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The "American Side" and the First Duty of Congress.

Upon any question of international law an opinion from Professor OPPENHEIM favorable to American interests or arguments would be heard in this country with the greatest respect. It would be conspicuously exhibited as strengthening a righteous cause. We confess that we do not see why the opinion of the occupant of the Whewell chair of international law in the University of Cambridge, and the author of the well known treatise that is accepted elsewhere as a leading authority on the subject, should have less weight here because it bears against the position recently assumed by some of our public men and a few of our newspapers regarding the repeal of the coast trade provision of the Panama Canal act of August 24, 1912, and, failing such repeal, the submission of the controversy to arbitration.

We therefore commend to the consideration of Senator O'GORMAN and the other members of the Senate Committee on Interoceanic Canals, as well as to the Senators and Representatives generally and to all members of the new Wilson Administration, a little book printed at the Cambridge University Press containing Dr. OPPENHEIM'S study of the Panama Canal conflict. The review is as impartial as it is clear and convincing. Nobody who reads it will imagine for an instant that the eminent writer's conclusions are affected by the circumstance that he is an Englishman. He is merely saying what THE SUN has been saying for nearly a year now, what Senator ROOT said in his memorable speech of January 21, what the preponderating intelligence and good faith of the republic have been urging for months, as illustrated in the remarkable collection of expressions of public sentiment for honest performance of treaty obligations recently obtained and published by Mr. ROBERT U. JOHNSON of the *Century Magazine*. In fact we insist that Professor OPPENHEIM is presenting the "American side" of the canal question, for we cannot conceive that the "American side" is other than that of loyal fulfilment of the American contract with Great Britain.

If arbitration were necessary there could be no more impressive argument for it than was contained in the letter of Mr. THOMAS WILLING BALCH of Philadelphia to THE SUN last September reminding his fellow countrymen of Great Britain's compliance, nearly half a century ago, with the American demand for an international tribunal to pass upon our Alabama claims. Professor OPPENHEIM reprints Mr. BALCH'S letter in full, referring to its author as "the worthy son of his father, who was the first to demand the settlement of the Alabama dispute by arbitration"—an event which marked an epoch in the history of the world's civilization.

But we do not believe that the majority of Americans want or expect the Panama question to go to arbitration. They want and expect the controversy to be settled in the promptest and most honorable way, by the voluntary repeal of the coastwise trade exemption clause of the canal act. They are hoping, with good reason, that this paramount duty of national honor will be urged upon the Congress soon to assemble by President WILSON with all the force he is able to put into propositions of supreme political and ethical importance.

The Tornado Stricken West.

In descriptions of the windstorms that have caused so many fatalities in the middle West the terms cyclone, tornado and hurricane are used indiscriminately in the despatches. The violent and widespread disturbance was not a hurricane, for that is identical with the "tropical cyclone" which occurs in the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico, generally from July to October and more often in August than in any other month of the period.

The great storm that destroyed most of Galveston on September 8, 1900, and cost that seaport 6,000 lives and damages to property estimated at $30,000,000 was a hurricane. In the China Sea such a death dealing wind is known as a typhoon and in the Philippines as a baguio. One of the most powerful descriptions of a sea cyclone ever written occurs in one of JOSEPH CONRAD'S books, "Lord Jim." The author wrote from perilous experiences in the tropics. If the storm that swooped down on Terre Haute Sunday night was like the sudden blast that ravaged Omaha it was a tornado, for we are told that "the vanguard of the storm was a huge fan shaped cloud, dark and lowering, which gradually narrowed into a funnel shaped cloud that dipped earthward and wherever it struck left a wake of death, injuries and wrecked homes." The tornado is the landspout. Mr. C. FITZHUGH TALMAN of the Weather Bureau, a competent authority on big storms, says that "the tornado is popularly miscalled a 'cyclone'." The "funnel shaped cloud" is not associated with the cyclone, which Mr. TALMAN defines as "a system of winds blowing around a centre of low barometric pressure," and he adds: "Besides its rotary motion, the cyclone as a whole has usually a more or less rapid translatory motion—the two motions may be compared with those of the earth, which rotates on its axis and at the same time revolves in its orbit around the sun." The low pressure centre of this storm moves at a rate of twenty to forty miles an hour.

