

*Conferencia ofrecida
por el exhortante J. Anto
nio Reyes en Columbia Uni-*

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY,
NEW YORK.

Dear Schoolmates:-

Your attendance at this meeting is very encouraging as it shows that the affairs of South American countries are considered by you with interest.

As previously stated, the lack of interest on the part of the United States in South American matters is not only the cause of the coolness of friendship that exists between the two Americas, but has also contributed, largely, to great disorder in Spanish America and the propagation of the policy of certain countries, which laying aside the fundamental principles of self-respect and self-estimation have always ignored and constantly abused the international rights of other nations, thus keeping in constant anxiety and intranquility the peace of the whole continent.

You all know, dear schoolmates, that there is a certain international affair in South America, that must some day or other, be definitely settled - **NOT A PROBLEM** - as some people may term it. A problem is a matter that has to be studied over, and finally, either through the right or the wrong way, secure a practical result from it. **THIS IS NOT A PROBLEM** - This is a matter which needs no studying over at all, inasmuch as the whole world knows just the solution. This is an affair which must end just one way: **THE RIGHT WAY** - It is a matter of giving to Caesar which is Caesar's. This is the affair of TACNA, ARICA and TARAPACA Peruvian provinces brutally and cowardly usurped in a war that will be an eternal blot in the history of their conqueror; from a country whose sacrifice and gallantry unnerved the usurper, and whose position in the scales of justice places ^{her} at the head of the nations that are proud of themselves.

The war of 1879 between Peru and Chile was the result of a well premeditated plan for rapine on the part of Chile, and of the loyalty and faithfulness to her compromises on the part of Peru.

The republic of Bolivia, constantly *frightened* at the unmistakable demonstrations of conquest shown by Chile, toward her rich province of Antofagasta, sought the protection of Peru and Argentina, and in or about 1873 a treaty of alliance, merely defensive, was reached between Peru and Bolivia; the participation of Argentine being at the time impossible due to the postponement of the Argentine Senate.

Very soon the fears of Bolivia became a reality, and this agreement having come to the knowledge of the Chilean Government, in an effort to precipitate things before it was too late (Just as Prussia did in 1914, occupying Belgium without any reason, before France could get

ready) Chile took possession with her military forces of the province of Antofagasta, on the pretext that Bolivia was charging 10 Cts., tax per ton -of nitrate, which according to Chile she should not.

In accordance with her treaty, Peru proposed the offer of her good faith for a solution between the two countries. Accordingly sent her messengers to Santiago, and offered different and equitable basis for a prompt solution of the incident, but Chile did not care for solutions of any kind; all on the contrary she had been looking for an opportunity in which to avail herself for the purpose of stealing the rich provinces on the south-
-ern territories of Peru. The military and naval superiority of Chile had a chance not to be lost and therefore, as an answer to Peru's endeavours for a friendly settlement of the trouble declared war on Peru the 5th, April 1879, after she had cautiously mobilized her fleet and had taken possession of the province of Tarapaca.

As it had to be, taking into consideration our unpreparedness and lack of armaments, despite the heroic defense of the Peruvian garrisons, Chile occupied Arica and Tacna.

Bolivia's first army being crushed, and notwithstanding her having ^{been} entirely the cause of Peru's coming into the war did not have the courage nor the dignity to stand for the country who was helping her out of her own troubles, and cowardly betraying her benefactor (As in the case of Russia with the Allies) celebrated separate peace with Chile, leaving Peru alone in a war which had so long been sought by Chile.

Nevertheless, Peru fought for her sovereignty for over two years of unequal and uneven fight, until her small army absolutely decimated, lacking of armaments and ammunitions had to accept the peace imposed by Chile.

