

**INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION**

**Mohank Conference Tells Why Business Men Should Promote It**

One of the most significant signs of the times is the circular put out by the special committee appointed at the last meeting of the Mohank Conference giving reasons why business men should promote international arbitration. Below The Independent quotes these reasons in full from the circular. It will be noted that but little stress is placed upon the fact that "War is Hell," that it is little else than murder on a huge scale; but the whole burden of the song is that it doesn't "pay"—and "business men" are presumed to be fearful of supporting anything that might cause "risks and losses" or increase their "taxes and expenses."

This is certainly a compliment to those who hold to the materialistic as distinguished from the idealistic theory of society. It frankly admits that "business men" are much more easily influenced by the things that cause "risks and losses," than they are by appeals to their sense of right and wrong. Perhaps the Mohank Conference has done the wisest thing. Suppose we apply the same theory to the Philippine question: Does that "pay?" If not, isn't it about time that "business men" take steps to get rid of this expensive white elephant? The circular says:

**WHY BUSINESS MEN SHOULD PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.**

First—Because the industrial, financial and commercial interests of all nations, and of all sellers, buyers and producers, are now so closely interwoven, and the prosperity of each is so dependent on the prosperity and on the producing or purchasing power of others, that the loss or injury of one must necessarily become to some extent the loss or injury of all.

Second—Because peace and good will between the nations are essential for the prosperity of all, and war is as certain to result in disturbance and disaster for business interests as it is in suffering and death for the soldiers who face the horrors of the battlefield. Even the fear of war is sometimes sufficient to check the wheels of industry and commerce, to turn confidence into panic, and to increase greatly the risks and losses as well as the taxes and expenses of business men.

Third—Because there are times when international arbitration is the only means by which war can be avoided without submission to injustice or dishonor.

Fourth—Because international arbitration is a proved success and not a mere theory or experiment. As one of the many evidences of this it may be stated that in the last century nearly two hundred cases submitted by thirty-seven nations were settled by arbitration or joint high commissions, and sixty-three of these cases were submitted during the last decade. Since 1898 twenty-six nations, representing more than five-sixths of the territory and population of the globe, have united in establishing at The Hague a permanent court for the pacific settlement of all international disputes that may be submitted to it.

Fifth—Because experience has shown that arbitration is not only a practically infallible means for preventing a war, but that it is also so effective in removing the desire for war and promoting friendship, that there is no need for any form of coercion to enforce the decision. This is the natural result of a full presentation of both sides of the case, the carefully considered opinion of disinterested arbitrators, the modifying effect of time on human passions, and the knowledge that there can be no suspicion of weakness or timidity in accepting an adverse decision.

Sixth—Because business men can do more than any others to convince the people that war should be classed with the duel and the old "trial by battle" as something too absurd, too wicked and too horrible to be tolerated; and that arbitration should be regarded by all men and all governments as a matter of course in every dispute that cannot be settled by friendly negotiations.

Seventh—Because if it should ever be possible to lighten the burdens of industry and commerce by checking the increase or securing a reduction in the great armies and navies of the world, it will only be when there shall have been such a general development of public opinion in favor of international arbitration as a substitute for war, that it will have become the settled policy of all the leading nations.

**A Soldier For Peace**

The reporters of Washington made desperate efforts to get General Miles to talk about his treatment by the president and while their efforts in that direction were vain, they were

very fruitful in other directions. Miles would talk for his country and for humanity, but not for himself. Among other things that he said to the reporters was the following:

"Partial disarmament of the nations of the world is possible today, practicable and most desirable. I would have the United States take the initiative and suggest an international congress to meet at Washington at which an agreement would be drawn up by the military leaders of the world, and duly adhered to by each government represented, providing that the strength of their respective armies should be based on population; that each nation should maintain an army with a maximum strength of one to every 1,000 of population and minimum of one to every 2,000. In this way the relative power of each can be preserved, its people relieved of an unnecessarily heavy burden of taxation, its army increased in efficiency and its government, its liberties and its institutions strengthened and made firm. This would make for the peace of the world."

No living man has a better knowledge of the world, the number of men enlisted and the cost of maintenance than has General Miles. He has been a soldier all his life, but he talks for the peace of the world and points out a practical plan whereby the terrible burden of the support of standing armies can be eliminated.

