

PAGE'S LETTERS LAUGH AT BRYAN

Former Ambassador Says Commoner's Blunders Confused Washington Diplomacy

RECALLS PANAMA MYSTERY

Washington, Aug. 25.—An unusual degree of interest was excited in Washington official circles yesterday through the receipt of advance copies of an article appearing in the World's Work for September, entitled "Honor and Dishonor in Panama: A Chapter From The Life and Letters of Walter H. Page."

The article contains hitherto unpublished letters by the late Walter Hines Page, Ambassador to Great Britain from 1913 to 1918. These letters are of a most intimate nature and not only the most important world events then developing, but deal with even greater freedom in their estimate of persons prominent in American official life at that time.

Although the title of the article led to the expectations that new light might be thrown upon the enormous issue when employed by President Wilson upon Congress for the repeal of the clause in the Panama legislation granting preferential treatment to American coastwise shipping, a careful reading brings disappointment in this respect.

To Meet Borah Issue

More than probably the wide dissemination of the article in Washington in advance of its publication was designed to meet the issue which has been raised by the Borah resolution, which would restore to American coastwise ships the privilege of passing through the canal free of tolls. By an agreement reached in the Borah resolution is the unfinished business of the Senate and will come up or a vote on October 10. It is also conceivable that the importance of the subject in connection with the forthcoming armament conference. Although it is not scheduled for discussion at that gathering, nor even referred to in the remotest manner in the exchanges, the Page letters dilate on the enormous importance attached by the British to the repeal of the tolls exemption clause brought about as a result of Mr. Wilson's appeal, the outcome as discussed in the article being the amending of the "dishonor" previously incurred by this Government in the affair.

British Amazed

In his intimate letters, most of which were addressed either to Colonel E. M. House, whom, in a letter to Sir Edward Grey, he described as "the silent partner of President Wilson," or to Mr. Wilson himself, Ambassador Page set forth the concern and amazement of the British at Congress' action in violating the specific and solemn agreement of the Hay-Puncoffote treaty, by exempting American coastwise vessels from the canal tolls. In great detail he depicted the lowering of America's standard in the eyes of the world as a result of her "breach of faith" in this respect, and the embarrassments which he encountered in his diplomatic experience in consequence.

By this connection the letters handle the chief participants in the controversy without gloves. Elihu Root comes in for high praise for his firm stand, while Senator Knox is denounced in scathing terms.

"The two documents that stand out in my memory," Mr. Page wrote in a memorandum on the toll question, "are the wretched lawyer's note of Knox about the Panama tolls (I never read a less sincere, less convincing, more purely artificial argument) and Bryce's brief reply, which did have the ring of sincerity in it."

The "Mysterious Reasons"

On the as yet unanswered question of the mysterious "reasons" which actuated Mr. Wilson in his call for a repeal of American toll exemptions, Ambassador Page's letters give only

negative light. He mentions the suggested "trade" through which Wilson was to have a "free hand" in dealing with Mexico, only to reject that explanation. Commenting on the correspondence, with possible reference to some yet to be published, Burton J. Hendrick, the author of the article, writes: "Congress accepted the President's statement trustfully and blindly and passed the asked-for legislation. Up to the present moment this passage in the presidential message has been unexplained. Page's papers, however, disclose what seems to be a satisfactory solution to the mystery, and they suggest that this question of 'greater delinquency' was not unrelated to the colossal tragedy which was at that moment overhanging Europe and the world."

As the letters pass from serious discussion of the toll question, which will again assume front-page attention in October, much zestful material is found in the free-and-easy manner in which Ambassador Page wrote of his immediate official superior, William Jennings Bryan, then Secretary of State. As an example of the lack of discipline in the Diplomatic Service, Mr. Page's caustic comment on Mr. Bryan might serve as a charge against himself, were it not for the remarkable example of diplomatic disorder set by Mr. Bryan himself.

Writing about "My Dear House" in 1914, Mr. Page discoursed on Mr. Bryan as follows: "Now, another matter with which I shall not bother the President—he has enough to bear on that score. It was announced in one of the London papers the other day that Mr. Bryan would deliver a lecture here, and probably in each of the principal European capitals on peace. Now, God restrain me from saying much more from doing, anything rash. But if I've got to go home at all, I'd rather go before he comes. It'll take years for the American Ambassadors to recover what they'll lose if he carries out this plan. They now laugh at him here. Only the President's great personality saves the situation in foreign relations."

