













ENGLISH PAGES OF THE DIARIO DE LA MARINA

Havana, August 29, 1907

MR. TAFT AND CUBA

The Washington "Star" commenting on Mr. Taft's latest globe-trot, says:

If Secretary Taft does succeed Mr. Roosevelt in the White House the fruits of his observations on this trip should be of great advantage to him in his new post. But aside from this gossip, the journey is well undertaken. The secretary has still a full year and a half before him in his present office, and during that time much business of importance will come before him respecting the Philippines; and the more ample his information on the subject the surer will be his decisions and the better the results.

We have to add that Mr. Taft's already acquired knowledge of Cuba and the Cubans, will be of the greatest benefit to this island if he becomes President of the United States.

No American president, since Cuba turned out to be of such vital importance to the United States early in the last century, has known this country and its men as thoroughly as the Secretary of War does now.

CENTRAL AMERICA

It is announced from Washington that Mexico and the United States are about to send a joint note to the Central American republics inviting them to agree on the terms of a permanent peace treaty.

The plan is undoubtedly a good one if Mexico and the United States enter as parties to the treaty and assume the obligation to enforce it through arms in case any of the uneasy little republics shall attempt to make further trouble in Central America.

It is beyond doubt that sooner or later, some Estrada Cabrera, Figueroa, Bonilla, ejusdem furfuris, will desire to enjoy alone all the benefits of the treaty, having a mind to shoot

in the name of some constitution, one or all of his fellow-signatories. Then the United States and Mexico in compliance with their specified duty, will step in and establish one or several provisional governments in that turbulent section of the New World.

But if the plan merely consists in assembling together the representatives of the Central American Republics, and after allowing them to bother each other to death with long flourishing speeches, have them sign a document with no other guarantee of fulfilment than their own promises to keep its provisions, it would be much better for the diplomatic credit of Mexico and the United States, not to spend more time, money and work in such a useless and childish scheme.

The treaty signed at Acajutla, on board a cruiser of the United States, between the representatives of Nicaragua and Salvador, and several others of the same kind signed previously at the request of the American government, have been scoffed at and broken in spite of all their solemn binding clauses.

The reason is obvious. There is no other cause of civil strife and throat-cutting there, than the personal ambitions and petty rivalries of the politicians. There is, besides, no high feeling of patriotism that can induce those men to sacrifice their selfish plans to the general good of their countries. Their quarrels are merely private, as were the barons' wars in the Dark Ages, waged between castle and castle and breeding sanguinary family feuds.

What is the remedy for all that? The same that was applied in the Middle Ages to the wars between the barons. A stronger power,—which was then the King's,—assumed control of the castles and compelled their owners to own allegiance to an overlord. Now the King's role is to be performed by two great civilized republics.

FOR VARA DE REY

The Committee for the collection of funds for the Vara de Rey monument after having appointed this morning the sub-committees mentioned today in our Actualidades, will temporarily suspend its work on account of the absence of D. Nicolás Rivero, editor of the DIARIO DE LA MARINA, who is leaving for the States next Saturday.

Señor Rivero's trip will be a short one. Until his return the sub-committees will continue collecting the funds and Sr. Garrido, Secretary of the Spanish Club, will represent the Committee.

THE TEST OF CIVILIZATION

Dr. Arthur H. Smith, an American missionary in China, writes in a new volume, "China and America To-day" with a most friendly feeling for the people among whom he has lived so long. He speaks with especial enthusiasm of the resourcefulness of the Chinese:

In a way which often seems to us clumsy, they achieve almost impossible results, as in transporting for long distances huge blocks of stone for Imperial tablets by webs of rope attached to a regiment of horses and mules. The scaffolding, by the aid of which the huge towers over the city gates of Peking—and other cities—are erected, are themselves works of art, and are all held together by ropes much more securely than by our method of driving precarious nails. Many years ago a partly-built railway bridge in Tientsin was abandoned, the foreign engineers in vain applying steam-power to draw out the piles. When they had at last exhausted their energies, the Chinese securely lashed flat-bottomed boats to the timbers, and the rising tide at once pulled them out. The method by which, nearly twenty years ago, the Yellow River, was induced to resume its old course through Shantung, instead of taking the short-cut to the South, was a marvel of ingenuity, and was successful despite the predictions of foreigners on the spot, both amateurs and experts.

But in spite of all the above praise and other which Dr. Smith bestows on the Chinese, the Europeans consider them barbarians and are always ready to seize their territory.

Why? Because the Chinese have not learned yet the science of modern warfare and are so much superior, morally, to the Europeans, that they still loath to learn it.

The Japanese, on the contrary, are highly esteemed and respected... after the battle on the Yalu river, the second capture of Port Arthur and their victories at Liao-Yang and Mukden!

