MR. CHAIRMAN and Gentlemen: I am not quite sure whether I am at this meeting under false pretenses or you are. The president came to see me a few days ago in Washington, and he was very nice, he was very kind; he said he wanted to make everything as easy for me as possible. My heart was warmed by his kindness. He said would I mind saying a few words to the students before lunch, then partake of a small informal lunch to meet the faculty and one or two friends of the institution, and talk about the future of the institution, or some simple thing of that sort. Well, I don't know whether I misunderstood the number of the institution's friends, or whether he misled me; but somehow I came here to-day prepared to talk to the faculty, as a man who had been in other faculties, and to talk about the little internal difficulties that every teaching institution has, and really find out if your faculty has had the same sort of experience that I used to have in the days when I was teaching in a university. That would not interest you; besides, a majority of you wouldn't know anything about it. Each little group of men, each little group or each big group, have their own small troubles, their own small difficulties that they love to gossip over. It was gossip, gossip about university teaching, that I came here prepared to indulge in, but seeing this
great company of representative citizens of this city, I feel that there are some other things that I would wish to say.

First, I want to thank you for the wonderful reception you have given me here. It is a great pleasure to me to be here in Texas on this first occasion that I have had an opportunity of visiting your city and state. At present I am impressed by the enormous size of it, its wonderful potentialities, and its wonderful promise.

But I come to you from Europe, which is far away even as you Texans measure distance, far away on the planet, but how much farther away in its economic, in its mental, condition. If we may judge by the press of this morning, it looks as if we were at the end, or very near the end, of one of the post-war phases, the phase of educating Germany to understand, to appreciate the fact that she lost the war. It has taken some time to get that fact into the heads of that people; and we may look forward, I think, with hope and with some certainty to a slow but steady improvement in the economic conditions in Europe. At present the economic condition there is extremely bad. It is difficult really to exaggerate its badness. We have got in Europe a continent in which the whole of the machinery of credit, the whole of the machinery of interchange of goods, the whole of the machinery of trade and of economic life has been dislocated. We have got in Europe whole populations of great cities which are facing a very difficult future. The most outstanding example is in Vienna, where we have got a great capital city that used to flourish because it was the capital city of a great empire, no longer surrounded by an imperial territory, but by a small state; and that great city of Vienna, unless some miracle happen, must change its character entirely, must change the habits of its people,
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and must accommodate itself to an existence on a smaller scale. And not only that. You will find examples of a somewhat similar sort even in the victorious countries; you will find examples of citizens whose means of livelihood has been taken, at all events for the time being, from them. You may find such cities in England, for example the city of Plymouth, a city that used to live almost entirely upon the building of a navy adequate to meet the stress of a coming war. Enormous sums in pre-war days were being spent in the building of a British fleet, and it is fortunate that those sums were spent, as you who know what the British fleet stands for in the history of the war know well. But the city of Plymouth, now that there is no need to up-build a great British navy, is faced by the necessity of a complete readjustment. And I could go on with multiplied examples of that sort throughout the length and breadth, not only of the British Isles, but of France, Italy, and Germany. There are countless similar examples in Russia. The sum of it is this: there is a difficult period of readjustment necessarily to be gone through in Europe. No man can find a way around that period of readjustment. Cities such as Plymouth must go through hard times. Cities such as Vienna must, it would appear in large measure, dis-integrate and vanish, and while that process of readjustment is going on, while that process preparatory to the process of reconstruction is going on, the economic condition of Europe cannot be very different from what it is now. And so long as Europe is in economic difficulties so long will continue the difficulties which your country has been facing during the last year more or less. The present state of your manufacturing and farming industries is, in my judgment, very largely a reflection of the economic difficulties by which Europe is faced. It is no good pretending that
any immediate way of escape exists. The superstructure which was built up on the old basis which existed before the war has got to come down before a new building can be raised. As I see the situation of the world at the present time, without there being inevitable tragedy in the future, without there being any need for pessimism or alarm, there is a period of economic difficulty ahead of us which cannot be avoided but which can be shortened, and shortened in only one way, I believe, and that is by the development of a better understanding between the nations of the world. There is nothing more pitiful at the present time than to read, as I have often occasion to read, accounts appearing in the European press misrepresenting the attitude of your country, misrepresenting its outlook, misrepresenting its economic position. There is nothing more pitiful than that, unless it be indeed to read in the American press accounts, equally misleading, of the outlook, the position, the difficulties, the problems in Europe.

