

Such conditions are a growing menace to the peace of the world which depends on an ever-increasing control of itself by human society. In the Far East such control is threatening to vanish.

Such a state of affairs is clearly a matter for governments, but the further question arises whether individuals in their private capacity, apart from governments, have any responsibility for the peace of the world. Either they have or else they have not, and if they have such responsibility they cannot begin to discharge it unless they devise for themselves some instrument for collecting the information without which no one can rightly judge what ought to be done. We know of no question of first rate importance in respect of which such information is so conspicuously lacking. If better information is needed by the peoples interested in the peace of this hemisphere, their obvious course is to establish some common agency for obtaining such information, and also to meet from time to time to discuss with each other what this information means. The secretariat and periodic conference organized in the first instance by a few public spirited men in this Island is the practical as well as the logical outcome of this position. It ought in our view to be strongly supported by all elsewhere who feel that as private citizens they are called upon to think how great political problems can be saved from drifting to violent solutions.

We do not say that the Institute of Pacific Relations is as yet such an instrument. We are definitely of opinion that it can be made so, and also that in the course of this conference important steps have been taken in that direction. Those who initiated the Institute were largely influenced by religious motives. But since they have realized that the objects which they had in view were also political, they have stood aside and left the future construction of what they had founded to people more accustomed to think in political terms. The publications of the Institute have not been free from an element of propaganda. As our own experience has taught us an instrument for political study has little value unless it is purged from propaganda in any shape or form. That vital truth has been recognized by all parties here. It forms the basis of the constitution framed in the course of this conference, copy of which I enclose. It is as you see signed with our general approval by Sir Frederick Whyte. But so far as the Royal Institute is concerned it has no effect whatever unless or until it is ratified by the Council of that body.

Enclosed for your information is a membership directory, a study of which will suggest another defect in the conference which remains to be remedied in future years. The Americans in organizing their party adopted the same plan as the Institute in London with the same results. Months before we both formed panels of suitable members who might join the party. At the last moment most of the business men on the panels found themselves unable to go. And the same was generally true of the