"Utterly Unorganized" The Page letter proceeded to tell how "utterly unorganized" the State Department was under the Bryan control. Letters and cablegrams on most important subjects remained unanswered. Instead would come a letter of introduction from Mr. Bryan in behalf of some nobody. Among the Bryan "bad breaks" of this nature, Mr. Page tells of a letter from Mr. Bryan borne by a Mr. Stewart of the 100-Years-Peace Committee, to the Prime Minister of England. Mr. Page, as Ambassador to Great Britain, was entirely overlooked in the matter.

"As for the personal indignity to me, I overlook that," Mr. Page wrote to Colonel House. "But if he doesn't mean it, what does he mean? That's what the Prime Minister asks of himself. Fortunately, Mr. Asquith and I get along mightily well. He met Bryan once, and he told me with a smile that he regarded him as a peculiar product of your country." But the Secretary is always doing things like this. He dashes off letters of introduction to Mr. Asquith, Mr. Lloyd George, etc.

"In the United States we know Mr. Bryan. We know his good points, his good services, his good intentions. We not only tolerate him; we like him. But when he comes here as the American Prime Minister—good by, John! All that we've tried to do to gain respect for our Government (as they respect our great Nation) will disappear in one day."

EILEEN VAN BIENE WEDS

Prima Donna of 'Maytime' Becomes Bride of Broadway Producer

New York, Aug. 25.—Broadway received another one of those matrimonial surprises yesterday, which means that it wasn't surprised at all. It learned that Tuesday Miss Eileen Van Biene, prima donna in the Shubert musical comedy, "Maytime," now on tour, was married to Frederic M. Kay, formerly manager of her company, and a widely known theatrical manager along Broadway. The news had been expected for some time. Miss Van Biene met her husband when first engaged by the Shuberts to sing in "Maytime."

The prima donna was born in England, her father having been a wide-spread English actor, and she came to this country to play a leading role with Ethel Barrymore in "Tante." She has appeared in numerous Broadway productions.

VETERANS' PARADE FINDS BERLIN COOL

Memorial Demonstration for Fallen in War Arouses Little Enthusiasm Among Civilians

CHEERS FOR LUDENDORFF

By the Associated Press
Berlin, Aug. 25.—Great crowds looked on while thousands of soldiers who fought during the great war marched before General Ludendorff, Prince Eitel Frederick, Count von Waldsee and General von der Goltz at the old Berlin Stadium yesterday. The lack of enthusiasm among the spectators was notable, only a few persons uncoversing when "Die Wacht Am Rhein" was played by a veteran band. Count von Waldsee was the principal speaker at the demonstration.

By the Associated Press

The demonstration made a brilliant spectacle, with the vari-colored uniforms, the fluttering flags, the clanking swords and the silver, gold and black helmets of the officers, but the only enthusiasm shown during the day was brought forth by the appearance of General Ludendorff, and the outburst on that occasion was but slight. The band which played was attired in long-tail coats, citizens' trousers and silk hats instead of uniforms. The young sons and daughters of the soldiers, nurses and nationalistic labor organizations followed the veterans as they goose-stepped around the great enclosure, and later formed a double line through which the fighters marched. The only incident that threatened trouble was a few boos from the bleachers which were disregarded by the police. The Government had forbidden officers and soldiers in the Government service to participate and had scattered crowds of security police throughout the city in anticipation of disorders. Army chaplains led the memorial services for the fallen. Field Marshal von Hindenburg, who sponsored the demonstration, telegraphed his regrets that he could not attend.

which was characterized by radicals as a "monarchist attempt to revive the dying war spirit." His address was fiery in character, the old military chieftain declaring: "There will come again a day when we will stand together for the Kaiser and the fatherland. Hatred will stand guard in Germany. We must train our children to new blood and sword. So long as Germans suffer under a foreign yoke, and the French stand guard on the Rhine, we must prepare for revenge."

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BOYS SPENT MONEY FREELY

Police Cut Short Spree on "Movies," Ice Cream and Candy
Haddonfield, N. J., Aug. 25.—After spending \$40 in "movies," ice cream, candy and short trips, John Conqig and Mikiel Mogogna, sixteen years old, of 217 Benson street, Camden, were brought down from their high living by police who arrested them. The boys were given a hearing before Recorder William Carey and after they confessed were committed to the county jail in default of \$1500 bail each. The boys forced an entrance in the home of John Sigman, on the Ballinger farm near here, according to the police, and stole \$40 in gold, \$40 in bank notes, a bag of pennies and some jewelry. A search of the boys' clothing revealed most of the loot in their pockets, excepting the \$40 they spent having good times.

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Fruit of the Loom Muslin

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