

Peace in the Pacific

By Sir Joseph H. Carruthers,
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(Before the Pan-Pacific Club of Honolulu)

Conference and talk will not create a Pan-Pacific League of Nations. Nor can you have an effective League unless the United States joins in officially.

The talk we have heard today of the United States cooperating informally and unofficially only evades the vital issue, which is to devise a means whereby war may be averted amongst the Pacific Nations and peace made to prevail. That can only be done by the operations of an officially recognized body which will have a jurisdiction directed towards reconciling racial and national differences and disputes. Unless something of this kind is provided, war is inevitable in the future, owing to the increasing racial troubles which create bitter conflicts ending in war in the Pacific, just as they have done for centuries in Europe and the West.

May I say that war is not conducted unofficially or informally. Nor do the victims of war act unofficially or informally. The bullets that reach the hearts of the sons of mothers in a war are not sent unofficially. Just as war is a definite and official act of nations, carried out by design and preparation, so the prevention of war should be by definite and official acts and not left to informal or unofficial acts.

The idea underlying the League of Nations is not so much concerned with labor conditions, with women's welfare, or with other social subjects. The main

idea aims at stopping the greatest curse that ever afflicted the world, the settlement of quarrels by brute force. What you desire is to have a conference that may lead to the establishment of a League of Nations; an idea promulgated by one of the best of Americans, an idea seemingly too big to be grasped by the Americans, an idea years ahead of its time. When posterity has to write on the tablets of fame the great men of the period just gone by, I venture to predict the highest name on that tablet will be Woodrow Wilson.

When ideals become the subject of political factions, God help them. I speak from the results of experience covering over forty years of active public political life. This experience teaches me that the majority of politicians reduce public questions to the level of party tactics, which, after all, aim at securing a majority of votes at election time. The subject isn't a question for mere casual conferences of individuals. It is a question for the great governments of Great Britain, Japan, and the United States to take action which will prevent the disaster of a war between Pacific countries.

It is quite possible to reconcile all existing differences through a recognized body of conciliators of the stamp of today by reasonable consultation of the judges of the Supreme Courts of the great countries I have named, men with character and knowledge.