A cyclone with its high winds devastates a wide area—it is a tremendous, terrifying blow with a steadiness not known to the tornado. The fury of the tornado, concealed in the funnel shaped cloud, is sudden, and there is no measuring the rate of the wind which dismantles every wooden building in its path and tears trees up by the roots. Usually the cyclone is preceded by an abnormal and unaccountable stillness of the atmosphere, which, however, is not clear. The tornado is usually a product of cloudy and thunderous conditions, and the formation of the funnel shaped vapor forged from the rack is the dreadful warning of disaster.

Authorities agree that the tornado is peculiar to the middle Western and Southern States of this country, occurring generally in the great Mississippi Valley. It is not pleasant to think that this part of the world is the breeding place of the tornado and that its ravages may be expected every year. Usually the tornado is a single explosion of the elements and the damage is grave enough; but in the present instance a series of tornadoes seems to have been loosed in the middle West and at a time of the year when floods are more to be feared. In widespread loss of life and destruction of property the great storm is without a parallel at this season.

The Pay of Ambassadors.

Mr. WILLIAM F. MCCOMBS has declined the French mission because, among other reasons, the expense of maintaining the dignity of the post was beyond his means. Fifteen years ago the compensation of the Ambassador to France was the same as it is to-day, $17,500. In the meantime the cost of living has almost doubled. No American can hold his own or make a respectable appearance in the diplomatic corps in Paris on such a sum. If he does not possess an ample private fortune he cannot even make both ends meet. Does his country expect him to borrow the difference between the salary and the cost of his establishment and return home burdened with debt?

In the last ten years the pay of members of Congress has been increased 50 per cent. They voted the addition themselves but allowed Ambassadors to serve their country at the old fixed remuneration of $17,500. Thus it has happened that only rich men could afford to accept an appointment from the President, and to find a man of merit and worth who had a private fortune and was willing to spend the whole or a part of his income in representing the United States was a problem not easily solved.

The principal European governments see that their diplomatic representatives in the United States are adequately paid and furnished with handsome legations. The British Ambassador to Washington receives £10,000 a year, or nearly three times as much as the United States allows its Ambassador in London. Congress understands perfectly that the Ambassador to London, or Paris or Berlin, cannot live on his salary, and that the United States really becomes his debtor cumulatively every year he serves. President WILSON is going through the usual experience of having his invitations declined, and by this time he must have resolved to use what influence he may have with Congress to obtain relief for the embassies.

Peace in the Balkans Near.

If the Powers have decided that Scutari shall be included in the new Albania, the siege of the town by the Montenegrins and Servians ceases to have any interest—in fact, there is no longer a reason why the investment should be continued. The Turkish garrison is spared the ignominy of capitulation, and the Allies must eat their humble pie. Under the circumstances the Austrian demands upon Montenegro relating to the conversion under duress of Catholics and Mohammedans pass into the diplomatic stage, and so of other demands made in a spirit of menace. It is idle to talk of an ultimatum when all danger of a resort to arms has vanished with the compromise between Austria and Russia, which was the basis of the agreement of the Powers.

The map making as reported gives Ipek, Prizrend, Debra and Jakova to Servia and Montenegro. The settlement in this part of the arena of conflict will make it easier for Greece and Bulgaria on one side and Turkey on the other to accept the delimitations elsewhere. It is so manifest that the Powers are in a position to dictate and that the Allies are not in a position to continue the war without mortgaging themselves indefinitely to the money lenders that peace appears to be only a question of days.

Is the Accused Criminal Too Greatly Favored?

