

We consulted our members in the Foreign Office and also our members in the City. Our Foreign Office people told us that the Conference was already exercising a marked influence on opinion around the Pacific, and it was up to us to accept the invitation. On this, our City members told us that they would raise the necessary funds, and did so.

We had the good fortune to secure Sir Frederick Whyte to head the party with the result that the same interests which sent us to Honolulu have now sent him to China for a year. Sir William Tyrrell before leaving for Paris told us that our presence at the Honolulu Conference was a definite element in bringing about the marked improvement which has taken place in British relations with China, and added that it was up to us to see that this country was again adequately represented at the forthcoming Conference at Kyoto.

I have returned from New York with the feeling that in these circumstances we cannot afford to go to Kyoto unless the party includes some members who carry real weight in circles which handle banking and also industry and commerce in its international aspects. It is comparatively easy to get retired diplomats, consuls, economic professors, Sinologists and so on to attend a Conference like this, but it is incomparably harder for men who occupy responsible positions in the business world to spare the time to go. I am convinced that in the long run business itself apart from wider political interests will suffer gravely unless these Conferences are attended by men who actually handle the economic factors in their largest expression as distinguished from people who only study them from outside.

It is not essential that the business men who go should have any particular knowledge of Far Eastern problems. The party is sure to include people like Rose, of the British American Tobacco Company who have spent their lives studying China and Japan, so that the first-rate banker or business man will have at his elbow all the technical and local advice he needs. He will travel for some weeks before the Conference with such men. The really vital thing is that the party should include several members who can take part in the proceedings at Kyoto and when they return to London can tell the City what they have learnt in its own language. To come from the general to the particular, the kind of men needed are people like yourself, Brand, Peacock or Tiarks; you will know plenty of others.