The Commoner

Our Pan-American Policy

The United States government's Pan-American policy was revealed in detail by President Wilson in an address before the second Pan-American Scientific congress, at Washington, January 6. The address, as carried in the press dispatches, was in part as follows:

"I have been told so much about the proceedings of this congress that I can congratulate you upon the increasing sense of comradeship and intimate intercourse which has marked its sessions from day to day; and it is a very happy circumstance in our view that this, perhaps the most vital and successful of the meetings of this congress, should have occurred in the capital of our own country. " " * The drawing together of the Americans has long been dreamed of and desired. It is a matter of peculiar gratification therefore, to see this great thing happen; to see the Americans drawing together and not drawing together upon an insubstantial foundation of mere sentiment.

"After all, even friendship must be based upon a perception of common sympathies of common interests, of common ideals, and of common purposes. Men can not be friends unless they intend the same thing, and the Americans have more and more realized that in all essential particulars they intend the same things. * * To be privileged, therefore, to see this drawing together in friendship and communion based upon these solid foundations affords every one who looks on with open eyes peculiar satisfaction and joy; it has seemed to me that the language of science, the language of impersonal thought, the language of those who think * * * was a very fortunate language to express this community of interest and of sympathy.

"But, ladies and gentlemen, our thought can not pause at the artificial boundaries of the fields of science and of commerce. All boundaries that divide life into sections and interests are artificial, because life is all of a piece * * * No one who reflects upon the progress of science or the spread of the arts of peace or the extension and perfection of any of the practical arts of life can fail to see that there is only one atmosphere that these things can breathe, and that is an atmosphere of mutual confidence and of peace and of ordered political life among the nations. Amidst war and revolution even the voice of science must for the most part be silent and revolution tears up the very roots of every thing that makes life get so steadily forward. For nothing stirs passion like political disturbance, and passion is the enemy of truth.

ally be united in action. What these statesmen who have been conferring from month to month in Washington have come to realize is that back of the community of material interest there is a community of political interst.

"I hope I can make it clear to you in what sense I use those words. I do not mean a mere partnership in the things that are expedient. I mean what I was trying to indicate a few moments ago, that you can not separate politics from these things, that you can not have real intercourse of any kind amidst political jealousies, which is only another way of saying you can not commune unless you are friends, and that friendship is based upon your political relations with each other perhaps more than upon any other kind of relationships between nations.

INTERCOURSE EMBARRASSED

"If nations are politically suspicious of one another all their intercourse is embarrassed. The object of American statesmanship on the two continents is to see to it that American friendship is founded on a rock.

"The Monroe Doctrine was proclaimed by the United States on her own authority. It always has been maintained and always will be maintained upon her own responsibility. But the Monroe Doctrine demanded merely that European governments should not attempt to extend their political systems to this side of the Atlantic. It did not disclose the use the United States intended to make of her power on this side of the Atlantic. It was a hand held up in warning, but there was no promise in it of what America was going to do with the implied and partial protectorate which she apparently was trying to set up on this side of the water, and I believe you will sustain me in the statement that it has been fears and suspicions on this score which have hitherto prevented the greater intimacy and confidence and trust between the Americas. The states of America have not been certain what the United States would do with her power. That doubt must be removed.

"And latterly there has been a very frank interchange of views between the anthorities in Washington and those who represented the other states of this hemisphere, an interchange of views charming and hopeful, because based upon an increasingly sure appreciation of the spirit in which they were undertaken. These gentlemen have seen that if America is to come into her own, into her legitimate own, in a world of peace and order, she must establish the foundations of unity so that no one will hereafter doubt them. world. These are things, ladies and gentlemen, for which the world has hoped and waited with prayerful heart. God grant that it may be granted to America to lift this light on high for the illumination of the world."

Co-operation

[Abstract of an address delivered by William Jennings Bryan before the Pan-American Scientific Congress, Washington, D. C., January 3, 1916.]

Mr. President and Members of the Congress:

Allow me to preface my remarks by saying that my object in attending this session of the Pan-American Scientific congress is not so much to make an address as to meet the distinguished delegates here assembled and to testify by my presence to my deep and continuing interest in all that relates to the republics of Central and South America. My concern in their development and welfare, while antedating my connection with the state department, was increased during my occupancy of office, and it has not abated since my retirement. I desire to be enrolled among the permanent friends of these neighboring republics, and shall hold myself in readiness to respond to their call whenever I can render them any assistance.

