

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

(Continued from page one.)

The critical position of the republic, arising in a measure from external, as well as internal and financial embarrassments.

The Liberian government afforded every facility to the commission for ascertaining the true state of affairs. The commission also had conferences with representative citizens, interested foreigners and the representatives of foreign governments in Monrovia. Visits were made to various parts of the republic and to the neighboring British colony of Sierra Leone, where the commission was received and conferred with the governor.

It will be remembered that the interest of the United States in the republic of Liberia springs from the historical fact of the foundation of the republic by the colonization of American citizens of the African race. In an early treaty with Liberia there is a provision under which the United States may be called upon for advice or assistance. Pursuant to this provision and in the spirit of the moral relationship of the United States to Liberia, that republic last year asked this government to lend assistance in the solution of certain of their national problems and hence the commission was sent.

The report of our commissioners has just been completed and is now under examination by the department of state. It is hoped that there may result some helpful measures, in which case it may be my duty again to invite your attention to this subject.

CONVENTION CONCERNING SPITZBERGEN ISLANDS

The Norwegian government, by a note addressed on Jan. 26, 1909, to the department of state, conveyed an invitation to the government of the United States to take part in a conference, which it is understood will be held in February or March, 1910, for the purpose of devising means to remedy existing conditions in the Spitzbergen islands.

This invitation was conveyed under the reservation that the question of altering the status of the islands as countries belonging to no particular state and as equally open to the citizens and subjects of all states, should not be raised.

The European powers invited to this conference by the government of Norway, were Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Austria, Sweden and The Netherlands.

The department of state, in view of proofs filed with it, in 1906, showing the American possession, occupation and working of certain coal bearing lands in Spitzbergen accepted the invitation under the reservation above stated, and under the further reservation that all interests in those islands already vested should be protected and that there should be equality of opportunity for the future. It was further pointed out that membership in the conference on the part of the United States was qualified by the consideration that this government would not become a signatory to any convention or arrangement concluded by the European members of the conference which would imply contributory participation by the United States in any obligation or responsibility for the enforcement of any scheme of administration which might be devised by the conference for the islands.

CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN TURKEY IMPORTANT

His majesty Mehmed V, sultan of Turkey, recently sent to this country a special embassy to announce his accession. The quick transition of the government of the Ottoman empire from one of retrograde tendencies to a constitutional government with a parliament and with progressive policies of reform and public improvement, is one of the important phenomena of our times. Constitutional government seems also to have made further advance in Persia. The events have turned the eyes of the world upon the near east. In that quarter the prestige of the United States has spread widely through the peaceful influence

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of American schools, universities and missionaries. There is every reason why we should obtain a greater share of the commerce of the near east since the conditions are more favorable now than ever before.

UNITED STATES RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA

One of the happiest events in recent Pan-American diplomacy was the peaceful, independent settlement by the governments of Bolivia and Peru of a boundary difference between them which for some weeks threatened to cause war and even to entail embittered animosities between the two directly concerned. From various quarters, directly or indirectly concerned, the intermediation of the United States was sought to assist in a solution of the controversy. Desiring at all times to abstain from any undue mingling in the affairs of sister republics and having faith in the ability of the governments of Peru and Bolivia themselves to settle their differences in a manner satisfactory to themselves, which, viewed with magnanimity, would assuage all embitterment, this government steadily abstained from being drawn into the controversy and was much gratified to find its confidence justified by events.

PAN-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

On the 9th of July next, there will open at Buenos Ayres the fourth Pan-American conference. This conference will have a special meaning to the hearts of all Americans because around its date, are clustered the anniversaries of the independence of so many of the American republics. It is not necessary for me to remind the Congress of the political, social and commercial importance of these gatherings.

You are asked to make liberal appropriation for our participation. If this be granted, it is my purpose to appoint a distinguished and representative delegation, qualified fittingly to represent this country and to deal with the problems of inter-continental intercourse which will there be discussed.

AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION

The Argentine republic will also hold from May to November, 1910, at Buenos Ayres, a great international agricultural exhibition in which the United States has been invited to participate. Considering the rapid growth of the trade of the United States with the Argentine republic and the cordial relations existing between the two nations, together with the fact that it provides an opportunity to show deference to a sister republic on the occasion of the celebration of its national independence, the proper departments of this government are taking steps to apprise the interests concerned of the opportunity afforded by this exhibition, by which appropriate participation by this country is so desirable. The designation of an official representative is also receiving consideration.