The several measures for the simplification of the criminal law which are proposed by the Judges of General Sessions, the City Club and the Bar Association all have their origin in the opinion held by all prosecutors and policemen, by many Judges and by the public generally, that under present conditions a person charged with crime is too carefully protected in the courts. The innocence of the accused being assumed from the beginning, the law of the State has seriously handicapped the representatives of public order in their task of proving guilt.

None of the suggested changes would remove the assumption of innocence or relieve the State of the necessity of proving by affirmative evidence its contentions in any case. They deal with such matters as the consolidation of charges in one indictment and the removal of the prohibition which at present prevents the prosecutor from commenting on the refusal of the accused to testify in his own behalf. It is pointed out that even now in prosecution for assault, murder, burglary and rape each offence of a series may be included in one indictment, and the extension of this practice to other crimes would involve no novelty. Another proposed amendment would give to the court authority to compel two or more defendants accused of the same offence to be tried together, instead of leaving it optional with the alleged criminals, as is now the case.

As was proved when District Attorney JEROME obtained the enactment of the law under which patrons of gambling houses may be forced to testify for the State, there is a strong popular sentiment in favor of granting greater powers to the State in the prosecution of criminals. So far as has been disclosed nobody wants to give unfair advantage to the District Attorneys and the police. It is proposed that certain of the unfair advantages now afforded to criminals shall be taken from them, and to this no honest man will object.

The Familiar Tale Told to Governor Sulzer.

How familiar to those who take the trouble to read the dry as dust reports of inquirers into the administration of public affairs are these words from Governor SULZER'S Committee of Inquiry we need not recall:

"The business of the State can reasonably be said to be run without any systematic plan whatever.

"Each department is conducted as an independent enterprise, and there is no effort at cooperation, no point or place where the various activities of the State government concentrate."

And so on. The "printing law of the State of New York appears to have been especially well designed to promote extravagance and waste"; "the Comptroller's power of audit is limited to less than one-fourth of the expenditures of the State departments"; "the act creating this department [the State Athletic Commission] expressly provides that the expense of administration shall not exceed the sum of $5,000 a year, and the appropriations last year [$7,300] were in excess of the amount fixed by the statute"; these are fair examples of the committee's report, taken at random from its pages. The taxpayers' money comes easily through indirect taxes: it is spent no more carelessly by New York than by other governments.

The inquirers recommend the establishment of a Department of Efficiency and Economy. We agree with Governor SULZER that efficiency and economy are desirable, but the creation of a new department is another matter. Could not the Comptroller's jurisdiction be extended to put on his shoulders responsibility for ordinarily intelligent expenditure of State funds?

Architecture in the Gineral Court.

Some time after 10:30 this morning the fate of an already much disfigured monument of Boston architecture is to be settled; and what little of the æsthetic reputation of Boston is left will be saved or lost. The State House, much tampered with and spoiled by enlargements in its hundred and odd years of life since it was erected according to the plans of CHARLES BULFINCH, a venerable if modest name, is now to be bedevilled with two marble wings, and it is proposed by the unpainted savages of the Committee on State House and Library to paint or face "the Bulfinch Front," a poor surviving pittance of days of better taste, to harmonize with the marmorean horror of the unbuilt wings. The lofty object of the change is to make the building "homogeneous," a word probably not twelve men in the Gineral Court know how to pronounce.

Painting that good old face; putting a marble or light stone white upon that honest old Front! The Gilded Dome turns pale and the Sacred Codfish flaps his tutelar tail in mingled mirth and agony.

The Boston Society of Architects unanimously objects to this "fatal mutilation of the Bulfinch Front." What does the Gineral Court care about architects? The connoisseurs of the Gineral Court believe white marble indispensable, just as the late Hon. T. C. PLATT could not conceive or stomach a Federal public building without a dome. Cold, like the feet and temperament of Massachusetts; staring, like New England at the stranger within her gates; endeared by congenial gravestones and occasional monuments in the burying ground, the centre of social recreation, why should not white marble be precious to the Gineral Court "mind"?