LEAVES POLITICS FOR FINANCIAL LIFE

Count Witte, Once Powerfuller Man in Russian Politics Bank Director Now.

London, August 28.—According to advices received here from St. Petersburg Count Witte, once the most powerful man in Russia, ranking next in authority to Czar Nicholas, has accepted the directorship of the Bank of Russia and will handle the foreign commercial relations of that institution. It is said this marks the final severance of all ties between his country's political life and Count Witte.

VEGETARIANS TO MEET

All interested in vegetarianism are invited to attend a meeting to be held this evening at Manrique 140, at eight o'clock. The meeting will consider ways and means to found a vegetarian library and reading room, to hold conferences and hear lectures regularly, and to contribute by every other means to furthering vegetarian doctrines.

DREADNOUGHT AUTOMOBILE

The city of Chicago is building an automobile which it is promised will outrun other automobiles what the English battleship Dreadnought is to other naval vessels. It is on account of the automobile's size that the city is doing the work itself, as special patterns had to be made for it.

The machine is to be used as a police patrol wagon. It is to be of steel body, seventy horsepower, and large enough to carry eighteen policemen and the chauffeur.

The use expected to be made of the vehicle is to carry a good-sized squad of policemen to any point where there is more serious trouble than the men immediately available can handle. It will be able to go much faster than the present patrol wagons, and carry more men.

TEXT OF PROPOSITION FOR PERMANENT COURT

American Plan Which Was Discussed Yesterday.—Russia Wanted Postponement.

TWENTY-SIX ARTICLES

United States in Agreement With England and Germany.—Weaker Nations Object.

The following is in part the text of the American proposition for the establishment of a Permanent Court of Arbitration, which proposition had its first reading at The Hague the other day and will come up for second reading about Monday next.

The first article records the desire of the signatory Powers to organize an "International High Court of Justice, easily accessible and free of charge, with judges representing the various systems of laws of the world, and capable of ensuring a continuation of arbitration by jurisprudence."

The second provides that the judges must be "jurisconsults of known competence in international law, selected so far as possible from the members of the Permanent Court of Arbitration."

According to the third and fourth articles, the judges are appointable for terms of twelve years, and will enjoy diplomatic privileges and immunities while exercising their functions.

Article five provides that the court shall consist of seventeen judges, nine forming a quorum.

Article six allots the appointments to the various nations.

Article seven provides that the High Court yearly shall appoint three judges with three substitutes, constituting a special tribunal, which may, if necessary, try cases elsewhere than at The Hague.

Article eight says that the president of the court shall be elected every three years by a majority of the votes.

Article nine deals with the payment of the judges. The amounts are not fixed, but the proposal contemplates a fixed yearly salary, besides special remuneration when engaged in cases, and travelling expenses.

Article ten forbids judges from receiving remuneration for services in connection with the High Court.

Article eleven says that the court shall sit at The Hague, except in cases of force majeure, and the special instances provided for by article seven.

Articles twelve and thirteen deal with secretarial matters.

Article fourteen states that the High Court shall sit once or twice yearly, in July and January.

Articles fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, and eighteen relate to the cases which the High Court is competent to try. Article nineteen provides that "each party shall be entitled to have its own judge to participate in the trial of cases submitted to the court. If a special tribunal acts as a commission of inquiry, even a person not connected with the court may participate in a trial."

Articles twenty, twenty-one, and twenty-two deal with the court procedure, and the calling of witnesses.

Articles twenty-three and twenty-four empower the court to establish its own rules.

Article twenty-five proposes the ratification of the convention at The Hague as quickly as possible.

Article twenty-six provides to establish the duration of the convention, but the term is not yet fixed. Any signatory Power is entitled to denounce the convention by notifying the Dutch Government two years before the expiration of each period, but the convention remains intact for the other Powers.

Russia desired to have the matter of the Permanent Court postponed until another Peace Conference, but despite her objections the American proposal passed through committee to formal consideration.

With the exception of Russia, the opposition was confined to the smaller states, such as Switzerland, Serbia, Sweden, Rumania, Belgium, Norway, Denmark, Greece, Turkey, Guatemala, Bolivia, and Nicaragua, who prefer the present Hague Tribunal as less dangerous to their independence or sovereignty.

Mexico, when the proposition came up for first reading, rose to object to the selection of judges according to the ranking of the powers in classes, maintaining that internationally, in the eyes of the Peace Conference, all should be equal.

The debates on the American project, so far, have been interesting. While emphasizing the fact that the Americans merely wished to "preserve and perfect the excellent work of the first Conference," Mr. Choate did not hesitate to say that it had created "a court in name only."

Among the causes which have prevented a more frequent use of the Hague tribunal, especially in cases of minor importance, Mr. Choate pointed to its expensiveness, and said: "It should be one element of reform that the expense of the court itself, including the salaries of the judges, shall be borne at common expense

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