

response to this invitation parties from Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, the Philippines and the United States.

The idea seems to have prevailed that the exclusion of Asiatics from the European communities would form the chief topic of discussion. In actual fact the condition of China thrust itself into the forefront. Members from the three British dominions naturally found themselves unable fully to explain the history and motives of British Policy in China. So when it was proposed to hold a further conference in July, 1927, they asked that persons might be invited from Great Britain who could bring to the conference such a knowledge of these subjects as could only be gathered in that country. President Ray Lyman Wilbur of Stanford University, who presided over the conference, undertook that effect should be given to this proposal, and invited the assistance of the Royal Institute of International Affairs. On receiving this invitation the Royal Institute replied that they would organize a party of their members who would do their best to supply the information required on the explicit understanding that each member would speak for himself alone. The result was our presence here at the proceedings of the last two weeks. By unanimous consent we regarded Sir Frederick Whyte as our leader, a position he accepted on the understanding that none of the party, including himself, should be held responsible for the views expressed by any of their colleagues.

Some or all of us will have opportunities later of giving the impressions we have gathered to our fellow members at Chatham House. On a few points however we already find ourselves in substantial agreement. We think it would scarcely be possible for anyone to have attended the proceedings here and not view with grave anxiety the present disorganization of China. In a closely populated territory second in size only to that covered by Russia are developing conditions comparable only to those of Europe when the Roman Empire had collapsed. The political framework of China has broken down and one quarter of mankind is in chaos. Broadly speaking, this state of paralysis has been caused by the impact of dynamic ideas and methods on a civilization rigid with age. This condition reacts on all the nations in touch with China, but most of all on Great Britain and Japan, which last country now depends for its very existence on Chinese markets and raw materials. China's relations to some seventeen countries are determined by treaties difficult to alter without the consent of all parties. Attempts made by their Governments to act together in handling the situation have signally failed. They are normally at cross purposes with each other.

If China is in chaos so also is the mechanism through which the rest of the world is trying to handle the situation.