

The Pan-Pacific Legal Conference, Honolulu, January, 1927

(Honolulu Advertiser, Aug. 3, 1925)

TWO round table discussions of the Pan-Pacific Legal conference, to be held in Honolulu simultaneously with the Pan-Pacific League of Nations conference, will be held today and tomorrow, one immediately after the Pan-Pacific luncheon at the Young Hotel, the other at a dinner meeting tomorrow night at the Pan-Pacific Research Institution, the local committee meeting on both occasions with members of bar associations of Japan, China, Australia and New Zealand.

Sir Joseph Carruthers, former premier of New South Wales, and Duncan Hall of the Australian League of Nations, with K. Takayanagi of the Law College of the University of Tokyo and a director of the League of Nations Society in Japan and S. N. Au-Young, attorney from China as well as other visitors interested, will confer with the legal committee of the Pan-Pacific Union in the matter of synchronizing the agendas of the two conferences.

A letter sent by George Grafton Wilson, head of the Law School at Harvard University and editor of the American International Law Journal, will be submitted to the meetings. Dr. Wilson's letter reads as follows:

"You ask me in your letter of June 30 for a few words in regard to a Pan-Pacific Legal Conference.

"Well being in the Pacific area as well as elsewhere rests upon the reasonable stability with provision for progress. Within a state this rests upon law with possibility of amendment to meet new conditions.

"As commerce has developed, such measures as uniform bills of lading, etc., have been found advantageous. Safety of life at sea requires recognition of

many rules and even the regulation of the use of radio.

"There are international agreements binding states having jurisdiction on the Pacific as well as others to certain conduct in the collection of contract debts due from a state to nationals of another state. Postal, sanitary, and many other conventions are likewise binding. Regulations in regard to the taking of fur seals, fish, etc., in the Pacific area have already been made. These regulations have been made by those who have had little or no knowledge of affairs in the Pacific. There are many articles of commerce peculiarly products of the Pacific and regulations in regard to these might properly be considered by the states bordering on the Pacific.

"The racial and cultural problems are not identical with those of Europe and the states bordering on the Atlantic.

"There are treaties like the so-called, 'Four Power Pact' providing for procedure in case of differences between states of the Pacific. Many causes of friction existing in Europe have not yet grown up on the Pacific and may perhaps be avoided by intelligent foresight.

"Development and stability which must rest upon a sound legal basis may in the Pacific area be furthered by neighborliness which should be the aim of the Pan-Pacific Legal Conference to secure."

Letters from the officials of Bar Associations in Canada, the United States and Japan may come before the joint committee. They all urge the calling of a Pan-Pacific Legal Conference in Honolulu and express hopes that such a conference body may meet and permanently organize.