

# RETIREMENT OF BRYAN CAUSES A GRAVE TURN

## OPPOSING WILSON'S POLICY AS PROVOCATIVE OF WAR BRYAN RESIGNS HIS OFFICE

*Is Firmly Set Against Any  
Note to Germany That  
Might Bring War.*

### COULDN'T APPROVE PRESIDENT'S NOTE

*Intimated That Bryan's Peace Pro-  
gram Influenced Berlin In De-  
fiant Attitude Toward U.S.*

Washington, June 9.—Robert Lansing, counsellor of the state department, today received his formal appointment from President Wilson as secretary of state.

Washington, June 9.—After two years and three months as secretary of state, William Jennings Bryan today returned to private life. His retirement from the cabinet because he could not join in approving the president's note to Germany or reconcile it with the principles which he declared to be nearest his heart—"the prevention of war"—developed not only an unusual situation in domestic politics but a grave turn in the country's foreign policy.

Staunch in his advocacy of peace and firmly set against any communication to Germany which might bring the United States to war, Mr. Bryan found himself opposed not only to the president but to the majority of the cabinet as to the methods of dealing with the situation.

President Wilson in a letter expressed regret at Mr. Bryan's resignation and said he was not separated from Mr. Bryan in the objects sought in this crisis but only in the methods by which these objects were to be accomplished.

President Wilson and his advisers declare they are equally anxious to prevent war but they hold it is absolutely necessary to so affirm the American position as to leave no doubt of the firm intention to enforce the protection of American citizens on the high seas.

Through friends it was learned today that Mr. Bryan intended to continue his political support of the president.

The outstanding feature of the situation was the effect Mr. Bryan's resignation would have on the relations between the United States and Germany. Heretofore many in official circles have intimated that the Berlin government consid-

ered that the announced viewpoint of the United States could not be taken seriously because Mr. Bryan was committed against drastic measures.

In one of his speeches, Mr. Bryan had said that while he was secretary of state there would never be any war. His withdrawal at this critical moment is regarded here as likely to produce a profound impression in Germany.

The American note which had the approval of all the cabinet except Mr. Bryan should reach Berlin tomorrow and probably will be made public then.

Mr. Bryan has received many telegrams expressing regret that he has retired as secretary of state and commending his manner of resignation. He will remain in Washington for a short time and then leave for a rest.

The resignation of Mr. Bryan was wholly unexpected generally in official and diplomatic Washington. Only a small circle of friends knew that he had offered to eliminate himself. It became known that he had twice before expressed his willingness to resign but that the president had succeeded in bringing him to his point of view.

Mr. Bryan was up early this morning to begin closing up his affairs in the state department. Before breakfast he went for a long horseback ride and then breakfasted. He had only one caller, Louis F. Post, assistant secretary of labor.

The president accepted the resignation in a letter of regret, tinged with deep personal feeling of affection. The letters, constituting the official announcement of Mr. Bryan's departure from the cabinet to private life, were made public at the white house at 6 o'clock last night.

**Position Embarrassing.**  
That there had been friction



(Courtesy of The Citizen.)

between the president and Mr. Bryan has been the undercurrent of comment for several weeks, but as the president heretofore had been able to secure the acquiescence of the secretary in his point of view, talk of resignation was discounted generally. It came to light that the position of Mr. Bryan in the cabinet recently has become very embarrassing—his advocacy of peace being so pronounced that other members of the cabinet who felt that the United States should assert its policy, irrespective of the consequences, were understood to have on one occasion declared their intention of resigning if a policy of firmness and vigor were not adopted.

The real disagreement dates back to the famous session of the cabinet when the note of May 13th, following the sinking of the Lusitania, was drafted, informing Germany that the United States would not omit "any word or any act" to protect its rights. At that time Mr. Bryan made a speech counselling peaceful measures

and cautious action. Just when the subject was first broached between the president and Mr. Bryan is not known definitely, but the fact that Mr. Bryan would resign was known to a small circle of officials as early as last Sunday. When the principles on which the note to Germany should be based were discussed at the cabinet meeting of Friday Mr. Bryan found that he could not reconcile his own position with that of the administration. Work on the note went forward, however, Mr. Bryan keeping his secret, as did other officials, awaiting the hour when the communication would be ready to be cabled.

