

17

Resolved, that in order to enable the Executive and Judicial departments of our government fully to discharge the international duties of the United States a thorough revision of the neutrality laws of the United States should be made.

18

Resolved, that the hearty thanks of this Congress be extended to the Johns Hopkins University for its very great hospitality.

THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL LAKE MOHONK CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

No former Mohonk Conference brought together as many prominent men as the seventeenth meeting, held May 24th, 25th and 26th; and certainly none has more clearly demonstrated the wisdom of the conference in consistently promoting arbitration as a means to an international court of justice. Attempts to divert the conference from this course to the general phases of the peace movement were this year conspicuously absent; and while recent hopeful events naturally gave rise to a spirit of gratification and confidence which was evident throughout the meeting, at no time was the fact lost sight of that those events only open new fields for renewed and enlarged effort. The personnel of the conference gives hope of widespread and practical support for the measures recommended. Among more than two hundred eminent men present there were twenty editors, twenty clergymen, fifteen college presidents and thirteen other educators; fifty business men, delegates of leading chambers of commerce and like bodies; twenty officers of arbitration and peace societies; and thirty other Americans prominent in different callings, many of whom have held high offices under the United States. Among lawmakers were Congressmen Utter of Rhode Island, Knowland of California and Plumley of Vermont and Speaker Frisbie of the New York State Assembly; and the Army and Navy had worthy representatives in Lieutenant-General Nelson A. Miles and Rear Admirals Stockton and Merrell. From other countries came twenty-four distinguished men, including Baron d'Estournelles de Constant of France; the Ministers to this country from Bolivia and Switzerland; the Chargé d'Affaires of the Persian Legation; J. Allen Baker, M. P., of London; the Dean of Worcester, England; Dr. John Clifford of London; Lic. F. Siegmund-Schultze of Potsdam, Germany; the Canadian Minister of Labor; and the Mayor of Halifax.

It was but natural that the work of President Taft in negotiating treaties of unlimited arbitration with Great Britain and other nations should be strongly endorsed by the conference. The topic was prominent in the addresses of President Nicholas Murray Butler, Albert K. Smiley, William Jennings Bryan, Senator Dandurand of Canada, Chief Justice Sir William Mulock of Ontario, Congressman Knowland of California and ex-Secretary of State John W. Foster, who, while giving Mr. Roosevelt credit for eminent services to peace, criticised sharply his recent article on arbitration and the pending treaties. The platform unanimously adopted at the closing session sounds a note of insistence on a broad scope for the treaties, in the following language:

The President of the United States in his declaration favoring the reference to arbitration of every difference not settled by regular diplomacy, and in negotiating with Great Britain and France general arbitration treaties without reserve, has taken the highest and most advanced position. We call upon our people for such earnest co-operation and expression of public opinion as shall ensure the execution of these treaties in such form that they shall not fall short in any degree of the public declarations of President Taft and of the just expectations that those declarations have aroused on both sides of the Atlantic; and we urge the offer of similar treaties to all nations ready to conclude them with us.

Arbitration as the forerunner of judicial settlement has been the steady aim of the Mohonk Conference. Last year, Secretary Knox made the conference the occasion of his announcement that he believed an international court of arbitral justice would be in operation before the third Hague Conference. This year he authorized the president of the conference to voice his belief that the date of the court's establishment will be even earlier. A distinct contribution to the subject was made by Thomas Raeburn White, of Philadelphia, who plead that in the selection of judges for the court, the idea of *representation* of this or that nation be completely set aside in the interest of justice, and suggested that the Hague Conference might arrange that judges "be appointed from among nominees suggested by the nations, by a small committee or single person chosen for the purpose, or perhaps by the president of the (Hague) Conference, subject in any case to confirmation by vote of the Conference."

Paul S. Reinsch, of the University of Wisconsin, brought encouragement and counseled patience in his clear review of the limitations of arbitration, the difficulty in creating an international concept of legality and the progress made in that direction. James Brown Scott and William Dudley Foulke, of Indiana, voiced a popular feeling when they

declared that reduction of armaments must be expected only as a result of judicial methods of settling international questions. Very significant on this point is the last clause of the following extract from the platform :

The efforts of our Secretary of State to secure the organization of the International Court of Arbitral Justice have during the year advanced so far as to promise the complete success of that effort before the meeting of the third Hague Conference. We urge the unremitting reinforcement by our people of the endeavor for the perfecting of this supreme provision for the administration of international justice, recognizing that it is only through the complete establishment of the system of law that the system of war will come to an end.