Nor let any rash friend of antiquity, character and heterogeneity of building break his head if the Bulfinch Front is profaned and ruined. Boston will still have the Front of Honey FITZ.

No marriage on less than $5 a day.—*Professor* T. N. CARVER *of Harvard University.*

A minimum wage for Dan Cupid?

A marriage club has been formed among the Wellesley College girls pledging its members to wed no one whose income is less than $5,000. The object of the club, it is stated, is "to decrease the number of divorces and matrimonial failures." The aim of the young ladies is entirely laudable, but it is perhaps an open question whether a frankly commercial basis is quite the ideal one on which to found a new era of conjugal felicity.

According to the *Asahi* of Tokio, Japan has abandoned her plan to build eight dreadnoughts, eight battle cruisers, sixteen scouts and forty-eight destroyers to cost £54,000,000 in a period of years, and will be content with an expansion to eight dreadnoughts, four battle cruisers, eight scouts and forty destroyers, the cost of which would be £36,500,000. It is admitted that Japan cannot afford the greater outlay, her economic condition being critical.

City water is not good enough for the members of the Bronx Parkway Commission to drink during the hours they devote to public business, but the special water paid for by the city on requisition of the Department of Education is not intended for the children in the public schools. City water of the kind their parents drink is sufficiently wholesome for the infants.

Maple sugar shortage feared.—*Headline.*

Fortunately the supply of "maple syrup" is not dependent upon the eccentricities of sap. Brown the buckwheats and pour on the poetically named stuff. In the best times maple sugar can usually prove an alibi.

Is it indiscreet to ask if the managers of the Third International Congress of Refrigeration have sent an invitation to the Hon. VICTOR MURDOCK?

IN COLORADO.

Contradictory Testimony as to the Workings of Woman Suffrage.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Having seen Mrs. Arthur Hunter's reply to the most excellent letter of Mr. George Calvert published in THE SUN, I wish to add my testimony in corroboration of all that he has said. As I have lived in Colorado twenty-six years I know that the conditions described by Mr. Calvert do exist. I have been a member of the Juvenile Court of El Paso county for over four years.

Woman's suffrage has not put one law on the statute books beneficial to women or children, and the laws for their protection are far better in the State of Massachusetts than any we have in Colorado.

I am thoroughly opposed to suffrage, for with Mr. Calvert I cannot point to any advatage gained to women by its exercise.

ELIZABETH CASS GODDARD.
COLORADO SPRINGS, March 18.

The Other Side.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Having been a citizen of Colorado for several years and having noted the effects of woman suffrage I very much disapproved of the letter signed George Calvert. I therefore wrote to the Denver Chamber of Commerce enclosing his letter and have received a reply from the secretary as follows, confirming my ideas:

"He [Mr. Calvert] claims to quote some statistics. Where he could have got them I do not know. Some of them certainly are entirely false and without foundation. For instance, he says that in this State we are putting on the statute books a lot of silly and unpractical laws and that the churches are being used as political organs and agencies.

"Colorado's laws and lawmakers rank among the foremost of any in the Union and her school system is unsurpassed. This is attributed largely to the fact that the women of Colorado take a very keen interest in our educational system and through suffrage are allowed to vote on the things which control it.

"I will say merely that we have noticed none of the evils which Mr. Calvert lays such stress upon and if they are true we do not attribute them to the fact that the women of this State are allowed to vote."

BROOKLYN, March 24. LEWIS BROWN.

Exactly in the Ancient Way.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A Paris paper says that a Judge dealing with a breach of promise case declared that marriages as a rule are based on merely financial considerations. The man is on the lookout for the dowry, while the woman buys a protector and trustee for her property.

Whether this is true or not in France, one would be sorry to think that "love and bread and cheese" unions had entirely disappeared. Just as there is no satisfactory substitute for bread and butter at tea time, so is there no satisfactory substitute for the animating cause of marriage, the grand passion, and doubtless the bulk of marriages are still for love, although it is true that by a strange perversity of Providence the plain woman with money will appeal to many a noble minded man. Personal attractions may appear horribly unsubstantial and feeble substitutes for a hundred thousand dollars, and yet how many men would accept this sum on condition no woman would ever care for them?