AMERICAN CAPITAL IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Today more than ever before, American capital is seeking investment in foreign countries, and American products are more generally seeking foreign markets.

As a consequence in all countries there are American citizens and American interests to be protected on occasion by their government. The movements of men, of capital and of commodities bring peoples and governments closer together and so form bonds of peace and mutual dependency, as they must also naturally some times make passing points of friction. The resultant situation inevitably imposes upon this government vast increased responsibilities. This administration, through the department of state and foreign service, is lending all proper support to legitimate and beneficial American en-

terprises in foreign countries, the degree of such support being measured by the national advantages to be expected. A citizen himself cannot, by contrast, or otherwise, divest himself of the right, nor can this government escape the obligation of its protection in the person and property rights when these are unjustly infringed in a foreign country. To avoid ceaseless vexations, it is proper that in considering whether American enterprise should be encouraged or supported in a particular country, the government should give full weight not only to the national, as opposed to the individual benefits to accrue, but also to the fact whether or not the government of the country in question is in its administration and in its diplomacy faithful to the principles of moderation, equity and justice upon which alone depend international credit, in diplomacy as well as in finance.

PAN-AMERICAN POLICY OF THIS GOVERNMENT

The Pan-American policy of this government has long been fixed in its principles and remains unchanged. With the changed circumstances of the United States and of the republics to the south of us, most of which have great natural resources, stable government and progressive ideals, the apprehension of which gave rise to the Monroe doctrine may be said to have nearly disappeared, and neither the doctrine as it exists nor any other doctrine of American policy should be permitted to operate for the perpetuation of irresponsible government, the escape of just obligations, or the insidious allegation of dominating ambitions on the part of the United States.

Beside the fundamental doctrines of our Pan-American policy there have grown up a realization of political interests, community of institutions and ideals, and a flourishing commerce. All these bonds will be greatly strengthened as time goes on, and increased facilities, such as the great bank soon to be established in Latin America, supply the means for building up the colossal inter-continental commerce of the future.

MEETING WITH DIAZ

My meeting with President Diaz and the greeting exchanged on both American and Mexican sides, I hope, to signalize the close and cordial relations which so well bind together this republic and the great republic immediately to the south, between which there is so vast a network of material interests.

RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA

I am happy to say that all but one of the cases which for so long vexed our relations with Venezuela have been settled within the past few months and that under the enlightened regime now directing the government of Venezuela, provision has been made for arbitration of the remaining cases before The Hague tribunal.

GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA

On July 30, 1909, the government of Panama agreed, after considerable negotiation, to indemnify the United States for the American officers and sailors who were brutally treated, one of them having, indeed, been killed by the Panama police this year.

The sincere desire of the Panamanian government to do away with a situation where such an accident could occur is manifest in the recent request in compliance with which this government has lent the services of an officer of the army to be employed by the government of Panama as instructor of police.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS UNDERTAKEN IN CUBA

The sanitary improvements and public works undertaken in Cuba prior to the present administration of that government, in the success of which the United States is interested under the treaty, are reported to be making good progress, and since the Congress provided for the continuance of the reciprocal commercial arrangement between Cuba and the United States, assurance has been received that no negotiations injuriously affecting the situation will be undertaken without consultation.

COLLECTION OF DOMINICAN CUSTOMS

The collection of the customs of the Dominican republic, the general receiver of customs appointed by the president of the United States in accordance with the convention of Feb. 8, 1907, has preceded in an uneventful and unsatisfactory manner. The cus-

tom receipts have decreased owing to disturbed political and economic conditions and to a very natural curtailment of imports. View of the anticipated revision of the Dominican tariff schedule. The payments to the fiscal agency of the United States for the service of the bonded railways, as provided by the convention, have been regularly and promptly made and satisfactory progress has been made in carrying out the provisions of the convention looking toward the completion of the adjustment of the debt and the acquisition by the Dominican government of certain concessions and the monopolies which have been a burden to the commerce of the country. In short, the receivership has demonstrated its ability, even under unfortunate economic and political conditions, to do the work for which it was intended.

INTERVENTION IN NICARAGUAN AFFAIRS

This government was obliged to intervene in the affairs of Nicaragua in order to bring about arbitration or settlement of the claim of the Emery company against Nicaragua, which it had long before been agreed should be arbitrated. A settlement of this controversy, which was reached by the signature of a protocol on Sept. 18, 1909.