Robert Lansing, successor to John Bassett Moore as counsellor of the state department becomes secretary of the state ad interim today when Secretary Bryan's resignation takes effect. He is a son-in-law of John W. Foster, secretary of state under President Harrison, a life long democrat, and has been an international lawyer for many years.

While there is much gossip already as to President Wilson's probable selection of the secretaryship, it is the president's plan to make no immediate appointment. It would not be surprising if he made no change in the present status of the department's personnel for two or three months. Secretary Franklin K. Lane of the

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### BRYAN'S LETTER: WILSON'S REPLY.

Washington, June 9.—Secretary Bryan's letter of resignation was as follows:

"My dear Mr. President:  
"It is with sincere regret that I have reached the conclusion that I should return to you the commission of secretary of state with which you honored me at the beginning of your administration.  
"Obedient to your sense of duty and actuated by the highest motives, you have prepared for transmission to the German government a note in which I cannot join without violating what I deem to be an obligation to my country, and the issue involved is of such moment that to remain a member of the cabinet would be as unfair to you as it would be to the cause which is nearest my heart, namely, the prevention of war.

"I, therefore, respectfully tender my resignation to take effect when the note is sent, unless you prefer an earlier hour. Alike desirous of reaching a peaceful solution of the problems arising out of the use of submarines against merchantmen, we find ourselves differing irreconcilably as to the methods which should be employed.

"It falls to your lot to speak officially for the nation; I consider it to be none the less my duty to endeavor as a private citizen to promote the end which you have in view by means which you do not feel at liberty to use.  
"In severing the intimate and pleasant relations which have existed between us during the past two years, permit me to acknowledge the profound satisfaction which it has given me to be associated with you in the important work which has come before the state department, and to thank you for the courtesies extended.

"With the heartiest good wishes for your administration, I am, my dear Mr. President,  
"Very truly yours,  
(Signed) "W. J. BRYAN."

**The President's Reply.**  
The president's letter to Mr. Bryan was as follows:

"My dear Mr. Bryan:  
"I accept your resignation only because you insist upon its acceptance; and I accept it with much more than deep regret, with a feeling of personal sorrow. Our two years of close association have been very delightful to me. Our judgments have accorded in practically every matter of official duty and of public policy until now, your support of the work and purpose of the administration has been generous and loyal beyond praise; your devotion to the duties of your great office and your eagerness to take advantage of every great opportunity for service it offered has been an example to the rest of us; you have earned our affectionate admiration and friendship. Even now we are not separated in the object we seek, but only in the method by which we seek it.

"It is for these reasons my feeling about your retirement from the secretaryship of state goes so much deeper than regret. I sincerely deplore it. Our objects are the same and we ought to pursue them together. I yield to your desire only because I must, and wish to bid you God-speed in the parting. We shall continue to work for the same cause even when we do not work in the same way.  
"With affectionate regard,  
"Sincerely yours,  
"WOODROW WILSON."

### ADMIRAL AUBERT OF FRENCH NAVY IS DEAD

Paris, June 8.—Admiral Aubert, chief of the general staff of the French navy, died last night at Val de Grace hospital after several weeks illness. Formerly he was commander of the French fleet at Toulon.

### STEALS BABY BIBS; CONVICT 26 YEARS

New York, June 9.—A record of 26 out of 40 years in prison has been brought against Henry P. Franklin, charged with stealing baby bibs.

## NOTE GOES TO BERLIN TODAY

### BIG BATTLE NEAR BETWEEN ITALIANS AND THE TEUTONS

London, June 9.—From Caporetta to the head of the gulf of Trieste forces of Italians are consolidating their positions along the River Isonzo and within a week perhaps or sooner the first serious battle on this frontier should be fought.

Clashes of Italians and Austrians up to the present time have been of preliminary character but now that the Italians are not only commanding the river crossing from the west bank but at several points have troops on the eastern bank of the Isonzo a conflict of first rate tactical importance, British observers believe is inevitable.

London, June 9.—The British steamer Lady Salisbury has been torpedoed by a German submarine and sent to the bottom.

