

Wilson Favors Philippine Independence

A Washington dispatch, dated April 4, says: Members of the special mission of the Philippine legislature, here seeking immediate independence of the island, were told today by Secretary Baker that he spoke President Wilson's mind when he said he believed the time had come to grant the complete independence desired by the Filipino people.

The war secretary also said he believed the mission would be able to carry home word that the American people loved liberty too dearly to deny it to others.

ATTITUDE OF WILSON

He read a letter left by President Wilson when he went to Europe, expressing the hope that the mission would result in "bringing about the desirable ends set forth in the joint resolutions of the legislature."

Francis Burton Harrison, governor general of the Philippines, followed Mr. Baker with the statement that his experience in the islands had convinced him that the obstacles to independence that appeared to exist a few years ago had now been cleared away.

The mission, including 40 prominent Filipinos and headed by Manuel Quezon, president of the senate, upon being received in Secretary Baker's office today, presented a formal memorial asking independence and pointing particularly to the record of the Philippines in the great war.

In replying, the secretary read President Wilson's letter, addressed to him under date of March 3. It was as follows:

"Will you please express to the gentlemen of the commission representing the Philippine legislature my regret that I shall be unable to see them personally on their arrival in Washington, as well as my hope that their mission will be a source of satisfaction to them and that it will result in bringing about the desirable ends set forth in the joint resolution of the legislature approving the sending of the commission to the United States.

"I have been deeply gratified with the constant support and encouragement received from the Filipino people and from the Philippine legislature in the trying period through which we are passing. The people of the United States have, with reason, taken the deepest pride in the loyalty and support of the Filipino people.

HELP WEAKER PEOPLE

"Though unable to meet the commission, the Filipino people shall not be absent from my thoughts. Not the least important labor of the conference which now requires my attention is that of making the pathway of the weaker people of the world less perilous—a labor which should be and doubtless is, of deep and abiding interest to the Filipino people.

"I am sorry that I cannot look into the faces of the gentlemen of this mission of the Philippine islands

and tell them all that I have in mind and heart, as I think of the patient labor, with the end almost in sight, undertaken by the American and Filipino people for their permanent benefit. I know, however, that your sentiments are mine. In this regard and that you will translate truly to them my own feeling."

NOW VIRTUALLY INDEPENDENT

Secretary Baker, in replying to M. Quezon, recounted the history of the transition in the relations between the American government and the islands from the time of the establishment of the military government to the present.

MR. BRYAN ADDRESSES KIWANIS ON LEAGUE OF NATIONS

[From the Allentown, Pa., Morning Call, March 28, 1919.]

Allentown Kiwanis enjoyed a rare treat last evening, when, at their weekly gathering, held at the Hotel Traylor, they listened to an address by Former Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan, for the past generation a national and international figure, and who, through patient years, strove to develop in the minds of men and nations, a peace plan that would end all wars.

To greet Mr. Bryan, Kiwanis turned out to a man, and the two large dining rooms, thrown into one, were thronged with diners who had come to hear the man who made the first peace treaties providing for deliberation and investigation before the declaration of war between two nations.

In introducing Hon. William Jennings Bryan as the speaker of the evening, Hon. Lawrence Rupp, vice-president of Kiwanis, took occasion to state that this is the third time that he had had the privilege of introducing Mr. Bryan to Allentown audiences. Mr. Bryan, on acknowledging the introduction, paid a fine tribute to Mr. Rupp, who, since the first time he introduced Mr. Bryan, has, in addition to becoming one of the leading attorneys of Eastern Pennsylvania, become chairman of the Democratic State Committee for Pennsylvania.

SPOKE ON LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Mr. Bryan chose to speak, in brief, on the league of nations. "In considering this," he said, "you have certain general principles, fundamental principles. The question with me was the choice between the league of nations and what we would have had to accept otherwise. The league of nations is the greatest step toward peace in a thousand years."

VALUE OF LITTLE IDEAS

Mr. Bryan dwelt on the value of little ideas, emphasizing the development of the steam engine, the gasoline engine, and other ideas at which people first smiled. People laughed when the peace plan was at first presented, but back of it is the idea that war is unnecessary, that war can be averted.

THREE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Three fundamental principles of the league of nations are that there shall be no secret treaties between nations, no secret agreements by which territory of others shall be divided between them. The reduction of armament so that nations, while apparently providing for the enforcement of peace, shall only be preparing for war. Then the idea that there shall be deliberation of all questions before war shall ensue; a period during which there shall be an investigation into the matters of dispute. "If it contains nothing more," Mr. Bryan said, "surely this

is enough to justify giving our support to the utmost."

SUGGEST SEVERAL CHANGES

Referring to matters which he considered should be changed in the original plan, he said that this nation was not sufficiently represented in it; that he considered it unfair that it should require a two-thirds vote of member nations to admit another nation—the league should bring all nations of the world together. The Monroe doctrine was not sufficiently protected in the original draft, but the nations in session at Paris have since agreed upon language which safeguards that doctrine. He declared that when a nation is selected as mandatory for a smaller nation, it shall have the right to say yes or no.

But these are minor matters, and one big fact of the league remains. When the time comes that this league is formed, the people will say "we will never go back to the days of blood and slaughter."

Mr. Bryan dwelt on his efforts toward world peace during the past fourteen years, the editorial and platform work he had done on it; he referred to the endorsement of his views by the peace congress at London, in 1906; of his continued efforts until, as secretary of state, he presented the plan to the thirty nations with representatives at the national capital. The little nations came first, and finally he had the satisfaction of seeing thirty treaties made by this country on a basis that made it almost impossible for the nations signing the treaties to make war.

All this the outgrowth and development of a little idea.

Mr. Bryan upon his entrance into the dining hall, had been greeted with a flattering outburst of applause, but upon the completion of his address the applause continued for more than five minutes.

How grateful we are to the man of the world who obeys the morale, as in humility, and in the obligation to serve mankind. True genius always has these inspirations.—Emerson.

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