

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

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SECRETARY BRYAN RETIRES

Secretary William S. Bryan gave the nation somewhat of a surprise when he handed President Wilson his resignation as secretary of State. The premier stepped down and out because he was not in accord with the president in the present controversy with Germany. He could not remain as secretary of the state department, without stultifying his conduct of that office for the past two years and three months.

When Mr. Bryan accepted the department of state portfolio, he had an ambition to do away with war between nations and substitute arbitration as a method of settling international disputes. To this end he has effected treaties with thirty nations of the world, that they would try arbitration for one year before resorting to the sword to settle disputes.

President Wilson's notes to Germany relative to her conduct of warfare on the high seas, have amounted to almost an ultimatum and which is not in accord with Mr. Bryan's arbitration treaties. To sign these notes to Germany as secretary of state would be a reversal of his arbitration policy of settling international disputes. Hence, his only course was to get out of the way and allow the president free rein in the matter.

Mr. Bryan is a statesman of positive ideas. He is a pioneer in statecraft. His entire history in public affairs, show him to be an advance thinker on problems pertaining to matters effecting the welfare of the nation. Possibly, he has tried to blaze the trail too far ahead in matters of progress and reform. Yet he sees the reforms he has advocated in the past taken up and become a policy of the nation.

In some respects Mr. Bryan is one of the most remarkable statesmen our nation has produced. Three times has he suffered defeat as a candidate for president, without losing his popularity in the hearts of the people.

In the campaign of 1896, when free coinage of silver was the campaign slogan, he went down to defeat. Result, our mints coined more silver during President McKinley's administration, than had been coined in the previous history of our government up to that time.

In the campaign of 1900 Mr. Bryan again went down to defeat with government ownership of railroads as the slogan. Note the result: The government at once commenced to enact laws to regulate and control the railways, bought the Panama railroad and is now commencing to build a line or lines of railway up in Alaska.

Mr. Bryan was among the first to agitate the popular election of United States senators. The constitution was amended and the last of senators elected by state legislatures are now going out of office.

Mr. Bryan could have been nominated for president at Baltimore in 1912 if he had made the effort. But he concentrated his effort at that convention to nominate Mr. Wilson, succeeded and Mr. Wilson was elected by the largest number of electoral votes ever thrown for a president.

Mr. Bryan's effort as secretary of state to effect arbitration treaties with all the nations of the world, is the grandest purpose ever undertaken by a public official. When this gigantic European war is over, there will be no great trouble to get all of the nations lined up with the present thirty, when international wars will be known only as past history. Could he have accomplished this grand purpose, it would have been the greatest achievement for the benefit of the world's peoples ever accomplished by man.

Mr. Bryan will probably never be president. That office could not add to his fame. His handiwork in originating governmental reforms has written his name high on the scroll of fame. His efforts to bring about a purer and better government at home and to replace the sword with arbitration throughout the world, stamps him a benefactor of mankind.

His abrupt withdrawal from the cabinet, at a time when harmony of thought should have prevailed when setting forth American rights on the high seas, will cause Mr. Bryan to be severely criticised by his political enemies and, mayhap, by some of his hitherto friends. But such criticism will not obliterate or destroy a reputation established by his endeavor to make the political condition of the American people better.

ONE COUNTRY AND ONE FLAG

Last Monday was Flag Day, a day set apart by our nation, to honor the Stars and Stripes and teach what the Flag symbolizes. The American citizen who is not proud of "Old Glory" and who is not willing to uphold the Flag and the principles of liberty which it represents, is unworthy of American citizenship. He is unworthy of the protection which the flag gives him. He should emigrate to some other country whose flag he could respect.

President Wilson in an address in Washington, D. C. Monday, expresses a patriotism so lofty and points the duty of the American citizen so plainly, that The Tribune is glad to print the short telegraphic synopsis of his words.

"For me" said the president, "the flag does not express a mere body of vague sentiments. It is the embodiment, not of sentiment, but of a history, and no man can rightly serve under that flag who has not caught some of the meaning of that history."

"You do not create the meaning of a national life by any literary exposition of it, but by the actual daily endeavors of a great people to do the tasks of the day and live up to the ideals of honesty and righteousness and just conduct. And as we think of these things our tribute is to those men who have created this experience. Of these men we feel that they have shown us the way. They have not been afraid to go before. They have known that they were speaking the thoughts of a great people when they led that great people along the paths of achievement. There was not a single swash-buckler among them. They were men of sober, quiet thought, the more effective because there was no bluster in it. They were men who thought along the lines of duty, not along the lines of self-aggrandizement."

"They were men, in short, who thought for the people whom they served and not of themselves."

"But while we think of them and

do honor to them as those who have shown us the way, let us not forget that the real experience and life of a nation lie with the great multitude of unknown men. They constitute the body of the nation. This flag is the essence of their daily endeavors. This flag does not express any more than what they are and what they desire to be; and as I think of the life of this great nation, it seems to me that we sometimes look to the wrong places for its sources.

"We look to the noisy places, where men are talking in the market place; we look to where men are expressing their individual opinion; we look where partisans are expressing passion; instead of trying to attune our ears to that voiceless mass of men who merely go about their daily tasks, try to be honorable, try to serve the people they love, try to live worthy of the great communities to which they belong. These are the breath of the nation's nostrils; these are the sinews of its might."

"There are no days of special patriotism. There are no days when you should be more patriotic than on other days."

"I am solemnized in the presence of such a day. I would not undertake to speak your thoughts. You must interpret them for me. But I do feel that back not only of every public official, but of every man and woman of the United States, there marches that great host which has brought us to the present day; the host that has never forgotten the vision which it saw at the birth of the nation, the host which always responds to the dictates of humanity and of liberty; the host that will always constitute the strength and the great body of friends of every man who does his duty to the United States."

"I am sorry that you do not wear a little flag of the Union every day instead of some days; and I can only ask you, if you lose the physical emblem, to be sure that you wear it in your heart; and the heart of America shall interpret the heart of the world."

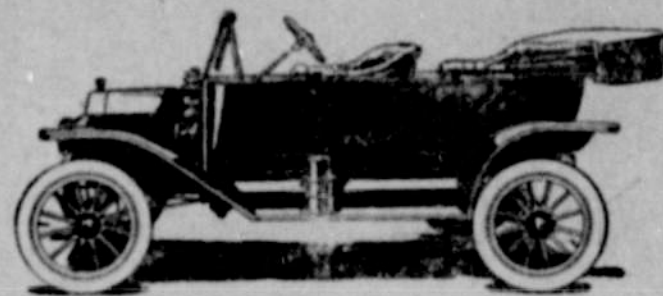
Fishing Tackle

If you want fishing tackle to take with you on your early spring outing, don't fail to see Hagey, the jeweler, about it. He has just received a new stock which is the best the market affords.

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For Further Particulars see Fred T. Bilyeu Ford Agent, Scio, Ore.

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John M. Scott, General Passenger Agent, Portland, Oregon