As a result of the celebration of Peace, Peru had to pay a heavy indemnization of war, and cede to Chile the province of Tarapaca. The provinces of Tacna and Arica to be held by Chile for 10 years (1881-1891) at the expiration of which term a plebiscite was to take place for the inhabitants to decide whether they wanted to belong to Chile or to continue as a part of Peruvian sovereignty. FORTY YEARS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE THE WAR AND CHILE AS YET NOT FULFILLED HER AGREEMENT - OUR TREATY OF PEACE WITH HER WAS ONLY AN INSIGNIFICANT PIECE OF PAPER - FAMOUS CHILIANS DESIRE TO PRETEND BEING A RIDICULOUS RUSSIA. -And as a corroboration to this fact, here -are the words of Chilean Minister to Bolivia, Koenig, who frequently used to say: "That Tacna, Arica & Tarapaca are valuable territories we well know it; were they of no value to us we shan't care at all for them"

Despite the terrible methods for the Chilenizing of such territories, the persecution of the Peruvian population, the abuses and outrages admitted on the peruvian women and Peruvian property, the enrollment of the Peruvian subjects in the Chilean army, and innumerable other abuses Chile always found it impossible to win the two provinces through such a plebiscite, or any other legal and honest form of settlement of that question, and therefore has always delayed the celebration of the plebiscite, until a few years ago, in which Chile cinically declared that Tacna, Arica and Tarapa

ca shall belong to Chile by either reason or force. It must be born in mind that Chile's motto is BY EITHER REASON OR FORCE"

In order to carry on her plan it has been necessary for Chile to have the field ready. Her policy of hypocrisy has been extending all methods available to extinguish, to eliminate, to disappear from the stolen property, anything that might be connected with their legitimate owners.

This was a hard task for Chile. The patriotism of the peruvian population was the perpetual stone they always found in their endeavours to clear out the way. But Chile's motto was meant to act. The peruvian citizens are therefore declared "OUTLAWS" and consequently a systematic plan of plunder is begun. In 1918 a secret force under the direction and protection of the civil and military authorities is founded with the name of "LIGA PATRIOTICA" This league has the consigna to investigate the name and address of every Peruvian citizen, and after having all the information required under pretext of a national holiday "patriotic" meetings are convoked for a certain date AT 8:00 P.M. ! The Chileans have a few humane instincts yet ! They advance the horror in perspective and they have not the nerve to look at their own work and see their results - The gloom and the sullenness of the night is needed ! THE HYENA UNBARRERS THE CORPSES FROM THE CEMENTERIES AT NIGHT !

The announced day comes; the meeting is held and the nefarious procession starts along the streets of Antofagasta, Arica, Tacna, Iquique, Pisagua & other small towns. In Iquique the "Liga Patriotica" leads the crowd, and consequently the names and addresses of the peruvian citizens are in the hands of destruction and crime. The meeting is a "PATRIOTIC" one with the object of "Celebrating a certain National date".....(?) thus the authorities had given the "Liga Patriotica" full power to act military and civilians all mingled up.

Suddenly, cries for help and screams of women and children are heard; doors of houses and windows are brought down and stoned, revolver and rifle shots are also heard; girls are seen coming out their houses with their hair in disorder, terrified; their clothes torn to pieces, demanding clemency, fighting, pinching and biting desperately those that tried to hold them, in an endeavour to free themselves, while men coming out their houses, some holding sticks, bars, chairs, a few shot-guns, are being shot and killed by the crowd. -

The darkness of the night is suddenly broken by immense columns of smoke and flames in several spots of the city. Amongst the multitude cries, curses and laughers arise, while the police whistles give the alarm for FIRE. The multitude starts to disperse reluctantly, idly, as a person that has to leave a fine show against his will !!!

As their last tribute to the demon and their wish of crime they cry: Hurrah for Chile, Hurrah for Germany, down with Peru, down with the yankees' stickers.

The morning of the 24th, November, 1918, finds Iquique with its streets covered and crowded with men, women, and children; some half-dressed, others covered in rags, their faces horrified. In many houses funerals are being held. The day, though a summer one, looks grey everywhere. Iquique looks like a town doomed and destined by the Supreme Creator to be destroyed as was Sodom. Any body that would have landed that day would have divined the existence of a strange tragedy and would have certainly sailed back.

