

PRESSMEN AS DIPLOMATS

Prof. Williams' View on the Potentialities of the Newspapers

Professor Walter Williams, LL.D., founder and dean of the University of Missouri School of Journalism, was guest of honour at two very pleasing functions on Monday, one at the offices of the "Shunpao" and the other later in the evening at the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce where the Chamber and the Kiangsu Educational Association were hosts.

Mr. Sze Liang-zay presided over the meeting at the "Shunpao" offices where some 40 local journalists were present. Several addresses were made by those present, including Dean Williams who intimated that the world would be a better one if it was allowed to be run by members of the journalistic profession. Cordial relations between various nations were greatly dependent upon the journalists of various nations concerned. Dean Williams does not think that a change from one form of alliance to another is going to promote the best interests of the world, but he said that he does believe friendly relations between the nations, through the newspaper, will do much towards attaining this object.

Tiffin in the Dean's Honour

A most pleasant tiffin was held at the Carlton Café on Tuesday, when two interesting and instructive addresses were delivered by Dean Walter Williams, LL.D., founder of the University of Missouri School of Journalism, (on "Journalism in the Far East"), and Dr. William F. Russell, Dean of the College of Education, University of Iowa, who spoke on "Why people can't read." The tiffin was given under the auspices of the Pan-Pacific Association, and Mr. O. M. Green, Editor of the "North-China Daily News," introduced the speakers of the day.

Among the 100 odd guests who were present were Mr. F. S. Cunningham, U. S. Consul-General, and Mrs. Cunningham; Mr. T. Funatsu, Japanese Consul-General; Dr. Frederic E. Lee, U. S. Economic Consul; Dr. J. W. Ross, Canadian Trade Commissioner; Mr. E. M. Gull, secretary of the British Chamber of Commerce, and Mrs. Gull; Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Hager; Mrs. F. J. Raven; Mrs. O. M. Green; Dr. E. C. Lobenstine, Dr. C. Y. Cheng, Dr. Fong F. Sec, Dr. H. H. Morriss, Dr. W. W. Peter, Dr. J. A. Silsby, Dr. John Y. Lee, Mr. Guy C. Stockton, Mr. L. D. Lemaire, Mr. G. A. Fitch, Mr. H. H. Arnold, Mr. K. Yamaguchi, Mr. G. S. F. Kemp, Dr. J. T. Proctor, Mr. Carl Crow, Mr. D. D. Patterson, Mr. N. L. Han, Mr. T. C. Chu, Mr. W. W. Lockwood, Mr. K. S. Lee, Mr. A. R. Hager, Mr. H. A. Wilbur, Mr. C. W. Pettitt, Mr. George Matheson and many others, ladies and men.

SILENT READING.

Dr. Russell, in his address, dealt with illiteracy as a whole and education as a business. The British newspaper, he said, was for a reading public, but the American newspaper, with its comic pages, was meant for people who could not read. He urged the importance of silent reading for proper understanding and said that the reason why so many people could not read with any real comprehension, as they should, was because they were not taught in their childhood to read silently. The silent and oral methods of reading, he said, were two very different things and were conflicting. The best oral readers were not those who grasped the meaning clearly and accurately from the written page. The more accurate reading was that which was read more quickly. A large number of people read newspapers were illiterate because they did not understand quickly what they read.

THE EVIL OF PROPAGANDA.

After thanking his audience for the opportunity of speaking, Dean Williams then recounted how and why he founded the College of Journalism in the University of Missouri. The old method of throwing young journalists overboard and letting them fight their own way had given way to the newer method of teaching the profession.

"I have a very high regard for Far Eastern journalists," said Dean Williams. "I am greatly interested in those in China for they are men who are carrying the banner of journalism in this great and interesting country. It is a pleasure for me to hear that a crusade separating propaganda from truth is starting. What the people want to know is the truth, but we are suffering from journalism that is used for propaganda purposes. I can see nothing more dangerous than a government controlling the newspapers. Propaganda is laudable in its proper place, such as in the times of war when it is an accessory to a good cause, but during peace times it is alien to the interests of the governments and the nations. Of course, there must be friendly competition, for governments and people thrive on competition. I cannot emphasize too strongly the high value of journalism that is uncontrolled, uncensored, unsubsidized and independent. We might not meet the high standards that we hope to attain, but we should make every effort in that direction to meet the approval and applause of the community of which we are servants, for after all, journalists are the servants of the public, who make the newspaper."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dean Williams expressed his admiration for British journalism which had given such great names to the world of journalists. "There is one feature," he said, "which I sincerely wish for, a feature which every nationality should take note of. I sincerely wish that more people would write letters to newspapers, telling the latter of their

bad, as well as good points, and expressing their opinions.

"The British newspaper public have that fine spirit," he continued, "of kicking hard and growling and grousing at the newspapers, and then subscribe to them and read them faithfully." (Laughter).

Dean Williams told his hearers of having met an Australian journalist and congratulated him for having descended from the British style of journalism. "Nothing of the sort," said the Australian, "we have ascended!"

HARD WORK IN THE ORIENT.

Newspaper men in the Orient were having an extremely difficult task and their work has much to do for the people here, for those at home and for China. It was admirable, he said, how the situation was met under all the difficulties, and the journalists merit from the leaders of the community all sympathy, support, admonition and helpfulness to constantly be before the public which so greatly needed the leadership which the newspaper only can give.

"We can only maintain international peace, brotherhood and prosperity," concluded Dean Williams, "by maintaining a system of good journalism which considers itself a servant of the public and a parliament of public opinion."