As a result of the war, as a result of the conditions existing before the war, the world has got this period of economic difficulty to pass through. It is no good misrepresenting the condition. For what we have to do is to try and understand the conditions in the other countries, and to believe, what I firmly believe to be the truth, that nowhere in the world at the present moment is there any one in any responsible position who seeks to disturb the peace of the world. We need to get the world back to thinking peace. We want to get each nation of the world back to believing that the others are struggling in the same direction, toward the same end as itself. I am sure that is the fact. If we can do that, we can, I believe, shorten the period of economic stress, shorten it perhaps by years, but certainly shorten it.
Now, during the last few months, within the last month, one has had occasion to notice from time to time ideas being propagated, not only in this country but in Europe,—my own country, France, anywhere you like,—that some other nation is taking steps to steal a march on the one whose paper is being read. The more I know of the inside of international affairs the more convinced I am that, at the present moment, far from there being too much activity in the struggle to get ahead, to secure new development of wealth in the world, there is too little; and yet you will find this suspicion being bred and suspicion being fostered. Your nation is continually under suspicion in Europe for things it is supposed to be doing. In a similar way my nation is suspected in this country for things it is supposed to be doing. All such nonsense is holding back and retarding the recovery of the economic condition of the world, which is the first interest, I believe, of every people.

If it were only possible to get rid of the misrepresentation that goes on, to get rid of the continual suggestion that the other nation is doing something improper when it is doing nothing of the sort, we would be setting our feet once more on the path of development.

And so to-day, to this great company, I wish to take this opportunity of saying that in my opinion it is a duty of every one of us, if we see the motives of other countries called in question, at once to take up the point that has been raised, to make an issue of it with the man who has impugned the motives, and to find out what basis there is for the insinuation. There are unfortunately men in the world whose main hope of getting something of their own back is based upon creating difficulties between nations. There are a number of broken men in Europe whose only hope of re-establishing anything of their old position lies in creating
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trouble between the nations and preventing the world from settling down. Those men—some of them—are in command of considerable funds, and they have organizations which are continually engaged in whispering suspicions into the minds of those who naturally would not suspect. Suspicion mongering is going on in every country, and until this whispering of suspicion is stopped, until it is faced by men, sensible men and women, until the whisperers are run down and until their motives are exposed, this international feeling of distrust is liable to continue.

We are all, every one of us, inclined easily to believe ill of the man at a distance. Because of the distance he seems different from ourselves. We think of him as swayed by different motives from those that sway us. We are inclined to think that the man in the distance may be trying to score off us unfairly, and the whisperer seizes upon that natural bent and trend in the human mind, and suggests that the man at a distance is doing this, that, or the other contrary to our interests.

