

Bryan Resigns Office Rather Than Sign German Note

Great Excitement Caused By Withdrawal of President Wilson's Secretary of State From Place in Cabinet.

Opposition to War Causes Step Taken

DIFFERENCE OF OPINION ON AMERICAN NOTE TO GERMANY ON LUSITANIA BRINGS ABOUT OPEN BREAK BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND HIS SECRETARY OF STATE—LANSING, ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE, SIGNS NOTE TO BE SENT TO BERLIN—REGRET EXPRESSED BY WILSON IN ACCEPTING RESIGNATION OF HIS LIEUTENANT.

Washington, June 9.—William Jennings Bryan, three times Democratic candidate for the presidency of the United States, and author of nearly 30 peace treaties with the principal nations of the world, resigned today as secretary of state, as a dramatic sequel to his disagreement with President Wilson over the government's policy towards Germany.

The resignation was accepted by the president. The cabinet then approved the response which had been prepared to the German reply to the Lusitania note. Acting Secretary Robert Lansing will sign the document and tomorrow it will be cabled to Berlin.

Secretary Bryan will return to private life tomorrow, when his resignation takes effect. It was learned that he intends to continue his political support of the president.

Rather than sign the document which he believed might possibly draw the United States into war, Mr. Bryan submitted his resignation in a letter declaring that "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."

The president accepted the resignation in a letter of regret tinged with a 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 tonight.

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 personal welfare and for the success of your administration, I am, my dear Mr. President,

"Very truly yours,

(Signed) "W. J. Bryan."

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 purposes 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 oppor-

tunity 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 goodspeed in the parting. We shall continue to work for the same causes even when we do not work in the same way. With affectionate regard,

"Sincerely yours,

"Woodrow Wilson."

Dramatically the official relations of Mr. Bryan with the administration of the man whose nomination he assisted so materially in bringing about at the Baltimore convention of 1912 came to an end. It caused a sensation in the national capital scarcely paralleled in recent years. Ambassadors, ministers and diplomatists from foreign lands, officials of every rank and station, heard the news as it was flashed by newspaper extras tonight. They interpreted variously its effect on the delicate situation that had risen between Germany and the United States. The resignation of the staunchest advocate of peace in the president's official family spread broadcast and strengthened belief that the policy of the United States as definitely determined upon would assert and defend the rights of the United States in any eventuality that might arise.

Originally it was the intention of the president and Mr. Bryan to have the announcement of the resignation made simultaneously with the dispatch of the note to Germany, but when Mr. Bryan did not attend the cabinet meeting today until President Wilson sent for him, rumors that the president had been unable to bring the secretary of state to his point of view filled the air. Finally, shortly before 6 o'clock, the news leaked out, and was confirmed.

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 stand secret, as did other officials, awaiting the hour when the communication would be ready to be cabled.

Today the cabinet assembled for a final reading of the note. Mr. Bryan was absent. He declined to receive newspaper men or callers and sent out word that he had been delayed on account of important business. At the White House no word as to the reasons of his failure to appear at the meeting were given, but after the cabinet had been discussing the note for an hour Mr. Bryan arrived, telling the newspaper men at the White House that he regretted being late.

It was learned tonight that with the knowledge that his resignation had already been accepted by the president, Mr. Bryan felt it would be indelicate to attend the discussion unless his presence was desired by the president. When Mr. Wilson telephoned an invitation, the secretary hurried to the White House, his face somewhat drawn and pale.

When the cabinet adjourned shortly after 11 o'clock, Mr. Bryan entertained seven of his colleagues, all who could attend, at luncheon at the University club. The luncheon was in the nature of a farewell.

That there had been friction between the president and Mr. Bryan has been the undercurrent of comment for several weeks, but as the president heretofore had always been able to secure the acquiescence of the secretary in his point of view, talk of resignation was discounted generally.

It came to light today 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 13, 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 counseling peaceful measures and cautious action. He gave his consent to signing the note only after it was tentatively arranged that a statement should be issued at the White House and transmitted to the German government announcing that inasmuch as Germany had accepted the principle of the peace treaties negotiated between the United States and other countries, differences between the two nations might be adjusted by a commission of investigation. Opposition to this course was most vehement in some cabinet quarters, and the president, after having considered at length Mr. Bryan's suggestion, finally disapproved it at the hour the note was sent. Some cabinet officers argued that such an appendix to the note of May 13 would be construed abroad as a weakening of the American position, and their counsel prevailed. Since then the official relations of Mr. Bryan with the president and the other cabinet officers have been somewhat strained, although the closest personal friendship has been maintained.

