

ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST HAGUE CONFERENCE IS CELEBRATED

Honolulu Sunday evening, May 17th. Sixty observed the anniversary of the first great peace conference at The Hague. In three city churches there were held services at which representatives of government, the press and the law delivered messages.

Central Union Church

Acting Governor Mott-Smith presided. He said it was a significant fact that, though the meeting had been called by the younger men of the conference, the main discussion of the subject, "World Peace," had been allotted to older men.

JUDGE S. B. DOLE

In the evolution of human society, war has been a constant participant, seemingly indispensable. The history of the race is an interminable narrative of feuds and military campaigns.

War appears to an extent to occupy the same status as to the reason of its use as was formerly held by dueling, and to an extent as has been held by the practice of highway robbery and similar enterprises at all times.

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SECOND HAGUE CONFERENCE.

The second Hague Conference, held last year, was much larger and more representative than the first, being made up of delegates from all the independent nations except four. It failed, as the first has done, to adopt an agreement reducing national armaments.

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that is unwilling to submit its interest in a dispute to the arbitration of such court—will desire to recognize its authority themselves and jealous of any act of contumacy by any litigant or any party summoned by it to its bar.

PEACE CONFERENCE PERMANENT.

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employment of force for the recovery of contract debts; relating to the creation of an international prize court. Some of these conventions have been ratified, eight by our own government.

COMPLETE CIVILIZATION.

The thing to do, before we can be sure of The Hague, is to complete the civilization of our governments. That is the first objective; and it is a vital objective, because our governments, elective and hereditary, are far less civilized than they require us to be; and some of them are almost as barbarian as we were in the ages of private warfare.

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And yet we boast of the high civilization of our century; a century, which, in its beginning, has witnessed the rise of a war power scarcely inferior to the empire of Napoleon; which has seen one of the most bloody conflicts in modern history—yet a war without a single issue in it which could not have been solved by arbitrators; a war over a land claim of the same general kind that the common people settle in their courts without clamor if not without perplexity. But what could be done? The Hague could not interfere, nor could it interfere tomorrow if the war should be resumed. A nation may still go forth in armor, may shed blood enough to redden the seas and burn homes enough to dim the heavens and pile an Ossa of debt upon a Pelion of ruin and there is none to say it nay. There is no court to call it to account, no law to punish it. The courts and the law are for the people who are taught that bloodshed by the State is patriotic and bloodshed by the man is crime.

CIVILIZE BY EDUCATION.

We must civilize governments—but how? Is there any surer way than through the continued spread and uplift of education and civic virtue? Is it not true that as a man's education expands, as the grain of his culture becomes finer, as his horizon widens and he sees more things above him, he finds less and less excuse for war? Go to the great universities where, at commencement, bodies of learned men gather to get the inspiration of the freshest thought, or to rekindle their intellectual fires at the old altar—and ask their opinion of settlements by war. There was such a gathering once when Longfellow came back in his old age to the academic groves "which once were his and were no longer his," and left the benediction of his noblest verse. There was another where Charles Sumner argued the scholarship of his day, with all his matchless eloquence, to help make the Golden Rule the sovereign law of nations; another where Wendell Phillips left his stirring message, as one grown gray in human service. There sat in ranks of serene and lofty fellowship the American men of letters; and if to them had been left the issues of peace or war, think you they would have unleashed the wolves that prey on human flesh? Not they! Not they! They would have sought and found a nobler settlement. Seek the learned company of magistrates and ask them to point the path of natural duty and of honor and they would turn away from war and find a truer adjudication. Summon the captains of industry—among whom, perhaps, are the most far-reaching minds of this age—and they will tell you that war, in its last analysis, is an economic blunder and a crime.

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WASTEFUL WAR.

Only the other day at San Francisco, a banker of the first rank said to a legislative committee of inquiry that he attributed the panic and the hard times to the prosecution and results of the Spanish-American and the Russo-Japanese wars. If he was right, then it was surely economic blundering to wage either of them, the injury to the world being vastly greater than the amount of good done anywhere.

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