As I have said, that is going on here; it is going on with equal vigor in England. It is going on in France. It is going on in Italy. It is going on, I suppose, in every country in the world, this suggestion that the other people, the other nations, are not playing the game. And the only way that it can be stopped, the only way that it can be stamped out, is to call upon the man who suggests that somebody else is not playing fair to produce his evidence. As soon as this whispering of suspicion between the nations stops you will find, as I have found in the different countries in which I have been, that the peoples of the world are all making for the same goal. There is no people seeking international disturbance. There is no people that I know of that does not wish for peace. There is no people whose eco-
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omic condition is such that it could afford light-heartedly to dream of war. There is no great nation that I know of which is pursuing a policy likely to damage great interests that cannot be dissuaded from following that policy, that cannot be brought to move in the direction in which all the other nations are seeking to move. Between your country and mine it is especially important that there should not be suspicion and misunderstanding. After all, your country and mine have got the same ideals with regard to government, the same ideals with regard to living, the same broad general outlook on life, and between us, if we understand one another, if we are cooperating, I do not think we are likely to fail to maintain the peace of the world. No nation, whatever its ambitions may be, will challenge a united English-speaking people. Not, of course, a politically united English-speaking people, I am not speaking of that, but an English-speaking world united in the pursuit of peace, in the pursuit of liberty, in the pursuit of order and freedom. Those are the things for which this people, the English-speaking people, have stood in the past; those are the things for which they stand now; those are the things for which I believe they will stand in the future, and it is from them that the other nations of the world in the main have learned the lessons of democracy, of democratic government, and of popular rule.

If, by chance, the whisperers or propagandists, the breeders of suspicion, were to produce even diplomatic tension between your country and mine, the outlook for the economic future of the world would be extremely bad. Fortunately I am in position to say that never, I believe, in the past have the relations between your government and my government been so friendly and so cordial as they are to-day. That is a great truth, although sometimes, when
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reading some of the things which are printed and some of the things which are published, you might believe the very reverse was the case. It is fortunately not so. It is a great pity that in order to attract attention—I imagine that to be the reason—some of the writers try to make out, and so far as the actual article which they write is concerned succeed in making out, that there is a difficulty between our countries. It is doing a world of harm. It is not true. It would be ten thousand pities if it were true, and yet for some reason a certain number of people like to believe that there are difficulties. There are none, but there might easily be if the whisperers were allowed to go on unchallenged, because undoubtedly they have instilled into the minds of the people of this country certain beliefs which are not founded on fact.

There is one extraordinary statement which appears, reappears, is denied, again denied, and still reappears, to the effect that there is some alliance between the British Empire on the one hand and Japan on the other, which, in some mysterious way, is directed against the interests of the United States. Everybody knows who takes the trouble to read that the terms of that alliance which has existed for many years between Japan and Great Britain, by a specially inserted clause exclude from the operation of the alliance the United States of America, if under the general terms of the alliance Britain would have been brought into hostile contact with the United States. That fact has been published, it has been published again, again, and again. It has been referred to in speeches. It has been brought to the attention of the people who make the statements, but nothing stops them. It is too good a chance for the whisperer. He seizes hold of it and he whispers to the man in the train, "Of course that is an alliance between Great
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Britain and Japan that is directed against the United States," and the man in the train, who has only read the headlines in the newspaper anyhow, not knowing about it, accepts that as a fact.

Take another example. There is repeated, and repeated, and repeated until one gets tired of reading it, a statement that the British Government directs the Royal Dutch Oil Company and controls the oil of the Company. That has been denied frequently by the Royal Dutch Oil Company, from the point of view of their stock operation. It is denied, I know roughly, once a week by some one speaking on behalf of the British Government. Does that stop anybody? Not at all. It goes on and goes on, and is intended by the whisperers to create the idea that the British Government, through the control of this non-British corporation,—a Dutch corporation, which is in no sense whatever under the control of the British Government,—through the control of this company the British Government is manœuvring to seize the oil supplies of the world.

Now those are two examples of what I mean when I speak of the damage and the harm the whisperers do. No whisperer ever objects to an official denial. He very often points to it with pride as proof that he is right. But those whisperings are going on, not only in this state but in various parts of the United States, and are creating, have created, an atmosphere of suspicion with regard to the intentions and the activities of the British Government. There is no foundation for either of those stories. There is no foundation for countless other whisperings of the same sort, and it is well, I think, occasionally that the British Ambassador should have an opportunity of meeting such a gathering as you have here to-day, to state, as I have stated, that the relations were never more friendly or cordial between our gov-
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erments, and to say to you, as I say now, that there is no
dearer wish of the British people than that they should coöperate now, in the future, and at all times with the
United States of America.

AUCKLAND GEDDES.