DIFFERENCES WITH CHILE WILL BE ARBITRATED

Many years ago diplomatic intervention became necessary for the protection of the American claim of Alsop & Company against the government of Chile. The government of Chile had frequently admitted obligation in the case and had promised this government to settle it. There had been two abortive attempts to do so through arbitral commissions which had through lack of jurisdiction. Now, happily, as the result of the recent diplomatic negotiations, the governments of the United States and of Chile, actuated by the sincere desire to free from any strain those cordial and friendly relations upon which both set such store, have agreed by a protocol to submit the controversy to definitive settlement by the Britannic majesty, Edward VII.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST ZELAYA'S GOVERNMENT

Since the Washington conventions of 1907 were recommended to the government of the United States as a consulting and advising agency, this government has been almost continuously called upon by one or another, and in turn by all of the five Central American republics to exert its influence for the maintenance of the conventions. Nearly every complaint has been against the Zelaya government of Nicaragua, which has kept Central American in constant tension or turmoil. The responses made to the representation of Central American republics, as due the United States on account of its relation to the Washington conventions, have been at all times conservative and have avoided, so far as possible, any resemblance of interference, although it is very apparent that the considerations of geographic proximity to the canal zone and of the very substantial American interests in Central America give to the United States a special position in the zone of these republics and the Caribbean sea.

I need not rehearse here the patient efforts of this government to promote peace and welfare among these republics, efforts which are fully appreciated by the majority of them who are loyal to their true interests. It would be no less unnecessary to rehearse here the sad tale of unspeakable barbarities and oppression alleged to have been committed by the Zelaya government. Recently two Americans were put to death by order of President Zelaya himself.

They were officers in the organized forces of a revolution which had continued many weeks and was in control of about half of the republic, and as such, according to the modern enlightened practice of civilized nations, they were entitled to be dealt with as prisoners of war.

At the date when this message is printed this government had terminated diplomatic relations with the Zelaya government for reasons made public in a communication to the former Nicaraguan charge d'affaires, and is intending to take such future steps as may be found most consistent with its dignity, its duty to American interests and its moral obligations to Central America and to civilization. It may be necessary for me to bring this sub-

ject to the attention of the Congress in a special message.

BUREAU OF AMERICAN REPUBLICS

The international bureau of American republics has carried on an important and increasing work during the last year. In the exercise of its peculiar functions, clearly in the greatest advantage, maintained by all the American republics for the development of Pan-American commerce and friendship, it has accomplished a great practical good which could be done in the same way by no individual department or bureau of one government and is therefore deserving of your liberal support.

The fact that it is about to enter a new building, erected through the munificence of an American philanthropist and the contributions of all the American nations, where both its efficiency of administration and expense of maintenance will naturally be much augmented, further entitles it to special consideration.

POLICY IN THE FAR EAST IS FOR EQUITY

In the far east this government preserves unchanged its policy of supporting the principle of equality of opportunity and scrupulous respect for the integrity of the Chinese empire, to which policy are pledged the interested powers of both hemispheres. The treaty of 1903 China has undertaken the abolition of the tariff with a moderate and proportionate raising of the customs tariff along with currency reforms.

The reforms being of manifest advantage to foreign commerce as well as to the interests of China, this government is endeavoring to facilitate these reforms and to secure the full consequence of the treaty powers. When it appears that China's tariff revenues were to be hypothecated to foreign bankers in connection with a great railway project, it was obvious that the governments whose bankers held this loan would have a certain direct interest in the question of the carrying out of China of the reforms in question. Because this railroad loan represented a practical and real application of the open door policy through cooperation with China by interested powers, it is proposed also to continue the practice instituted last summer of giving to all newly appointed secretaries at least one month's thorough training in the diplomatic service in which they proceed to their posts. This has been done for some time in regard to the consular service with excellent results.

ADMINISTRATION OF TARIFF ACT OF 1909

Under a provision of the act of Aug. 5, 1909, I have appointed three officials to assist the officers of the government in collecting information necessary to a wise administration of the tariff act of Aug. 5, 1909.

As a consequence of section 2 of the act, the bureau of customs administration they are co-operating with the officials of the treasury department and as matters of the needs and the exigencies of our manufacturers and exporters with the department of commerce and labor in its relation to the domestic aspect of the subject of foreign commerce. In the study of foreign tariff treatment they will assist the bureau of trade relations of the department of state, which is thus honored to co-operate and bring to bear upon this most important subject all the agencies of the government which can contribute anything to its efficient handling.