**Competent for "Grown-Ups"**

Editor Independent: Not only do too many cooks spoil the broth, but it looks slightly "previous" as well to have an outsider step in—before things are ready—before all the material intended for it has been gotten together, and tell you that "this, that and the other" are lacking, and at the same time offer—if he can only use such ingredients as he has a mind to—to "season" it for you. I am in hearty sympathy with the position taken by The Independent, date of August 13, in its defense of the Denver conference.

This reply in The Independent covering the points at variance, in the protests made by outsiders bent on ruling or ruining—some of them—is in my view exceedingly well put.

The fair and candid statements therein made of the objects sought for by that conference as a starting point from which time forth measures were to be taken to unify the party must carry much weight to anyone giving due consideration to the facts as stated.

There is a deal of truth—if properly applied—in the saying, that, "We must take the current when it serves or lose our venture." And further, "He that will use all winds must shift his sail." Our high motive and purpose need not be diverted nor abandoned because of this, however.

Something must be done to confront stress of "weather;" life is short, and standing "off" cussin' the weather and—Cleveland, is mighty poor "farming," whether it be agricultural, political or only editorial farming. Surely, the advice given by the Denver conference was competent for "grown-up" people, and the party should be given a chance to show its "trustiness" to stand without "hitchin,"—especially so should it be, without hitching it again to that party wherein dwells the constant inharmonious din, of a sort of political preachments, which, to my thinking, tend to make confusion only "worse confounded." You will please pass these comments as not quite the thing, but I mean to have it understood that I have no sympathy nor liking for "hounding" protests from domineering protesters against the perfectly legitimate work initiated at that Denver conference.

I inclose one dollar, which is at the pleasure of the editor to use for the good influence of The Independent in such way as he may choose. I have to be careful and avoid excitement on account of heart trouble and of rheumatism and therefore cannot actively do anything that way. I also inclose 50c stamps for which please send me 20 copies Independent, date of August 6, and oblige.

FRANCIS KEYES.  
Longmeadow, Mass.

**A Tragic Fiasco**

Viewing it from a financial and secular as well as from a republican and humanitarian standpoint, it is sorrowfully believed that not only is there not a thing in the whole Philippine venture, but not the fraction of a single thing therein which the adventurers can point to with pride. Alas! it is all a flat failure. Too feeble the words! It is a tragic fiasco of stupendous proportions. In other wars of conquest and domination following thereafter in the name of government one can sometimes, by straining, faintly see here and there something approaching advantage to the subjugating, if not the subjugated, people. In the Philippine case there appears

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nothing but damage resulting to the conqueror and disaster to the vanquished.

Do we look for some amelioration of the denizens of those far-off isles we have so labored and laid out treasure to subjugate? Lo! we behold their condition far worse than we found it. Their industries have been stricken, their lands laid waste, their homes desolated, their population torn and thinned by the sword and the pestilence that has followed in the reeking wake thereof. Have we grown in their respect, their esteem, their attachment? We found them aspiring to be free, as never a people of the Orient had aspired before. With outstretched arms they welcomed our advent and joined hands with ours to end the dominion of Spain, and it was ended. Thereupon we struck down their infant republic and pursued its officials, banishing some, imprisoning others and killing or terrorizing the rest. We warred on the unoffending inhabitants—men, women and children—waging a warfare fierce and remorseless as Spanish ferocity itself, and now, instead of their love which we had, we possess their hatred, which we have abundantly earned.—A. A. Putnam, in Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

**What We Want**

What do I want? Why, a crust of bread,  
A cloak and a place to lay my head;  
These in a corner with love alone  
Are all that I would call my own.

The right to toil freed from the greed  
That wealth doles out to those in need,  
The right to think and work for truth,  
This were living, eternal youth.

What do I want? Why, enough of gold  
To buy a crust when I am old;  
Enough to free me from haunting care,  
Just enough with none to spare.

What do I want? Why, the same as you,  
Plenty of work for my hands to do;  
The right to toil that I may save  
Gold for my loved ones when I'm in the grave.  
WM. FELTER.  
Mound City, Kas.

If troubled with cancer write to Dr. T. O'Connor, whose ad. appears in The Independent. He is a specialist of a city and has cured many of the most virulent cases. Mention The Independent.