Money is of no use unless to make some woman glad, and the best plan of life is to see what you can do without so as to make some one else happy. In the matter of clothes, for instance, ladies cannot possess too many, and even then they never have anything fit to wear. The general idea of every woman is that she looks "a fright," but there would be many more marriages if fathers and mothers would let their daughters' sweethearts believe that the girls were accustomed to a very small supply of clothes.

Anyway a sweet face and a brave, constant heart will produce even in these days more solid comfort and joy than a million of money in a mouldy bank book.

NEW YORK, March 24. NEM. CON.

A Great New Zealand Waterfall.

From the Westminster Gazette.

With regard to the discovery of a waterfall in the Tangarahau district, New Zealand, by a Government survey party headed by Mr. Larkin, more detailed accounts show that the location is about ten miles in a direct line from Mangaroa, Ohura. The fall is about thirty feet wide and has a clean straight drop of 800 feet. The roar is described as deafening, and the sight as of a most awe inspiring character.

Art Note.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If any curiosity hunter failed to see the cubist exhibit, my advice is go to the schoolboy art exhibit. Some of it is beautiful and some of it might cause one to suspect that "Futurism" may have a past, and that "Cubism" may be hardly on the square.

NEW YORK, March 24. ARTHUR GOADBY.

The Dilemma of Jones.

Knicker—What's the matter with Jones?

Bocker—He wants the job, but he is afraid he won't look big enough for it unless he declines it.

Getting His Money's Worth.

Argus exulted.

"Grand!" he cried. "I can see what goes on in all the circus rings at once."

The Stringency of Suffrage.

I thought that I, despite the wheedling fair,
A bachelor existence sure could brook,
Dwell in dull rooms up many a weary stair
Nor cast upon the "sex" one longing look.

But now, alas! to hopeless love a prey,
In life I'm doomed to play a minor part,
To sigh my very stupid soul away
And waste my passion on a marble heart.

I thought that in that bosom there was locked
A heart which shuddered at the name of flirt
I thought those hands a cradle might have rocked
Or sewed the buttons on a husband's shirt.

But who so bold as venture to presage
The fate with which we shall be blest or curst,
For woman's the same mystery to this age
She was to Signor Adam at the first.

I pressed my suit, but she, the saucy miss,
Laughed, apropos of woman's bent to-day,
"The suffrage you are bound to give in this,
You've put the question, and my vote is 'Nay!'"

LA TOUCHE HANCOCK.

CALL LOAN RATES.

Futile Attempt at Albany to Substitute State for Economic Law.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A bill is now before the Legislature to prevent high rates for demand loans on the Stock Exchange. Abnormal fluctuations in interest rates are an evil, but any attempt to stop them by law will be as futile as attempting to stamp out smallpox by cutting the marks of the disease from the faces of the afflicted. Laws regulating interest rates are a relic of the Dark Ages. Even the enlightened Commonwealth of New York has a usury law, although in many of the States and in most civilized countries they have been wiped off the statute books.

An antiquated, unscientific banking system is the fundamental cause of the extreme fluctuations in call loan rates. Excessive speculation on a small margin of capital by persons unfitted by temperament to assume speculative risks is now stimulated by a bad banking system which forces country bank deposits into Wall Street and then forces the big reserve banks to favor Wall Street loans as against trade loans as a reservoir for these deposits.

Banks have two principal reserves against their demand liabilities:

1. Gold and other money.
2. Short time loans easily convertible into cash.

The United States is the only country that makes loans to speculators the basis of the secondary reserves of the banks. Other countries, with scientific banking systems, make loans to commerce, trade and industry, that is, loans directly to the agents of production, the basis of the secondary reserves.

