

PANAMA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION
Address of Welcome by A. W. Scott, Jr., San Francisco World's Fair Director.
(From 1915 Convention Report, Pages 166 and 167)

Bible Students Day, June 7th.

At the Exposition Grounds a Committee of the Exposition Officials met our company at Festival Hall at 1:30 P. M. Director A. W. Scott, Jr. gave a brief address expressing a very hearty welcome to Bible Students, and to Pastor Russell. To this Pastor Russell responded on behalf of the Bible Students, expressing our deep appreciation of the hearty welcome extended to us, and briefly setting forth some views of God's great plan, as held by the Bible Students.

I - Address of Welcome by A. W. Scott, Jr.

II - Response by Pastor Russell.

III - Discourse by the Pastor—Present Foregleams of Coming Glory.

PROMPTLY at one-thirty several hundred delegates of the International Bible Students Association assembled at Festival Hall. After Organist, Clarence Eddy, had delighted the delegates with the sweet music which flowed grandly and impressively from the great pipe organ at the touch of his deft fingers, Chairman E. D. Sexton, of the International Bible Students Association, introduced Director A. W. Scott, Jr. who welcomed the Delegates in the following words:—

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, Delegates, Guests:—I want to say on behalf of the Exposition Directorate that we hope you are all our very good friends. I feel that it is great privilege to address an audience such as this today. We have welcomed many, many groups of people, representing different governments, as our guests to the Grounds, but it seems to me it is a particular privilege to speak to a delegation representing a great civilizing influence, such as brings you here today.

I cannot tell you how fitting it seems to me to see the representatives of your great organization participating in the work of this Exposition. Many have said to us as we have been doing our work, from the time we first took up the harness to the present, "What do you expect to get out of it? What are you doing it for? Why are you giving your time in something that possibly may be a thankless task?" I want to say this privilege of talking to you; this privilege of feeling we belong to you, and you and your great organization belong to us; that we have a part in the things you are working for; that you have the same desire to educate and benefit fellow men—these are the things that go to make up the reward that comes to us for the efforts and toil we have put in, and will still put into the work of this Exposition.

Perhaps you will be able to come with me for a moment into our inner thoughts; really into our inner soul in the matter of this Exposition. You know there is nothing that gives me the pleasure I have in speaking to an audience like this, that I feel will really go down beyond the pageantry, and fun, and tassel of the Exposition. There is a motive in this Exposition far beyond the outward show. You who have been devoting your lives and thoughts to those things which make for the good of your fellows, can understand and appreciate how a few of the citizens of our state have gathered together with the idea of giving their best of time and effort, that they might be small figures in carrying out a work which the Almighty has planned for this great commonwealth of ours; that they might be units, in working out the destiny which the great Creator has ordained for us. While the nations are battling on the other side, we should be happy that we are given this opportunity of working out something that may tend to the betterment of our fellow men. There is something beyond the educational, something beyond the pleasure that may be experienced, something deep down in this Exposition that has a great civilizing influence which we cannot help but feel.

I am indeed glad to come here and address such a speaker as we have here today; a man whose life is devoted to the betterment of mankind—and to feel that I have a part as a worker in this field, of participating in a work like this. Surely that is a reward sufficient for one individual. In representing our Board I ask you as Delegates, and Pastor Russell as your representative, to accept a small token, a Bronze Medal, commemorative of the occasion.

[A picture of the Bronze Medal was shown on page 166. It measured a little over 2-3/4 inches across, round in shape. On one side were these words: IN COMMEMORATION—PANAMA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION—SAN FRANCISCO. On the other side were these words: I.B.S.A. CONVENTION—OAKLAND, SAN FRANCISCO—JUNE 7, 1915; and there was a wreath on the outer edge surrounding these words.]

We are giving it to you that you may have some small, tangible mark of our appreciation of those who, as we do, stand for progress, for the benefiting of humanity, for the aiding of fellow men. We heartily welcome you, and ask that you take this medal away and cherish it, not so much for its value; not so much for the occasion it represents; not so much for the gathering of people as for the great basic truth, the great fundamental principle which we can feel working within us, pushing us onward in the direction of progress and development. We heartily welcome you. I say to you, representing the Exposition Board, our doors are open to you. You belong to us; this is your home. Our house, so far as we have been able to put it in order, is yours. Come and participate with us of the feast. As we do so let us have, as we do, the full measure of gratitude, that full appreciation of our Maker, for the kindness that makes it possible for us to be separate from the strife and battle elsewhere; that enables us to gather in this Exposition,

representing the great work of our magnificent nation; representing something we are doing to help man onward and upward to better things.