

HONOLULU, Hawaii,
July 19th, 1927.

I am enclosing a clipping of Sir Arthur Currie's speech. All the Canadian delegation were proud of him and he made a most excellent impression. In so far as the whole thing is worth while no better man could have been chosen. This is a hard job, that is listening at a lot of futile conferences, participated in by a variety of idealists - most worthy people, most of whose lives have been spent ~~in~~ cloistered in university corridors - men and women with trained minds - splendid intellects, great information and no practical experience in life. It is one of the tragedies or rather the tragedy of the conference, that these high ideals will never affect the practical politics of any of the nations represented. It is the Mederic Martins that rule, and that also is a tragedy. The Chinese delegation is composed of some very childlike and bland gentlemen, most of whom are graduates of American universities. This training added to their national propensity for evasion produces some, to the onlooker, very humorous results - of course it does not do to betray any amusement, as everyone takes each other most seriously.

For instance, Sir Frank Whyte asks "In event of China proclaiming tariff autonomy January 1st, 1929, will existing treaties with Great Britain be considered in making up customs rates?" Chinese delegate - "I can assure you that all parties in China - while at present engaged in civil war, - are united for tariff autonomy". Sir Frank then remodels his question and the heathen remodels his reply - there is no change in the result. The chairman then takes the matter in hand prefacing his remarks with "as I view Sir Frank's question it is etc., etc." and the bland heather remarks - in a fifteen minute speech that he is entirely in accord with the sentiments expressed by the British delegate that he will always cherish them, etc., etc., and the Chairman says - "now that this point has been settled we will proceed to the next!"

The members of the conference have also been entertained by exceedingly well prepared papers and lectures - one by a Carry Chapman Catt - a forbidding looking suffragist, who nevertheless speaks well and plausibly. I do not know whether there is a Mr. Catt or little kittens, but they are to be congratulated in that her public activities keep her away from home a great deal. Sitting next me in Section 4, to which I have been delegated, is a Chinese suffragist. A China woman with a voice like a penny whistle. She is a university graduate - speaks English well and often and I trust that the temptation to remove her from this vale of tears will not overwhelm me before we part - murder is not a major offence in the U.S.

The Japs are not saying much, except on art and other