It is not the fault of the banks or bankers of this country that they loan hundreds of millions of dollars on Stock Exchange collateral at 3 per cent. at the same time that they are charging merchants and manufacturers 5 or 6 per cent. It is the fault of the unscientific banking system. The banks do not like the system, they would welcome its reform.

The investigation of the Monetary Commission in April, 1909, showed that the loans of the 153 New York banks were divided as follows:

Collateral loans	$1,253,000,000
Commercial loans	479,000,000
Real estate loans	87,000,000
Total	$1,829,000,000

The collateral loans at that time were thus divided:

Call loans	727,000,000
Time loans	536,000,000
Total	$1,263,000,000

The special report to the Congressional Money Trust Committee shows that the loans on Stock Exchange securities by thirty-two of the larger New York banks, for themselves and their correspondents, ranged in 1912 from $660,000,000 to $800,000,000. At the same time the deposits of country banks with these banks ranged from $480,000,000 to $550,000,000.

Our national bank laws provide that a proportion of the reserves of interior banks, three-fifths of country bank reserves and one-half of reserve city bank reserves, may be deposited with central reserve city banks and still count as reserves in the interior banks. The New York banks pay 2 per cent. on these deposits. This system of redepositing reserves causes a huge concentration of cash in New York. The New York banks normally carry 30 per cent. of all the bank cash in the country. One-seventh of all the money in the country is in the New York banks.

It is but natural that the idle money of a country will drift to a central financial city, which will act as a national clearing centre. The cash of England drifts to London just as the cash of the United States drifts to New York. And only by such a centralization of bank reserves can the machinery of credit be effectively controlled. In other leading banking countries the centralization of reserves is much more pronounced than here.

But a system that forces the New York banks to employ much more than half their funds in loans on Stock Exchange securities around 3 per cent., while merchants and manufacturers are paying 5 or 6 per cent. for money, is a bad banking system. It stimulates to an unhealthy extent the use of liquid capital in speculative ventures, and it accentuates the evils of crises.

Why must New York banks favor Stock Exchange loans to commercial loans and thus place a premium on speculation? A New York bank holding deposits payable on demand must keep its funds liquid; that is, it must keep them in such form that they can be quickly turned into cash. Call loans on the Stock Exchange are liquid, that is, they are liquid in theory. It is notorious that call loans are not liquid in times of financial panic; then they cannot, they must not be called. But, except in times of panic, call loans are liquid, and they furnish the only large market in which New York banks can keep their funds with the assurance that they can be converted into cash on short notice.

When the New York banks, holding the final banking reserves of the country, are called upon by the rest of the country, as they have been in every great crisis, to uphold the structure of credit by freely supplying cash and loans, they must dig deep into their secondary reserves (call loans), and disastrous liquidation of these loans on the Stock Exchange is the inevitable consequence.

How different is the situation abroad! In England, where banking practices most closely resemble our own, the secondary reserves of the banks are not loans on the speculative exchanges, but loans based on goods moving in trade. In England and on the Continent a broad, liquid market has been developed for the promises to pay of industry, commerce and trade. These bills of exchange rank side by side with British consols and other Government guaranteed securities in the quick assets of banks. They have an international market. They can be shifted from London to Berlin, from Berlin to Paris and to other financial centres. They are constantly liquidating themselves, because the goods on which they are based are constantly being consumed. In fact they are more liquid than Government securities; immeasurably more so than loans on stocks and bonds on the speculative exchanges.

The crying need in this country is a broad market for commercial promises to pay, which will enable the big reserve banks to keep their secondary reserves in the form which years of European experience have proved so far superior to our own practice.

As Mr. Paul Warburg recently told the bankers of the country, Wall Street is continually "sitting on a dynamite keg," and will continue to do so, excepting on those periodical occasions when the keg explodes, until a bill market is substituted for a call loan market for the secondary bank reserves. And this can be brought about only by revision of the national banking laws.

Meanwhile any attempts of our law makers at Albany, however well meant they may be, to substitute State law for economic law in the regulation of call loan rates must inevitably result in failure.

FRANK FAYANT.
FORT PLAIN, March 24.

