

## A Conference on International Cooperation in the Pacific

(A circular letter explaining change of name.)

Dear Sir:

The title of the prospective Pan-Pacific League of Nations Conference, in respect of which, you have received a preliminary notice and invitation, has been altered to "A Conference on International Coöperation in the Pacific, Its Objects and Machinery."

This change was made after consultation with representatives of the League of Nations Unions of Japan, Australia, and New Zealand, and with representatives of China, Canada, and the United States.

This alteration of title has been prompted by two general classes of considerations:

(1) The change has seemed, after consultation, to be *in reason* an advantageous one; since, by means of it, there remains no cause or pretext for suspicion that, at the prospective conference, an attempt might possibly be made to commit the American delegates to the entrance of their country into the League of Nations with headquarters at Geneva or, on the other hand, for suspicion that an attempt might possibly be made to commit other delegates to a renunciation of the present League of Nations, in order to establish some new and different organization in its place. No attempt of either sort is, in fact, contemplated by anyone.

(2) The change has also seemed, after consultation, to be an *expedient* one as giving a title better adapted to the fact that different words and titles are used in different countries to describe principles and policies and classes of men that are essentially similar.

It is confidently believed that a large proportion of the peoples of the countries bordering the Pacific Ocean favor not only the elimination or minimizing of friction and discord by international understandings, formal and informal,

but also the existence of some organization or agency which shall be always ready and alert to cause an exchange of views to be initiated upon the mere appearance of danger of discord or friction and thus enable the desired understanding to be reached seasonably. Citizens of Australia, Japan, and New Zealand, who entertain these views, support almost uniformly a League of Nations Union, by membership or by sympathy. In the United States, on the other hand, those who entertain the same fundamental views and are actuated by the same fundamental principles do not, for the most part, account themselves supporters of any existing or prospective "League of Nations" and would resent being styled adherents thereof. Whether our American friends are right or wrong in what they have come to regard as the real purpose of the existing League of Nations and in their use of the phrase "league of nations" may be a matter of importance in the abstract; but it is relatively unimportant, for our present purpose, in comparison with the importance of bringing together those who believe in the feasibility of promoting the peace and welfare of Pan-Pacific peoples through international understanding and coöperation; by whatever name, they may call themselves and by whatever name, they may describe their doctrines and policies.

In order, therefore, to avoid creating, in the United States, the erroneous impression that the views of those who are calling, and who will attend this Conference are out of harmony with the views of that large class of Americans referred to above, whose representation at the Conference is essential to its success, it has seemed expedient to make the change of title already announced.

Whether the existing League of