he saw in Woodrow Wilson this leadership and that he threw himself with all his heart and soul into the fight which ended in a sweeping victory only those who can not be fair to the Nebraskan will deny. And only they will deny that his service to the president as the head of his cabinet was marked by deference, sincerity and what some regarded as self-effacement, the relations between the old leader and the new wearing none of the aspects of rivalry and revealing nothing but an earnest desire on the part of the former to lend all possible aid in making the administration of the latter successful in all its great undertakings.

That he has left the cabinet the better and more freely to press the propaganda of peace is but a fresh vindication of his conviction and his lofty purpose. A different type of man would have swallowed his principles and held fast to his place. It was like Mr. Bryan to put his convictions above all other considerations and to carry his case to the great court of public opinion. He has done this frankly, earnestly, convincingly; and we think even his enemies are coming slowly to perceive that he is a better friend of Woodrow Wilson and a stronger force for good in the democratic party than those who shout "firmness," who prate of "national honor" and who are doing their utmost to drag us into a war which pursuit of the Bryan policy would infallibly make impossible.

### THE HOPE OF BRITAIN

Moreton Frewen, the British economist, undoubtedly voices the hope of Great Britain and her allies in declaring, as he did in a speech a few days ago, that the United States will be drawn inevitably into the world-war. He declared that circumstances again will be stronger than the determination of the pacifists, continuing:

"Nobody doubted that Mr. Asquith and Sir Edward Grey made every sacrifice save one to avoid war. President Wilson and Secretary Bryan, since the sinking of the Lusitania, have been exactly where we were in August. Indeed the president's position is more intolerable than ours was then, for how, after repeated warnings, can an all-powerful, high spirited nation like the United States permit its citizens to be murdered in cold blood? Mr. Bryan has resigned just as Lord Morley resigned.

I am sad for what he has done, but I am not surprised.

"America will have to come in. Her intervention will shorten the war by months, perhaps even by years. Napoleon said that wars are won one-quarter by physical force and three-quarters by moral forces. Such an irresistible moral force will be the arrival of the United States. It will paralyze Germany. America is colossal rich and never was so rich as now. She can finance the munitions of all the weaker nations and will be a big brother to every little state when the terms of the great peace are under discussion."

One can almost hear the British lion lick his chops at this heartening recital of our moral force, our colossal riches and our ability "to finance the munitions of all the weaker nations." The spectacle of Uncle Sam playing Big Brother to John Bull in his present extremity is one to warm the cockles in colder nearts than that of Moreton Frewen.

But is Uncle Sam going to assume this role? Has he any reason for doing so? Are we bound to follow our nationals into any zone of danger that it may please them to enter? Shall we offer up ten thousand or possibly a hundred thousand or a million lives as a sacrifice to Mars because a handful of Americans lost theirs through needlessly adventuring where prudence forbade their going?

Mr. Frewen apparently uses extreme language when he asks how an all-powerful, high spirited nation like the United States can "permit its citizens to be murdered in cold blood." The citizens in question were passengers on a belligerent merchantman which is alleged to have been carrying munitions of war, contraband and recruits; and they lost their lives when this vessel was attacked in the war zone by a German submarine. We do not excuse the act. We deplore it most profoundly. Yet we are able to understand the German point of view and to realize that the Germans believed themselves at least no greater offenders than the British in their effort to starve Germany.

The Englishman whom we have quoted may be right. This country may indeed be drawn into the world-war. But we are perfectly certain that this would not and could not happen were the Bryan policy followed rather than the old policy whose history is written in blood.

"If Mr. Bryan disapproved of the president's policy toward Germany he had a right to quit the cabinet — and a right to keep his mouth shut about what had occurred there. He had no right to go further than to say that he was unwilling to sign the letter which the president was determined to send." — Philadelphia Record.

But he did have a right of self-defense, hadn't he? Or is the Record unwilling to grant him even so much? Perhaps Mr. Bryan might have talked less had his enemies not been so vociferous, so virulent and so malicious. It was not Mr. Bryan who disclosed the fact that the German note was greatly changed after his resignation had been tendered and accepted. That disclosure was made by Acting Secretary Lansing. And it was made after papers like the Record had denounced Mr. Bryan as a traitor and as a white-livered weakling who merited the contempt of all red-blooded men.

"Had Mr. Bryan resigned and remained silent he would still be a dignified figure." — New York World.

With the World denouncing him as a coward and an ingrate? With others branding him as a traitor, a weakling, a poltroon, a dangerous

visionary? With the entire jingo press deriding and reviling him? With Big Business pointing at him with the finger of scorn? With even some of his former friends jeering at him because he had sacrificed office to conviction and consistency? Mr. Bryan would be a dignified figure indeed if he had remained silent amid the storm of abuse, vituperation, misrepresentation and venomous calumny which was immediately let loose when the fact was given out from the White house.

Mr. Bryan has done the president a great service in the direct appeal he has made to the German people in this country. As a result of this appeal it seems certain that Germans will have a better understanding of a situation which has been perhaps the most trying that ever confronted the land of their adoption. The president himself perhaps could hardly have said as much as Mr. Bryan has said, and Mr. Bryan in office could hardly with propriety have done so. But what he says is timely and it should be persuasive.

**PATENTS** Watson E. Coleman, Patent Lawyer, Washington, D.C. Advice and books free. Rates reasonable. Highest references. Best services.

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN**  
Earning \$10 to \$50 every week taking orders for our "18 in 1" Handi-Tool. An Automatic Lifting and Pulling Jack. Fence stretcher, Spline and Mender, Post and Stump Puller, Tire Tool, Press, Vice, Helix, Cable Maker, Wrench, etc. Save costs of \$100 worth of tools. Control this new business in your locality. Space times permanent work. Demonstrator free. Credit given. Ask for Factory Agent Offer.  
CHAS. E. BENEFIELD CO., 337-H Industrial Bldg., Indianapolis, Ind.

## Do You Want a First-Class Vacuum Sweeper?

If you are interested in securing a first-class, up-to-date Vacuum Sweeper write us today for full particulars of a Big Bargain which we can offer to a limited number only. This is Your Chance. Don't wait, but get our illustrated circular at once. Address

The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.

### INTENTIONS

The one who has made up his mind to insure his life has taken a long step in the right direction. Until he actually does so, however, nothing has in reality been accomplished. The men whose intentions were all right on this point, and who have passed on into their eternal sleep without carrying them to completion, are legion. Every insurance agent can give from his own experience the names of from one to a score or more of such. Agents can also recall one person after another who has gone so far as to sign an application and then for some reason or other never was examined or never accepted the policy when tendered him.

No company can pay a claim, however good the intentions of the deceased may be, unless he actually had insurance in that company.

**THE MIDWEST LIFE**  
OF LINCOLN, NEBRASKA  
A STOCK COMPANY SELLING  
GUARANTEED COST LIFE INSURANCE