Ford Subject Of Article in East Review

Shanghai Publication Tells Who Founder of the Pan-Pacific Union Is

"Who is Ford?" inquires the author of an article entitled "A Pioneer for Pacific Peace" in the Far Eastern Review (Shanghai), and he goes on to tell who Alexander Hume Ford is.

"To begin with, he is a bundle of energy, one of those hundred per cent Americans whose forbears from England carried their full share of the load in transforming a wilderness into the greatest nation of today.

"Born in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1868, on his father's side Mr. Ford was descended from Peter Ford, who arrived in Charleston harbor about 1668 with three ships and a grant of a very patent of land for quite a portion of South Carolina. On his mother's side he is descended from the Humes, a sept of Marchmont, Scotland, and from many distinguished pioneer military leaders, one of whom, General Christopher Gadsden, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a warm personal friend of George Washington, and was the first governor of South Carolina and it was through his efforts that the city of Charleston became the seat from the British empire. One of the first flags of the United States was the Gadstone flag, a rattle snake on a yellow field and a motto: "Dread me not and I'll not harm."

Classmate of Summerall

"Mr. Ford was educated at Porter Academy, in a class with General Charles Summerall and others who have since become distinguished. He began life on the Charleston News and Courier, where also the earthquake moved to New York City, where he was associated with the two publishers of the Father's lifelong friend, Senator John C. Calhoun. Later he went into news paper work in New York and play writing. Early in life he became a student of history, most of his studies of the world. For a period of time after the Spanish-American he was on the staff of the Chicago Daily News with such men as Peter Finley Dunne, (Mr Dooley), Trumbull White, Opie Read and others who have become distinguished.

"The basis of Mr. Ford's life work is to be found in what he said to have begun in Chicago. He undertook the task of organizing a congregational minister, who he believed had been treated unjustly by his ecclesiastic brethren for his views, and Mr. Ford organized the militant church of Chicago. On the board of directors were Protestant clergymen, a Jewish rabbi, a Catholic priest, and an Episcopalian bishop, and the agnostics represented by Robert Ingersoll. The tabernacle theatre, the largest in Chicago, was used for the church services, and Robert Ingersoll spoke there on his only sermon, 'How to Reform Mankind.' At this church service one was compelled to give any donation. It was, Mr. Ford says, 'Deed not creeds—and Colonel Ingersoll's theories in a nut shell. Every member had to give two hours of his time at the rate of ten cents an hour. John Rusk, for the good of humanity. A haunted women pleaded at theatre to be allowed to help the police stations and rescue any women or girls against a downfall or harm. As many physicians gave free treatments and in the police stations there were free medicines with the aid of the dispensaries, for there was no hospital organized by this church for the caring of alcohol and morphine fiends. It fulfilled some and Mr. Ford says, 'Never was there a complaint. Rusk was pastor of the church until he died. There were a church of 200 voices and an orchestra of fifty in connection with the church. Everyone gave his service free.

To Hawaii in 1907

"When Mr. Ford came to Hawaii to live in about 1907 it began to impress him that there was room for one of all creeds and no creeds could get together to run an international church with men of all races and religions he brought together to bring the nations of the Pacific into real co-operative effort for the advancement of the interests of all. He started a crusade studying the subject and the need in the Pacific islands and organized the Outrigger Canoe club and revived the sport of surf-board riding. Starting with a membership of less than a hundred and the riffraff of the beach until now with a membership of 2,000 men, women and children and boasts of one of the world's champion swimmers. The following year he organized the Trail and Mountain club of Hawaii, campers and this now has a membership of several hundred. With these successes gave him confidence and brought him into contact with the men of all Pacific races. It was at the Outrigger club that he gave a series of lectures to the men of each Pacific race to meet Jack London and discuss with him the need of a closer relationship of all of the Pacific. This led to the idea of the Pan-Pacific Union, the club and the movement was the beginning of the Pan-Pacific Union."