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TAFT DISCUSSES AMERICA'S INTEREST IN OTHER NATIONS

President Taft was the principal speaker before the convention of the Laymen's Missionary Movement, organized and supported by the men of practically all the churches of Washington, which opened in Washington on November 11.

Gifford Pinchot, chief of the Forest Service, who is chairman of the General Committee of the movement, presided and introduced the President. Commissioner B. F. McFarland, of the District of Columbia, delivered the introductory address, immediately after the Rt. Rev. Alfred Harding, Bishop of Washington, had led in prayer. Immediately following Mr. Taft an address was delivered by Robt. E. Speer, secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church of the United States.

James Bryce, the British Ambassador, was present during a large portion of the meeting. He occupied a seat on the stage while the President addressed the assembly.

Round after round of applause with occasional cheers characterized the reception of President Taft by the assemblage which greeted him as he came upon the stage. Mr. Taft wore his never-failing smile, and, speaking upon the missionary movement, gave it his heartiest endorsement, and for half an hour told the assemblage of his personal observations of missionary work.

"I like to think, whether it is true or not," said Mr. Taft, "that we have in this generation people whose views of the responsibilities of civilized nations differ from those which prevailed in the last generation, especially as applied to our own country."

The time has passed, he said, when people regarded themselves as having no responsibility to other nations.

Speaking of the expense which had been incurred by the United States in the Philippines, he expressed the opinion that the money had been well spent, although the occupation of the United States was of benefit chiefly to the people of the islands.

Referring to the boxer movement in China, he took issue with people who had asserted that the missionaries had caused the uprising, and said that the cause was a suspicion among the Chinese people, whether it was true or not, that there was desire on the part of some of the civilized nations to divide up Chinese territory among themselves. The missionaries, he said, simply came in to bear the brunt of the trouble caused by this belief.

There was, he said, a growing feeling among public men that the American nation had a distinct interest in the welfare of all the countries of this hemisphere. He laughingly referred to the Philippines and the manner in which the people had accepted the good offices of the United States, saying that if it had gone into that business for the undying gratitude of the people there it might as well have dropped it in the beginning. The nation, however, he said, could have the satisfaction of knowing it had acted with high purpose toward the Filipino.

Gifford Pinchot, in his address preceding the arrival of the President, declared that the missionary movement, as now being developed in this country, was another form of the conservation of natural resources, in this case bearing upon the spiritual welfare of the people.

TEN MILLIONS FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES

Within the last three weeks the board of estimate of New York city has placed \$10,000,000 at the disposal of the board of education, to be used for the enlargement of the present school facilities of the community. The larger part of this sum is to be put into new buildings, a very considerable part into improvements and additions for existing buildings, and another part into new school sites. It is interesting to notice the cost of the buildings at present projected. A new building for the Washington Irving high school is to cost \$600,000; a new school at Herkimer street and Ralph avenue, Brooklyn, is to cost \$211,000. A schoolhouse at Porter avenue and Harrison place, Brooklyn, is to cost \$327,000. There are to be several buildings costing from \$175,000 to \$330,000. Two high school additions are to cost \$400,000 each.

These figures do not vary much from those given in the estimates of school buildings in other cities, and the enormous cost of school structures everywhere, compared with what it was a generation ago, will explain in great measure why the school facilities of most of the large cities, notwithstanding the vast amount expended for school purposes annually, are not adequate. In many instances the cost of the school building is regulated rather by its surroundings than by its requirements. A fine building must be erected in a fine neighborhood; frequently the size of the building is determined rather by the demands of a district for something striking in the way of architectural effect than with regard to the number of pupils likely to be in attendance. The experience of Chicago in discovering that it has plenty of school room where it is least needed is not uncommon.

It would seem that in the case of New York and other great cities where thousands of children are excluded from seats, or placed on half school time, it would be well enough to drop the half-million and even the quarter-million dollar school building, for the present, or until such time as every child shall be provided with a seat, with a teacher and with books. Imposing school architecture is all very well in its way, but the work of building up cities is far more important; and as good citizens as this nation ever possessed were trained in schoolhouses that were not so costly as the toolhouses that the contractors for the erection of present-day school buildings feel that they must have.

What the great cities need is more school room, even at the cost of ornamental architecture.—Christian Science Monitor.

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