

President TAFT then spoke as follows:

MR. CHAIRMAN, MR. CARNEGIE, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I wish to express my full concurrence in the strong words of the Secretary of State emphasizing the importance of the last meeting of the American Republics at Buenos Aires, and in calling attention to the future usefulness of the Union, there made firmer, of all the Republics of this Hemisphere. What can be built on that Union, and what can be made out of it, no one can say; but that it may be made the basis for the settlement of all possible disputes between those Republics everyone may properly hope.

We meet here to-day to take part in the ceremony of the presentation, by the Union of those Republics, of the "Pan American Gold Medal" to the individual, foremost in the world in his energetic action for the promotion of peace. We are all glad to take part in it. The immediate cause was the presentation to that Union of this beautiful temple of peace. Except for the fact that he has been prominent for years in the general peace movement, it is possible that the Union would not have thought that an expression so notable as this should be made to show their appreciation of his position in the world and his advocacy of the prosperity and peace of all the Republics. Nevertheless, the erection of this building is a most important step. It has a typical significance that makes greatly for the bond established between those Republics. No patriotic American comes to Washington and walks under the dome of the Capitol that he does not feel that in some way or other he is there standing close to, and in the presence of, the United States as a personality. And so I hope that no representative of any of the Republics comes into this beautiful chamber and under this roof without thinking of it as an expression of the bond that binds those Republics. Hence, it is that this building and its erection and its donation by the generosity of ANDREW CARNEGIE are a proper occasion for those Republics to express to him, as an exponent of peace the world over, their feeling of gratitude for what he has done to make alive that bond.