

elements in the cause for internal strife in China, there can be little doubt that commercial and political rivalry among the nations who are looking for trade and business advantages is a potential factor keeping China's internal affairs in an unsettled state.

There is much in this world of which the white people may be justly proud, but their efforts to retain supremacy have at times led them far afield from the pathway of justice in international relations.

If the white peoples of this world will line up along the front of HONESTY, the rising tide of protestations and repudiations of the white man's civilization and religions will subside, and international relations between the white and the yellow peoples will again become amicable and cordial.

The millions of China are waking up after centuries of mental stagnation. The pendulum is swinging back with increasing momentum. Those who have played a hand of intrigue in China cannot escape the penalty. The only unfortunate thing is that the evil acts of a few, in time, are visited upon millions who are innocent.

THE STATE LEGISLATURE

IN THE early part of this month the legislative bodies in many states gathered for the annual or bi-ennial session. The law-making body of Oregon convened on the twelfth day of January and speedily organized.

The governor's message, which is a time-honored institution, a sort of preface to each new legislative session in every state, sets the wheels in motion, and the usual run of new bills immediately commenced. In the turgid stream are good measures and bad measures, measures for public good and measures that are introduced for spite. The latter sort unfortunately gets the most publicity, diverting the attention both of the public and the legislators from the meritorious measures which ought to pass, but only after careful study and correction of defects.

The effort that is being made to strip the executive of his power over commissions and boards, and place wide appointive power in the legislative body, as suggested, is a bad precedent and is not in keeping with the fundamental precepts in American government.

The move by certain politically rebellious citizens, before the recent national election, to take some of the powers now vested in the Supreme Court of the United States and place them with another branch of the government, was a move in the same direction.

If an executive fails to comprehend the importance of his office and abuses or misuses the powers vested in him as chief administrative officer, the people have several remedies. To suggest transferring some parts of the administrative powers to the legislative or the judiciary branches of state government is as unwise as any proposal to transfer legislative or judiciary powers or functions to the governor. The results would only serve political ends and tend to lessen public confidence in our established institutions.

Leave the governor's office intact. Promote a little more civic intelligence and knowledge than we have in most of the states, and the misfit candidates

will automatically lose out, end the election of men who understand the duties and the obligations attached to public office will be drafted into service, and the sacredness of duty and obligations in public office will be respected again.

REDUCING AMERICA'S PUBLIC INDEBTEDNESS

EXPERIENCE teaches that it is easy for an individual to go into debt and easier still for a commonwealth or a nation to pile up public indebtedness, but the lesson would be incomplete were it not for the fact that it stresses the difficulties encountered both by the individual and the nation in paying off the debt. The result from the lesson should be a general inclination to avoid going into debt and a determination to sacrifice and economize to pay of the old debts. It should also bring home the wisdom of living within one's means and gradually accumulate a surplus.

Nations and individuals alike, however, are at all times ready to spend every penny of savings, even life itself, when individual and national security is at stake. Wars prove this contention beyond dispute.

America's entry into the world war produced an overwhelming willingness among the citizens of this country to spend money without any skimping to win its cause. America's enormous machinery of war, which took on greater and greater proportions for every passing day, called for financing that required the pooling of the individual savings on a scale never before experienced in the United States. Much money, of course, that could have been saved, was expended foolishly by extravagant department heads and field managers who had authority to draw upon the public treasury. Extravagant claims and outrageous charges from private industries making war materials, which were paid upon presentation without any checking of errors, gave America a heavier war indebtedness than would have been the case had there been a national system of careful checking of all claims before paying, in such a way as to have caused no delay in production.

But America emerged from the war with a determination to pay its public debts as quickly as possible and not whimper over the misdeeds of the citizens who robbed their country while it was in distress. A valuable lesson in national economy during war-times has been learned, and it is safe to predict that the errors committed during the recent war will be carefully avoided should America again at some future time be called upon to defend its honor and its position as an invincible force for international justice, security and peace in the world.

How fast we are paying our public debt and redeeming our liberty bond issues may be seen by a recent report from the national treasury, which shows that the government during 1924 reduced such indebtedness in a sum running almost into one billion dollars. By doing this the obligations of the United States have been reduced more than one-fifth since they reached their peak of \$26,596,068,947 in August, 1919. The Government started the new year with a public debt of \$20,978,632,700.

The first official figures on the accomplishments in the calendar year 1924, made public the other day,