An Impudent Nutmeg.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It has been reported in this city that the detectives have found the hole that the burglars made in the cellar of Simons the pawnbroker. Any truth in it?

HARTFORD, Conn., March 24. CURIOSITY.

In the *Century Magazine* for April Royal Cortissoz writes about the post-impressionists, Robert Hichens and Jules Guérin visit Athens, and J. Bliss describes the Holy Land. There are papers on the reconstruction period by Clark Howell, Hilary A. Herbert and George F. Edmunds, on the possible capture of New York by P. B. Malone, on European politics by A. Tardieu, on realism in fiction by W. L. Phelps, on French spinsters by W. M. Fullerton and on servants by Annie P. Call. Mrs. Burnett's serial is continued, the reprinted tale is by Bret Harte and there are three short stories, six poems and pictures of Southern homes and of P. Manship's sculpture.

BANK BRANCHES ABROAD.

Exporters Believe President Wilson Intends to Take This Action.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—Government officials and others who have devoted themselves to the expansion of American trade abroad are awaiting with great interest details of President Wilson's plan for legislation which will give American exporters and contractors banking facilities needed to put them on a level with their foreign competitors.

Those who have been studying this question believe President Wilson's promise to this effect, contained in his statement regarding Chinese policy means the amendment of the national banking laws to permit the establishment of branches of American banks in foreign countries.

The export trade of the United States now amounts to more than $1,000,000,000. Practically all of this enormous trade is financed through foreign banking houses. In the absence of any American banks abroad exporters and their customers have no recourse except to do business through the banks of other nationalities. This operates to the great disadvantage of American trade interests.

In South America, which is the field in which American export trade is now enjoying the greatest increase, the lack of American banks is felt keenly. The business rivals of the Americans, that is the English, German and French exporters, all finance their South American business through branches of British, German and French banks in South America.

Through these banks likewise must pass all the commercial paper of the American trying to sell goods in South America. The competitors of Americans have been found to be without scruple in using to their own advantage all the confidential information about American business transactions which necessarily pass through the foreign banks. Many a man has found these leaks through the foreign banks to be disastrous to his business ventures in South America.

Samuel McRoberts, vice-president of the National City Bank of New York, has suggested the creation of a new class of banks which will be privileged under Federal supervision to establish branches abroad and do an international business. He would grant such banks the privilege of making time acceptance of foreign drafts.

The power to lend credit and the amount of outstanding guarantees could be restricted easily, he believes, under Federal control. Examinations could be made by Consuls as deputy examiners under the present bank system. The strict Federal supervision of the banks, Mr. McRoberts believes, would prevent the banks from embarrassing the Government in its foreign relations.

SUBWAYS DINNER ON APRIL 18.

Movers in Big Plan to Be Guests of Foremost New Yorkers

Men who had a hand in giving the city a new subway system will be the guests at a dinner on April 18 at the Waldorf. John D. Crimmins is chairman of the committee in charge. At his suggestion a body of citizens met yesterday at the office of Robert E. Dowling, 165 Broadway, and made preliminary arrangements. The guests will include the members of the Board of Estimate, the Public Service Commission, William R. Willcox, former chairman of the commission, and Seth Low.

Those who attended the meeting in Mr. Dowling's office yesterday or responded by letter were:

John D. Crimmins	Herman Ridder
John Claflin	Howard Carroll
Robert W. de Forest	Thomas Dimond
Robert E. Dowling	Allan Robinson
James Speyer	Robert Goelet
Felix M. Warburg	Vincent Astor
William Church Osborn	Joseph P. Day
Henry R. Towne	Charles E. Finlay
Henry Morgenthau	Archibald R. Watson
Samuel Rea	Morgan J. O'Brien
Theodore F. Miller	Harry J. Luce
William H. Williams	Clinton R. James
E. H. Outerbridge	William S. Van Clief
Darwin P. Kingsley	Thomas M. Mulry
Charles A. Peabody	Edward C. