

Hon. PHILANDER C. KNOX, Secretary of State of the United States and Chairman ex-officio of the Governing Board, spoke as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN: Those who have gone beneath the surface for the purpose of understanding the events transpiring in the Western Hemisphere in the last few years and the forces by which they are directed appreciate that the last conference of American States held at Buenos Aires in the summer of 1910 was one of vast importance and significance. It was the fourth of these conferences, and it came at a period in the history of the Pan American movement when something more was required to prolong its life than the enthusiasm generated by eloquent words.

The delegates, representing the American Republics, gathered at Buenos Aires, sat down in the chamber of conference in a spirit of friendly respect for each other as the representatives of States of equal sovereignty and responsibility, and gave their attention to those matters of substantial concern through which the peoples of their respective countries feel, in their daily affairs, the effects, either good or bad, of the rules which regulate intercourse between nations by nature grouped for union, not political, but of aim and of cooperative effort for the fullest development, mutual benefit, and individual welfare of the American Republics.

The proceedings of the three earlier conferences, while more academic, were of value in bringing about the realization of the fact that all our countries could participate in debate and vote without any one Republic's fearing action which, even by implication, involved a lack of recognition of equal standing as a sovereign State.

The large advance made throughout the Western Hemisphere within the past few years in removing causes of irritation between different countries, many of which were of long standing, and in bringing about a just recognition of the responsibility of sovereign power enabled the conference to undertake practical matters without anyone's raising a note of alarm, although the departure from the academic was radical and would have been impossible at former conferences.

As peace between nations is best promoted by just rules regulating their reciprocal dealings the Conference gave its attention to approved procedure in actions connected with pecuniary claims, acceptance and recommendation of uniformity in consular documents, protection of patents and trade-marks, cooperation in sanitary measures and education, and an outlining of international conditions under which commercial communications and factors may be under the control and regulation of the American States.

The atmosphere in which such real things as these I have cited could be considered was just the atmosphere to develop a realization of the full scope of the character and possibilities of the organization and the instrumentalities through which it worked. Whereupon the Fourth International Conference of American States resolved, in order to acknowledge the dignity which it is proper to recognize in an international institution of such importance, that the name of the Bureau of American Republics for which this structure was built should be changed to Pan American Union, while the name of the organization of American countries which supported the Bureau was changed to "Union of American Republics."

The organization, therefore, housed in this beautiful temple is now the Pan American Union. Those who conceived its dignified and beautiful lines and ample proportions must have surveyed with prophetic eye its expanding field of usefulness made possible by the closer associations and better understandings between the countries it represents.

The significance of this new atmosphere expressed by the adoption of the word "Union" presages fuller realization of the unity of aim and of effort wherein lies the greatest material and political strength of the 21 Republics whose heritage is so wonderful. It is even more important that ours be a "Union" of magnanimous and lofty Pan-American public opinion, doing justice and exacting justice, disdaining ignoble

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suspicion, and putting to scorn international acts of unworthiness when found among us.

The deep debt of gratitude entertained by the American Republics toward Andrew Carnegie, the American citizen in whose heart was found the desire and in whose purse lay the ability to be the donor of this building, found expression in a direction that he be presented with a gold medal upon which the American Republics were to declare him to be the benefactor of humanity. For that purpose I have now the honor of presenting his excellency the Mexican ambassador.