Officials of the administration were unanimous tonight in their expression of personal regret. Secretary Tumulty issued a statement to that effect, and the president reflected the same sentiment in his letter. Admiration and praise for the courageous manner in which Mr. Bryan had fought for and held to his convictions were expressed by officials on every side, including those who had been most vigorous in their opposition to his policies.

The strong personal attachment of the president and Mr. Bryan has long been noticeable in their every day conferences. Even today as they met in the cabinet room their greeting was one of affection and regard.

It became known only tonight that twice before in the two years and three months of his term, Mr. Bryan had offered to resign so as to save the president from embarrassment, and each time the president refused to accept the resignation. Throughout the constant newspaper bombardment of Mr. Bryan for his views on peace, his advocacy of prohibition and his speeches on the chautauqua, the president has stood by the secretary, representing criticism of him. In domestic affairs the two men who were at the helm of the democratic party in its first ascendancy into power in 16 years cooperated most harmoniously. Often Mr. Bryan yielded some of his own views, as on the currency bill, and used his influence to assist the president's programme in congress. It was not surprising, therefore, to officials and friends of the president and Mr. Bryan to learn tonight that the latter continued undaunted in his support of the president politically, although he could not remain in the cabinet and give him official help on a matter of principle which affected his entire philosophy of life.

Secretary Bryan virtually has considered himself as out of the administration all day. Denying himself to newspaper men twice during the day at his usual time for receiving them, the secretary thereby aroused suspicion that something unusual had occurred. After lunching with other members of the cabinet, he returned to his office, accompanied by Secretary Daniels, who remained for a few minutes. Later Secretary Daniels steadfastly refrained from discussing what had occurred at the cabinet meeting.

Secretary Bryan was at the state department until 5.30 o'clock and during the afternoon saw Mr. Da Gama, the Brazilian ambassador. A few minutes before leaving the secretary dropped into the office of Counselor Lansing for a brief chat with the man who will take up his portfolio tomorrow.

"There is nothing to be said," Mr. Bryan remarked to a group of newspaper men as he left Counselor Lansing's office. That was a few minutes before it had been learned unofficially that the resignation had been submitted and accepted.

"There is much speculation abroad," some one suggested to the secretary.

"Well," Mr. Bryan responded, with a smile, "you know there is a law against speculation in futures. You gentlemen want to be very careful about speculation in futures, you know."

Then he joined Mrs. Bryan, who awaited him in an automobile. They rode for half an hour, returning to

AIKEN DISPENSARY CASE.

ALLEGED SHORTAGE GIVES NEW TURN TO MUDDLE.

Lock Broken When Dispenser Southall Refuses to Give up Key and Examination of Books Shows Shortage.

Aiken, June 7.—Another chapter has been added to the dispensary agitation in Aiken.

After having notified the dispensary board that he would surrender the keys to Aiken dispensary No. 1, which was the only one of the dispensaries of the county that had not been opened for business, T. J. Southall, former dispenser, refused again last week to give up. The board met and decided to give Mr. Southall another chance to transfer the keys and the stock formerly in his control to the board. A messenger was sent to him in Augusta Friday with the statement from the board that unless he surrendered that afternoon it would be necessary to break open the doors.

Every other means having been exhausted, Mr. Southall sending no reply and declining to send the keys, H. P. Dyches, chairman of the board, upon the advice of the board's attorney, broke the lock on the door, and in the presence of two disinterested witnesses and a former employe of the dispensary under Mr. Southall, the bookkeeper and his assistant took stock.

When the stock was checked up and the books gone over, Mr. Southall was found to be short in his cash \$2,159.60, as stated by the chairman of the board, who immediately notified the dispensary auditor, L. S. Bultman, who arrived in Aiken Saturday Mr. Bultman rechecked the stock and books and found the shortage, as stated, to be correct.

Mr. Southall was notified of the shortage and, upon the advice of the auditor, given until 12 o'clock today to make it good. Not until after noon today, when Mr. Southall had failed to pay any attention to the notification of the board, was announcement of the shortage made. The bonding company which bonded Mr. Southall was then notified by wire.

Mr. Southall was the first of the former dispensers in Aiken county to refuse to turn over the keys and to surrender the stock under his control when his successor appeared armed with commission from the governor. It was this action that led Mayor Moseley to order the Aiken dispensaries closed prior to the order issued by the governor closing the several dispensaries throughout the county.

