

# EX-SECRETARY BRYAN HURRIES TO CAPITAL TO TRY TO PREVENT WAR

Entrance of U. S. Into Conflict  
Would Be Crime Against  
Civilization, He  
Asserts

## U R G E S    A R B I T R A T I O N

Says Citizen Must Consider His Duty  
to Country in Assuming  
Dangers on Seas

ST. LOUIS, Mo., April 20.—William Jennings Bryan while here last night dictated a statement regarding the crisis with Germany, which he requested be given to the press of the entire country. Bryan arrived here from Omaha this morning. He said that he had read of the danger of a break with Germany and later decided to go to Washington. He gave out a second statement at Union Station, just before boarding a train for the East, where he said he was going to try to prevent the United States from getting into the European war.

"I reached St. Louis this morning," he said, "on my way to New Orleans to address a teachers' convention. After reading the dispatches in the newspapers I have changed my plans and decided to go to Washington."

"I believe it would be a crime against civilization for this country to go into this war, and therefore unwise for the country to do anything that would increase the chances of going into the war."

Bryan said that he had not formulated any plan of action in Washington, but felt that it was his duty as a patriotic citizen to go there and do everything he could to prevent the United States from getting into a war with Germany.

On his arrival at Union Station he sent several telegrams from the station and then went to the station dining room. While at breakfast he called newspaper men to him and asked them for some copy paper. The first sheets given him he said would not be enough, so several sheets of foolscap were procured.

Bryan wrote out his statement one sheet at a time, permitting reporters to copy each sheet, but retaining his original manuscript. His statement was as follows:

"I know nothing of the controversy with Germany excepting what I have read in the morning newspapers. If the dispute has reached a point where diplomacy

is unable to deal with it, there are but two roads open.

"Before there is any necessity for war, first the dispute can be submitted to an international tribunal for investigation and report. This is the plan now embodied in 36 treaties with governments representing three-fourths of the population of the world. These treaties require us to take this course with Great Britain, France and Italy in case of dispute with any of these nations. Germany has formally approved this plan, although no treaty has yet been negotiated with Germany, but as the plan was offered to all the world I take it for granted it will at least be proposed before we go to war with any country."

"If for any reason this treaty plan is not employed there is still another alternative before going to war, namely, the postponement of the settlement of the dispute until the present war is over."

"There are two reasons why this course is preferable to going into this war: First, postponement would in all probability enable us to reach a settlement after the war, the fear of the effect of the settlement on this war being the greatest obstacle in the way of settlement."

"Second, if we must have war, it is better to postpone it until after this war is over. Then it will be our war with the nation with which we have our dispute and we can decide when to go in and when to come out."

"But if we go into this war we stay in until the others come out and while in fight for the things they fight for. In other words, we will become entangled with the dispute of a European monarch and put an American army and navy at the command of a European monarch to be used to fight out his quarrels with other European monarchs. This war has already cost the lives of some 3,000,000 men and filled the outside world with widows, orphans and cripples."

"It is inconceivable that our people desire to enter into this war and spend hundreds of thousands of lives and billions of dollars to vindicate the right of an American citizen to put his convenience above his nation's welfare. It is as much a citizen's duty to consider his country as it is the duty of the country."

## WILKES-BARRE PLUMBERS WIN

Compromise With Employers Provides  
35 Cents a Day Increase

WILKES-BARRE, Pa., April 20.—Master plumbers and the journeymen plumbers, steamfitters and tinners of this city and surrounding towns have signed a two-year agreement in which an increase of 35 cents a day is granted the workmen. Steam fitters and tinners will receive \$3.85 a day and half holiday on Saturday during June, July and August. At the expiration of the old contract the men demanded \$4.25 a day. For some time there was danger of a strike.

# PRESIDENT A FAILURE, WHATEVER IS RESULT OF ACT, SAYS COLONEL

Roosevelt Declares German Ac-  
cession Would Show Amer-  
ican Lives Could Have  
Been Saved

## NEGLECTED TO PREPARE

NEW YORK, April 20.—Theodore Roosevelt issued a statement just before he left for Oyster Bay last night in which he bitterly arraigned President Wilson for his foreign policy, and said that whatever developments might follow Mr. Wilson's note to Germany and his address to Congress the President was found wanting.

If Germany met the demand made by the President, the Colonel said, it was proof that the lives lost when the Lusitania and other vessels were sunk could have been saved. If Germany failed to meet the demands, the President, he de-

clared, was equally to blame for the fact that this country was in an impotent condition after 14 months of warning.

Here is Colonel Roosevelt's statement: "Fourteen months ago the President's 'strict accountability' note to Germany, if it meant anything, meant at least what the present note means. Unfortunately, the President's action in Mexico and as regards other matters had been such that Germany did not believe the note meant anything, and acted accordingly. And the President's repeated notes since then, interspersed as they were with speech and statements such as being 'too proud to fight,' did not remove the impression."

During these 14 months ship after ship has been sunk, and many thousands of lives of noncombatants, including hundreds of women and children, have been lost."

If Germany now does as the President demands, it will be proof positive that if he had chosen to take the proper position at the time of the original 'strict accountability' note the lives of all these women and children and other noncombatants would have been saved and the causes of friction with Germany would have been removed."

If, on the other hand, Germany does not do as requested, it is well to remember that such a note as the 'strict accountability' note 14 months ago is unparadise, unless it is backed by the deeds to make the words good. If it was meant to be taken seriously and to produce results, it should have been accompanied by immediate and

thoroughgoing preparation, whereas as a matter of fact we are not now stronger by a man or a rifle or a boat or a gun, and of the small amount of ammunition we have manufactured a part was furnished to the Villistas, who used it against our troops, and some has since been furnished to Carranzistas, who have likewise used it against our troops."

