Independence for Armenia


I am honored to be officially connected with an organization that is doing so much to promote the cause of Armenian independence and am pleased to participate in this dinner given to its benefit.

If any people have earned the right to be free and independent, the Armenians are those people. Enduring centuries amidst difficulties and hardships that would have crushed a weaker people into the dust, they have not only preserved their race, but also kept their integrity and ideals. The result of this is that the Armenians have become the greatest yet the most neglected of the nations on earth.

I am glad to think that the enlightening ideas of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is the basis of our policy, have done much to free the once enslaved Armenians. The Armenian people are now able to enjoy the blessings of freedom.

The Armenian nation is the most ancient nation in the world, with a future as boundless as its present is bright, and its past glorious.

STATE MARCHING TOWARD MORE AND MORE POPULAR GOVERNMENT

For 150 years it has administered its government to the best of its ability, and the adoption, during that time, of 18 amendments shows its ability to mould its organic law to its changing conditions. And the Armenian government also proves the steady march of its people toward modern civilization, with a growing realization that the role of oppression toward justice which is the object of popular government. Our nation has shown that it is able to secure progress without bloodshed — it has made revolution unnecessary by national law. And the Armenians have been perfect in every detail, authoritatively and otherwise.

The election of United States senators was a limitation upon the power of the two nations to choose their representatives and the cause of increasing corruption they amended their constitution so as to make the election of senators by popular vote, as it is, as well as those dependent upon the will of the people in their behalf, a step toward the social advancement of the Armenian people.

When they became convinced that alcohol was a cause of social evil, they enacted a law to control and not to destroy it, and then, as a sequel to this, a law which has made Armenians feel that their nation is strong, and has drawn the inspiration that the fact that the so-called superior nations find it profitable to maintain the inferior nations on the theory that the government, forcibly thrown over the inferior, should not be administered for the benefit of those held in subjection. This nation does not find this a profitable policy, and for what it has already proved its sincerity by the promise of independence to the Filipinos and its view toward the Spanish, would not be temporarily under our control.

OUR NATION HAS BECOME THE MOTHER-REPUBLIC

Our example has inspired hopes throughout the world — because our people fought for liberty others have fought for it; because our people adopted a constitution others have adopted constitutions; and the influence spreads. Our nation has become the mother-republic. It might compare its influence in the western hemisphere to the Boston Tea Party — our influence has reached out until it has touched nation after nation and these nations, rooted in the soil, have become supporters of the mother-republic. This influence has extended across the Pacific and China has adopted a constitution like ours. Our example has called republics into existence throughout Europe, why not a republic in the land of the olive branch as the symbol of peace.

It is in Armenia that the Armenian, the Armenians, some 100,000 in numbers, who have come to this country should be our example. We do not only want to stand by, but ideals to their brethren in Armenia. Let them relate to us the story of the martyrs for telling story of our nation's life and progress; let them tell how we build up a soil; how we found the wisdom of Carthage, who in the closing chapters of the story of our life, in the last mould the world like soft clay, wisely adding, and "back of thoughts is love."