The board had exhausted every means of securing a peaceable surrender of the Aiken dispensary and Mr. Southall was given an opportunity to have a representative present when he was checked up but failed to avail himself of the opportunity.

their home about 6 o'clock. Mr. Bryan had just prepared to go out for dinner when a reporter for the Associated Press reached his house. The secretary was attired in evening clothes and appeared in a jovial mood.

"Mr. Secretary, we are informed that you have resigned."

"Where did you get that information?" he asked sharply. "I would like to be thoroughly informed about such an occurrence before I discuss it."

When assured that his resignation had been announced from the White House Mr. Bryan at once verified the news and asked if an interchange of letters between the president and himself had been made public. This, he learned, had been done.

"The letters," said Mr. Bryan, "state the reasons for my resignation, showing that it was precipitated by difference of opinion as to what course should be taken with regard to the American reply to the German note. I will have a more complete statement that will be given out as soon as the note is sent, which probably will be tomorrow."

"I would like to say more but can not do it at this time. It would not be appropriate for me to make public my statement regarding the situation until the note has been forwarded to the German government. There is no possibility of that being done tonight because the note has to be enciphered and prepared for the cable. I think that it will be ready for the wire early tomorrow."

"What are your plans for the future?"

"Well," Mr. Bryan began, just as Mrs. Bryan appeared at the door to remind him that he must hasten, "We have only 12 minutes," said Mrs. Bryan.

"All right, I will be right there," the secretary answered. Turning again to the reporter, he continued:

"We will remain in Washington for a while. Just where we will go or what we will do, I can not say at this time. Our plans, necessarily, are not matured."

By this time the secretary was walking towards the automobile to join Mrs. Bryan. They had started to leave the grounds when Secretary Daniels, driving by, hailed them. Mr.

SHILOH SCHOOL CLOSES.

J. L. McLAURIN AND E. W. DABBS MAKE INTERESTING SPEECHES.

All-day Picnic Largely Attended and Much Interest Shown at Awarding of Prizes and Medals for Attendance and Scholarship—Miss Ruth Green Wins Beautiful Medal.

A speech by Hon. John L. McLaurin, cotton warehouse commissioner of South Carolina, was the big feature at the closing of the Shiloh school which was marked by an all-day picnic, speeches and the awarding of medals for scholarship and attendance. There was a big crowd present, attracted both by their interest in the school and its progress and by the prominence of the speakers secured for the occasion.

Commissioner McLaurin told the people of Shiloh and community of the cotton warehouse system and its advantages to the people of the State. He showed the various grades of cotton and told his hearers what was done with this cotton. He proved to them that warehouses could store cotton much more cheaply by coming under the State warehouse system. He talked for one hour and twenty minutes and was given the utmost attention by his hearers, who liberally applauded him at telling points in his speech.

Mr. E. W. Dabbs was another prominent speaker and he made an interesting and instructive talk, which was much appreciated by his audience.

Making the occasion more enjoyable, especially for the younger folks, was an all-day picnic in the grove. A most delightful picnic dinner was spread out under the big oak trees and this feature proved as delightful as any one could have wished.

Miss Ruth Green was awarded the medal for scholarship. Miss Green had made a most remarkable record for the past two years, having never failed to attend and having made a very high mark in her studies. She was presented the medal by Mr. E. W. Dabbs, who made a few appropriate remarks.

Rev. Mr. Rhoad of Shiloh church presented two medals for excellence in recitations.

Mr. C. P. Epting, the principal of the school, made a short, but pleasing talk in presenting the prizes for attendance and excellence in recitations. These prizes consisted of a one-dollar bill each and were won by twenty-seven pupils, who had not been absent a single time during the year, and ten who had made distinguished on studies.

A demonstration farm of small area is operated in connection with the school and Mr. Epting, the principal, is showing on his own farm that agriculture can be made to pay.

A basket ball game between Sardis and Shiloh schools closed the day's events.

PEOPLE BACK OF PRESIDENT.

Congressman Sims Telegraphs Wilson That People are With Him and They Never Resign.

Memphis, June 9.—Congressman Sims today telegraphed President Wilson: "The people are with you and they never resign."

FLOOD IN TEXAS.

Two Thousand People Driven From Homes.

Fortworth, June 10.—Over two thousand people have been driven from their homes by the Trinity river floods. Scores of houses have been swept away. The damages exceed a million dollars.

Bryan and Mr. Daniels talked for a few minutes before the Bryans hastened on to keep their engagement.