The protection by the United States of the rights of alien residents as guaranteed in treaties was the subject of a report by a committee consisting of Senator Elihu Root, Governor Baldwin of Connecticut and George W. Kirchwey of Columbia University. The committee believed that legislation should be sought vesting in the United States courts the necessary jurisdiction. In seconding the report, Alton B. Parker, of New York, declared the matter important enough to warrant a proposal for a Constitutional amendment, should other means fail. The discussion resulted in the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, that the committee of this conference appointed May 20, 1910, to report to this conference in 1911, as to the best method of carrying into effect the recommendation of successive Presidents of the United States that the United States Government be vested with the power to execute through appropriate action in the Federal courts its treaty obligations, and, generally, to furnish adequate protection to alien residents in the United States, be continued and is hereby instructed to use every proper effort to secure the speedy enactment by Congress of legislation vesting in the courts of the United States adequate jurisdiction for the said purpose.

In anticipation of increased application of aeronautics to military uses, a resolution was adopted appealing to the President of the United States "to use his best efforts by diplomatic means to bring about an international agreement among the nations of the earth binding them to refrain from extending their system of warfare to the free and peaceful highways of the air," and a recommendation in the address of Oscar S. Straus, of New York, who presided at the closing session, that the nations should agree to prohibit money loans to belligerent nations by neutral peoples led to the inclusion in the platform of a clause commending the subject to the attention of the third Hague Conference.

That the past year has opened a new era for the international peace movement in America the conference left no doubt. In the opening address of President Butler, the plans of the trustees of the Carnegie Endowment were for the first time made public. Under three great divisions — that of International Law under the direction of James Brown Scott, that of Economics and History directed by John B. Clark, and that of Intercourse and Education — the Endowment will go forward, inspiring and assisting the existing peace forces, which are now about to organize their work on a more effective basis. After two years of work, a committee of the Mohonk Conference reported this year a plan for a national clearing house for the arbitration and peace societies of this country and the conference invited the executive committee of the Third National Peace Congress, which contemplated similar action, to unite with it “in constituting a National Council for Arbitration and Peace” as follows:

The Council shall be composed of the following members: President Nicholas Murray Butler, Hon. William J. Bryan, Hon. Theodore E. Burton, Dr. Samuel T. Dutton, Hamilton Holt, Esq., Dr. George W. Kirchwey, Theodore Marburg, Esq., Edwin D. Mead, Esq., Hon. Elihu Root, Dr. James Brown Scott, Daniel Smiley, Esq., Dr. Benjamin F. Trueblood, President E. D. Warfield, Miss Jane Addams, and Mrs. Fannie Fern Andrews — and shall have power to add to its numbers by inviting the leading peace and arbitration societies of the country to nominate members of the Council, and to fill any vacancies that may occur in its membership. Such Council shall further have power to adopt a constitution and by-laws for its government and administration, and to incorporate if it shall see fit to do so.

The purpose of the Council shall be to promote a more effective organization and direction of all agencies in the United States working for international peace and good will, and to conduce in every proper way to secure co-operation and concentration of effort on the part of the peace workers of the country, without, however, impairing the autonomy or independence of any society, association, conference or congress now existing, or that may hereafter be created, or assuming to exercise any authority or control over them.

Such a national council will not only provide the germ of organization, the lack of which has so seriously crippled the peace forces, but it will tend more and more to concentration on a constructive peace program that shall place substitution before destruction, law and justice before disarmament and peace. Many times during the meeting, particularly in the address of James Brown Scott, was the need of such constructive work emphasized, and the opinion was manifest that the machinery for its prosecution will soon be at hand.

In its platform the conference also urged upon the President of the United States the early creation of the peace commission authorized by Congress in June last; directed public attention to the importance of immediate and careful consideration of subjects to be submitted to the international committee to be created in two years for the preparation of the program of the third Hague Conference; and endorsed the proposal recently submitted to Congress for a joint agreement by the nations of North and South America that in case of war between any of them no taking of territory from one by another shall be permitted as a result. The platform also urged comprehensive plans for a celebration of the centennial of peace between Great Britain and the United States.

The tone of the conference was one of quiet confidence; its utterances were definite and progressive, and its influence will be large.

ROBERT SPENCE WATSON.

Small in numbers, the Quakers occupy a large space in the history of individual liberty, political reform, and international peace. This is self-evident to the American who sees in Pennsylvania the initiative and foresight, the political and reforming spirit of William Penn. The influence of the Quaker in advancing the cause of peace is just as real, if not so obvious, and in the great movement Penn is again the pioneer. His essay towards the present and future peace of Europe, published in 1693-4, has been, as it were, an arsenal of peace, and it is interesting to note that an Argentine delegate to the Second Hague Peace Conference called it to the attention of the proposers of the Court of Arbitral Justice as containing the best method of apportioning representation in the projected court.¹

The late Robert Spence Watson was a Quaker, worthy of the best traditions of the Society of Friends, and his death on March 2, 1911, in his 73rd year, was a distinct loss, not merely to his family and to his country, but to the friends of progress and humanity in the world at large.

¹ *Deuxième Conférence Internationale de la Paix, Actes et Documents, Vol. I, p. 325:*