Constantinople, June 8, via London, June 9.—The following official statement was issued by the Turkish war office:

"On the Dardanelles there was artillery fighting Tuesday.  
"Fire broke out on an enemy transport which was struck by our shells. She listed heavily and soon sank. Another transport hastily left her anchorage."

Basel, Switzerland, June 8, via Paris, June 9.—German troops have encountered Italian first line troops in fighting at La Varonne, according to information received here. The result of the engagement is not known.

## BLACK MT. PEOPLE ARE FOUND GUILTY

**Sentence Will Be Imposed To-  
morrow on Mrs. Burke  
and Lester Scott.**

At the trial of Mrs. Fleeta Watkins Burke and Lester Scott of Black Mountain, in Police court here this morning, on charges of an immoral nature, they were found guilty but Judge J. Frazer Glenn reserved his decision until tomorrow morning.

The defendants offered no testimony and only one witness for the state, arresting officer John Bradley, was subjected to cross-examination.  
Mrs. Costello and Mrs. Hope, who conduct the Richmond house on Spruce street testified that the defendants came to their house several weeks ago, stating that they were Mr. and Mrs. Scott and had a room for two days. With them was a little girl, Night Clerk Long of a local hotel swore that the defendants registered there, Scott as Ed Summer and the police state they later found them in a room.

Arguments for the state were made by J. S. S. Styles while Thomas Settle, R. G. Fortune and T. A. Jones appeared for the defendants.

### NEWSPAPER SEIZED BY GOV'T. IN PARIS

Paris, June 9.—The government has ordered the seizure of the newspaper La Guerre Sociale, edited by Gustave Hervé, because of an article published and not approved by the censor, violently attacking the conduct of the war.

After Conference With President Mr. Lansing Prepares to Dispatch Reply to Ambassador Gerard.

TO BE MADE PUBLIC  
ON REACHING BERLIN

American Rejoinder to Germany's Lusitania Note Had All Cabinet's Approval Except Bryan's.

Washington, June 9.—After a conference with President Wilson today Counsellor Lansing, acting secretary of state, announced that the note to Germany would go forward to Berlin this afternoon and would be made public in the morning papers Friday. Ambassador Gerard in Berlin is expected to be in receipt of the note before it is given out.

Secretary Bryan's resignation had been written and accepted when the meeting convened and he took little part in the discussion. The note was read over for the last time to the cabinet by President Wilson. Suggestions of some minor changes were noted by the president.

The resignation of Mr. Bryan, whose advocacy of a course that under no circumstances would involve the United States in war, spread the impression that the president's cabinet had decided firmly that the rights of the United States must be upheld in any eventuality that may arise. While no inkling as to the contents of the note was given out, it is understood that an unfavorable reply will mean the severance of diplomatic relations with Germany and that attacks on Americans thereafter might lead to even graver complications.

The effect of the general situation of Secretary Bryan's withdrawal from the cabinet was a subject of comment everywhere. Foreign diplomats interpreted it as significant of a forceful course on the part of the United States. They were busy with their codebooks and cablegrams advising their respective governments of the cabinet change and its significance. In Austro-German quarters there has been some confidence that Secretary Bryan's influence for peace would make impossible a rupture between the United States and Germany, the resignation of the secretary caused much uneasiness.

**Wilson's Intention.**  
In other official and diplomatic quarters the view was held that by accepting the resignation of Mr. Bryan, the president had demonstrated to Germany his earnest intention of securing reparation for the loss of American lives on the Lusitania and a guarantee against other violations of American rights.

## DELEGATES ARE CHOSEN BY WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

The St. Johns branch of the Woman's auxiliary of Trinity church met yesterday and named delegates for the approaching annual convention of the Woman's auxiliary of the Asheville district which begins its sessions at Trinity church June 22.  
The delegates and the alternates are: Miss M. E. Wynne; alternate, Mrs. Anna Chisholm; Miss Annie West; alternate, Mrs. Posey; Mrs. F. L. Shuford; alternate, Mrs. McCann; Mrs. H. G. McFarland; alternate, Mrs. Neal Lee.

## WEATHER FORECAST FAIR AND COOLER