CHINESE INDEMNITY FUND

The imperial Chinese government in pursuance of its decision to devote the proceeds of the indemnity fund remitted by them to sending students to this country has already completed arrangements for carrying out this purpose and a considerable number of students have arrived to take up their work in our schools and universities. No one can doubt the happy effect that the associations formed by these representative young men will have when they return to take up their work in the progressive development of their country.

ADVOCATES MORE VIGOROUS CONTROL OF OPIUM TRADE

The results of the opium conference held at Shanghai last spring at the invitation of the United States have been laid before the government. The report shows that China is making remarkable progress and admirable efforts toward the eradication of the opium evil and that the governments concerned have not allowed their commercial interests to interfere with a helpful co-operation in this reform.

Collateral investigations of the opium question in this country lead me to recommend that the manufacture, sale and use of opium and its derivatives in the United States be so far as possible more vigorously controlled by legislation.

MINING PRIVILEGES IN SOUTH MANCHURIA

In one of the Chinese-Japanese conventions of this year, there was a provision which caused considerable public apprehension in that upon its face it was believed in some quarters to seek to establish a monopoly of mining privileges along the south Manchurian and Antung-Mukden railroads and thus to exclude Americans from a wide field of enterprise, to take part in which they were entitled by the treaty with China. After a thorough examination of the conventions and of the several contextual documents, the secretary of state reached the conclusion that no such monopoly was intended or accomplished. However, in view of the widespread discussion of this question, to confirm the view it had reached, this government made inquiry of the imperial Chinese and Japanese governments and received from each of them assurance that the provision had no purpose inconsistent with the policy of equal opportunity to which the signatories, in common with the United States, are pledged.

RELATIONS WITH JAPAN CONTINUE TO BE CORDIAL

Our traditional relations with the Japanese empire continue cordial as usual. As the representative of Japan, his Imperial highness Prince Kuni visited the Hudson-Fulton celebration. The recent visit of a delegation of prominent business men as guests of the chambers of commerce of the Pacific slope, whose representatives had been so agreeably received in Japan, will doubtless contribute to the growing trade across the Pacific, as well as to that mutual understanding which leads to mutual appreciation. The arrangements of 1908 for a co-operative control of the coming of laborers to the United States has proved to work satisfactorily. The matter of a revision of the existing treaty between the United States and Japan which is terminable in 1912 is already receiving the study of both countries.

TREATY WITH SIAM

The department of state is considering the revision in whole or in part of the existing treaty with Siam, which was concluded in 1856, and is now, in respect to many of its provisions, out of date.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE

I earnestly recommend to the favorable action of the Congress the estimates submitted by the department of state and most especially the legislation suggested by the secretary of state's letter of this date, whereby it will be possible to develop and make permanent the re-organization of the department upon modern lines in a manner to make a thoroughly efficient instrument in the furtherance of our foreign trade and of American interests abroad. The plan divides the Latin-American and far eastern affairs and to institute a certain special-

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the tariff act of Aug. 5, 1909, it becomes the duty of the secretary of state to conduct diplomatic business necessary to him in a position to advise me whether any particular country unduly discriminates against the United States in the statute referred to. The great scope and complexity of this work, as well as the obligation to lend our proper aid to our expanding commerce, is met by the expansion of the bureau of trade relations as set forth in the estimates for the department of state.

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

I have thus in some detail described the important transactions of the state department since the beginning of this administration for the reason that there is no provision either in statute or custom, for a formal report by the secretary of state to the president or to Congress and a presidential message is the only means by which the condition of our foreign relations is brought to the attention of Congress and the public.

In dealing with the affairs of the other departments, the heads of which submit annual reports, I shall touch only those matters that seem to me to call for such mention on my part, without minimizing in any way the recommendations made by them for legislation affecting their respective departments, in all of which I wish to express my general concurrence.

MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION FOR ADMINISTRATION

Perhaps the most important question presented to this administration is that of economy of expenditures and sufficiency of revenue. The deficit of the last fiscal year, and the certain deficit of the current year, prompted Congress to throw a greater responsibility upon the executive and the secretary of the treasury than has heretofore been declared by statute. This declaration imposes upon the secretary

(Continued on page five.)

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