Events during the day about the state department seemed to foreshadow a sensational climax. The situation from early morning until late at night was a strained one. When Secretary Bryan reached his office early in the morning, he wore a troubled look. This had worn off later in the day, particularly after the luncheon with other cabinet members. Those who saw the secretary early in the day attributed his manner to the gravity of the situation relating to the German negotiations and little curiosity was aroused until 11 o'clock, the hour for the cabinet meeting, had passed.

Usually on cabinet days, the secretary does not give audience to newspaper men, but meets them in the corridor a few minutes before the hour and asked them to walk with him over to the White House. This morning more than 30 newspaper men were waiting outside the secretary's door. It was five minutes after the cabinet hour and Mr. Bryan did not appear. The reporters looked inquiringly at each other and wondered about the delay.

"Isn't he going to the cabinet meet-

VILLA WANTS PEACE MEETING

CALLS ON CARRANZA FOR CONFERENCE.

Military Chieftain Seeks Discussion of President Wilson's Note Demanding Agreement.

El Paso, June 7.—Gen. Francisco Villa has decided to ask Gen. Venustiano Carranza to agree to a neutral territory for a conference to consider the suggestions contained in President Wilson's note, according to a telegram received here tonight from Enrique Perez Rul, private secretary to Villa. The telegram was dated Aguascalientes.

"Gen. Villa ordered his secretaries to come from Chihuahua to Aguascalientes to draft the note to Carranza, said Col. Rul, and also the reply he will send to President Wilson. Villa's ministers reached Aguascalientes today."

The Rul statement relates that Villa decided to invite Carranza to agree to a truce "to prevent further sacrifice in the republic which might produce intervention," and that when Villa, in keeping with this suggestion, ordered his troops to retire Gen. Obregon started in pursuit "bringing on a battle in the State of Leon."

"This obliged our forces which came from Silao, commanded by Gen. Villa, vigorously to attack the enemy, dispersing them after inflicting heavy losses."

The Villa forces have retreated to Lagos, State of Guanajuato, 38 miles north of Leon, according to the Rul statement, "without the loss of many men or any war materials." It also claims that Villa retains quantities of military equipment captured in the battle in Silao last week and has ordered some brigades south to recapture Leon and continue the campaign.

DEATH OF GENERALS.

Three Executed by Navarrate's Indians.

Brownsville, Texas, June 7.—Three Mexican generals and ten other Mexicans connected previously with the army of Gen. Eulalio Gutierrez were executed by Indians composing part of the Carranza army under Gen. E. P. Navarrate, according to Carranza advices made public in Matamoros tonight.

It is asserted by Carranza officers that the three generals, accompanied by ten men, had been permitted by Gutierrez to withdraw from his army and start for the Texas border with 1,500,000 pesos with which to organize another revolution in Mexico. They were captured near Aldamas and promptly executed.

The list of executed included, according to statements in Matamoros, Gens. Eugenio Aguirre Benavides, Julian Delgado and Guillermo Moran.

TO HELP REFUGEES.

Transport Buford Goes to Vera Cruz to Lend Succor.

Galveston, June 7.—The United States army transport Buford departed from Galveston tonight for Vera Cruz to succor refugees from the interior of Mexico. The transport has aboard sufficient rations for 500 persons for 20 days.

FLORENCE MAN PRESIDENT.

Lauderers of Three States Adjourn at Savannah.

Savannah, June 8.—With the election of officers and the choice of Asheville, N. C., as the Convention city in 1916, the ninth annual convention at Tybee of the Lauderers' Association of the Carolinas and Georgia adjourned. H. A. Smith, of Florence, S. C., was elected president.

FRYE CASE UNSETTLED.

Germany Insists That It Be Sent to a Prize Court.

Washington, June 10.—Germany, in the second reply to the American demands regarding the sinking of the America sailing ship William Frye which was received today denies that the case constitutes a violation of the United States-Prussian treaties and insists that the case go to a prize court. Germany promises to pay a proper indemnity. The United States proposed that the case be settled by diplomatic negotiations.

"ing?" they asked. "Do you suppose he's resigned?"

Ten minutes later word was sent in asking the secretary if he would see the newspaper men. Mr. Bryan directed a reply that he was detained from the cabinet by important business.

When he appeared at last, just before noon, brisk and smiling, he greeted the anxious group with:

"Well, will you walk with me?" Every man of them followed, directing rapid fire questions.

"I had important business which detained me," Mr. Bryan answered to all, and no more information came from him until after the formal announcement from the White House.