At about 10:30 an automobile starting from the office of the Chief of Police reaches the Peruvian Consulate, and two of their occupants walk up stairs. A few minutes later they return in the company of the Peruvian Consul, who has been summoned to his presence by the first authority. But the automobile instead of going back to the Chief of Police's office makes for the depot where they get off the car the Consul by force and tying up his mouth amongst the laughers of the longshoremen, place him in a motor boat and thence into a steamer which is standing-by in the bay. Few minutes later the steamer sails away.

The most cinical of crimes being committed on the Peruvian population, the disappearance from Iquique of the Peruvian Consul, necessary then, and it was done in a way as to show that the Peruvian Consul left of his own accord!

Few days after, prominent Peruvians were attacked and their properties ransacked and destroyed, saving themselves by hiding in foreigners' houses.

A peculiar case is that of Dr. Angel Farodi, Peruvian physician, educated in the United States, and once president of the Board of Doctors in Iquique. This philanthrop had since many years past been espontaneously attending the proletariat and any body who could not pay the expense of being cured! Few days prior to the attack of his property he had made a donation of \$100.-- in favor of the Institution for the benefit of poor children; he was a personal friend of the Mayor of the town, and a friend of the whole city! HIS RECOMPENSE WAS THE DESTRUCTION OF HIS MEDICAL LABORATORY, WHICH ADOPTION HAD COST HIM MONEY OF MANY YEARS OF HARD WORK ON THE SICK AND THE POOR'. THE SAME LABORATORY THAT HAD DONE SO MUCH GOOD TO THE CHILEAN PROLETARIAT'" and forced to seek protection for his life and that of his family on board a French barge anchored at the time in Iquique.

This is, dear schoolmates, just in very short words, the way Chile, the self-named Prussia(!) of South America behaves in South America, and this is just the cause of the excessive consideration to her misdeemeanors on the part of United States.

I would not make any comments with regards the attitude of Chile towards the United States, but I would just refer all you to your own history. There amongst its pages you will find some facts that will be enough for you to judge. The assassination of your own blue-jackets, your gallant sailors during the stop of the Pacific squadron of your fleet in Valparaiso. You will also find the words of one of your own naval commanders regarding Chilean cowardice and defiance to United States, the incident between the Chilean officers of a certain man-of-war and American officers while the former

were receiving the noble hospitality of your country; then you will also find the incident of the mysterious burning and sinking of the s/s Pensilvania in the bay of Iquique the night of the celebration by the Allies of the armistice....and, you will find so many data and information with regards Chile's insolence and arrogance towards the United States that I am sure you will be able to frame up a very just opinion of the nation that is now trying to brake the equilibrium and the peace of South America.

It is for this reason that I earnestly request from you, men of the future and mothers of tomorrow that your attention is turn to our South American countries, inasmuch as your company in our mutual business will serve to compel decency and honesty in the behaviour of certain countries which at present think the only Law, the only Justice there is on earth is the Supreme result of brutal fight.

With regards your questions referring to Bolivia's attitude, I am sorry that we may not have time during the Summer course to give you my opinion on the matter.

Nevertheless, I may say that the affair of the revolution in Bolivia has nothing to do with Peru's intentions. I am positively sure that my country has been absolutely ignorant of the movements of the Bolivian politicians, though the base of this is that the patriotic party in Bolivia thought it, as it is, the greatest error Bolivia could make, by claiming that which does not belong to her, and giving away her own rights.

In any way, you may be sure that Peru, and every one of her inhabitants will never give up their claim of the territories that were and are so cinically usurped. Peru is not looking for wars, Peru does desire to bring intranquility in America neither she wants to run and soaked the soil in human blood; but our provinces of Tacna and Arica, and now Tarapaca must come to us some day or other.

J. M. Reyes
Lima 22 of September 1920
Aprobado
[Signature]