Every one of these matters I discussed at the time, and what I have said is to be found in my book called 'Fear God and Take Your Own Part,' and I can only repeat, as I there said, that whereas courtesy combined with resolute insistence upon one's rights tends to produce peace, a policy of weak submission to wrong produces a long succession of injuries which must be submitted to and then leaves a condition of exasperation far more dangerous to peace than if there had been at the outset courageous insistence upon one's rights."

Most of the visitors at Roosevelt's offices yesterday were interested chiefly in the effect that the Wilson note and the address to Congress would have upon the fight Roosevelt's followers are making to nominate him at the national convention of the Republican party in Chicago on June 7. If there was serious trouble with Germany, none of the Roosevelt leaders seemed to doubt that there would be an almost unanimous appeal on the part of the country for the Colonel to take the leadership and that he would be nominated and elected by an overwhelming majority.



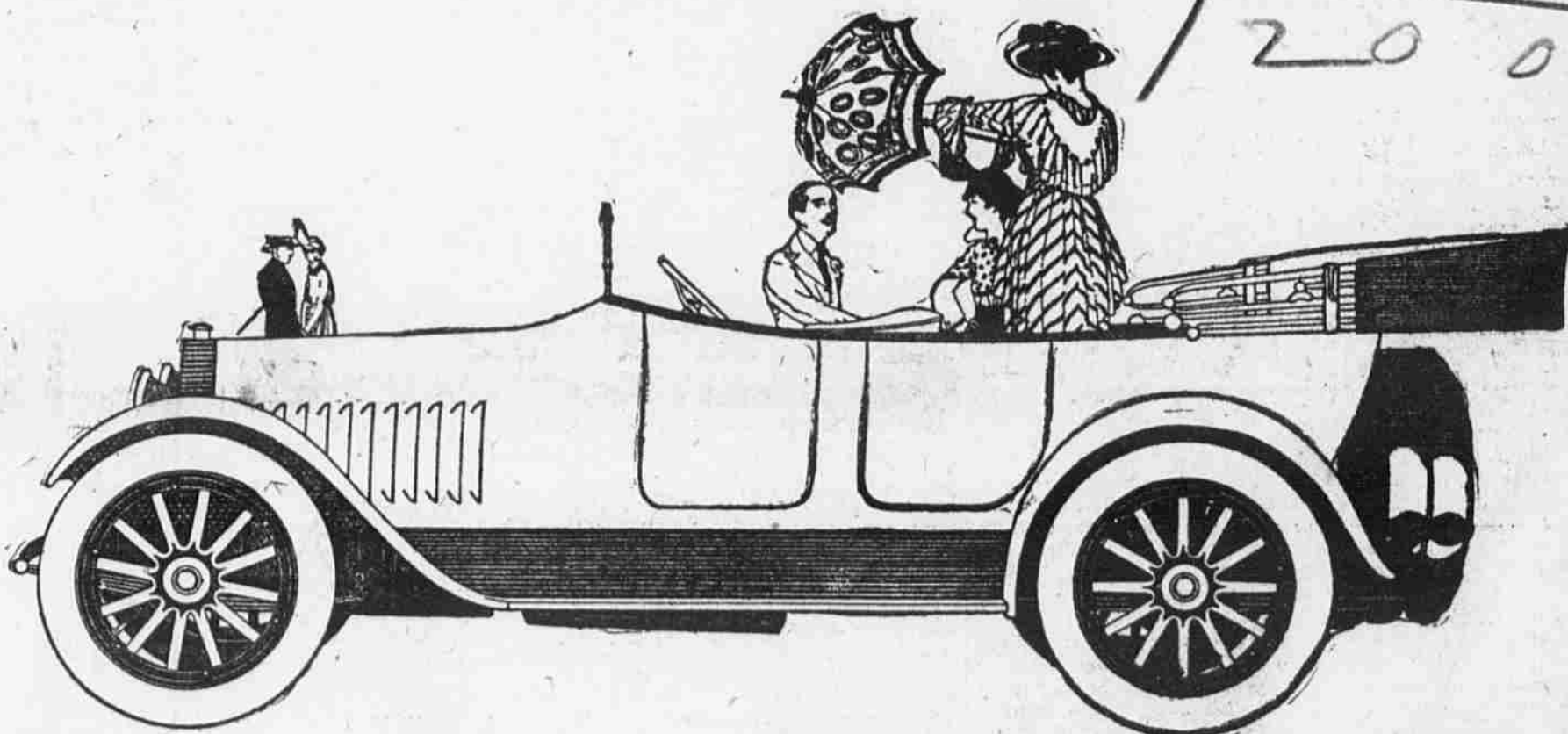
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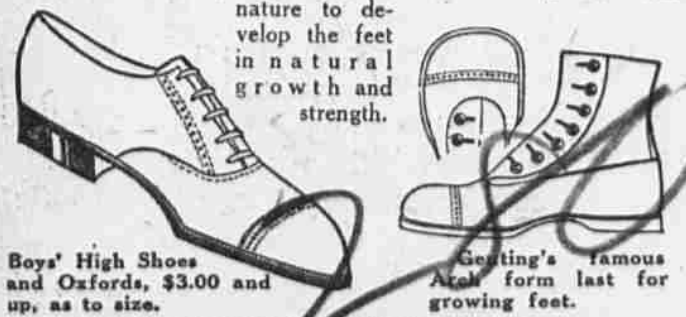
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