

15th November 1928.

My dear Rob,

I got back yesterday in the Mauretania from a seven days' visit to New York. I went over at a few hours notice on an urgent cable from Jerome Greene of Lee Higginson & Co. relying on the belief, which was justified, that he would not press me to come at such short notice without adequate reason.

On arrival, I found that Lyman Wilbur Head of Leland Stanford University and Chairman of the Institute of Pacific Relations, had come to meet me. He is the most intimate friend of Hoover from College days, and likely to be a member of Hoover's Cabinet. He is not to be confused with his less able brother who is Head of the Navy Department.

Greene and Wilbur wanted to explain to me the probable situation which would have to be handled when the next Pacific Conference meets at Kyoto next year. Wilbur had been to China and Japan since I had last seen him, and said that now that a Chinese Government had got into the saddle, the tension of feeling between China and Japan over Manchuria had become dangerously acute. You know the situation; Japan has acquired railways, industrial interests and a command of raw materials, the development of which is vital to her very existence. Japan moreover exercises the right of maintaining the order necessary for the development of her interest with her own troops. Manchuria has therefore been saved from the anarchy which has devastated the rest of China especially Shantung. But the interesting result is that emigration of Chinese into Manchuria has taken place on a scale more vast than any movement of population from Europe to North America in a similar period; it is in millions.