In casting about for a theme for my brief remarks today it occurred to me that the word "cooperation" might well serve as the point about which to group certain suggestions, for which I ask your consideration.

Co-operation is the growing word of the twentieth century. There is noticeable everywhere an increasing tendency on the part of individuals and nations to act together in matters of mutual concern. In business life the idea is accentuated by the multiplicity of corporate organizations, in which individuals associate themselves together for the advancement of their joint interests. Nations, too, are more and more considering matters of common interest, and lending to each other the assistance that comes from joint action. While the unprecedented struggle now raging across the Atlantic has for the time being interrupted international co-operation in that section of the world, it should be regarded as a temporary suspension of co-operation rather than a permanent surrender of the idea.

Co-operation in the western hemisphere has

INTERFERENCE OF POLITICS

"These things were realized with peculiar vividness and said with unusual eloquence in a recent conference held in this city for the purpose of considering the financial relations between the two continents of America. * * * A financial congress naturally 1:d to all the interferences of politics, for politics I conceive to be nothing more than the science of the ordered progress of society along the lines of greatest usefulness and convenience to itself.

"The conference to which I have referred marked the consciousness of the two Americas that economically they are very dependent upon one another, that they have a great deal that it is,very desirable they should exchange and share with one another, that they have kept unnaturally and unfortunately separated and apart when they had a manifest and obvious community of interest; and the object of that conference was to ascertain the practical means by which the financial and political intercourse could be quickened and facilitated. And where events move statesmen, if they be not indifferent or be not asleep, must think and act. * * **

"But these gentlemen have not conferred without realizing that back of all the material community of interest of which I have spoken there lies and must lie a community of political interest. I have been told a very interesting fact— I hope it is true—that while this congress has been discussing science it has been in spite of itself led into the feeling that behind the science there was some inference with regard to politics and that if the Americas were to be united in thought they must in some degree sympathetic-

STATES WILL UNITE

"I hope and I believe that this can be accomplished. These conferences have enabled me to foresee how it will be accomplished. It will be accomplished in the first place by the states of America uniting in guaranteeing to each other absolutely political independence and territorial integrity. In the second place, and as a necessary corollary to that, guaranteeing the agreement to settle all pending boundary disputes among themselves should they unhappily arise, will be handled by patient, impartial investigation and settled by arbitration, and the agreement necessary to the peace of the Americas that no state of either continent will permit revolution expeditions against another state to be fitted on its territory and that they will prohibit the exportaion of munitions of war for the purpose of supplying revolutionists against neighboring governments.

"You see that our thought is, gentlemen, not only the international peace of America, but the domestic peace of America. If American states are constantly in ferment, if any of them are constantly in ferment there will be a standing threat to their relations with one another. It is just as much to our interest to assist each other to the orderly process within our own borders as it is to orderly processes in our controversies with one another. These are very practical suggestions which have sprung up in the minds of thoughtful men and I for my part believe that they are going to lead the way to something that America has prayed for for many a generation. * They are based upon the principles of absolute equality among the states. They are based in short, upon the solid, eternal foundations of justice and humanity.

"No man can turn away from these things without turning away from the hope of the been more general than in the east because of the greater similiarity of our institutions and political aims, and also because of the absence of the issues and prejudices which have made international dealings less intimate there than they are on this side of the ocean. Then, too, the present conflict in Europe has tended to draw the republics of the western hemisphere nearer together, as their dependence upon, and their power to aid each other have become more apparent.

With this introduction permit me to suggest a few lines of action along which I believe it is possible for us, with mutual advantage, to cooperate to a larger extent than we do now.

First, the language tie which binds nations together is a strong one; ability to speak to, and understand each other lies at the foundation of both business and social intercourse. The two languages spoken in the Americas are the growing languages of the present century. The rapid increase in the population of the United States would alone greatly increase the English-speaking population of the world during the next century, and, in addition to this, the use of the English tongue is rapidly spreading in the Orient and in the commercial centers of the world. As the Central and South American countries are likely to repeat during this century the development witnessed in the United States during the past century, the Spanish language seems destined to fill an increasing place in the world's future.

Every possible encouragement should, therefore, be given to the teaching of the English language in Latin America and to the teaching of Spanish in the United States. There are several ways in which this encouragement can be given. An exchange of professors would be an advantage. If arrangements could be made by which the colleges and universities of Central and South America would accept American instructors in return for Latin speaking instructors sent to the United States, the temporary exchange would not only be helpful in extending the two languages but a larger acquaintance would follow, and acquaintance is, after all, the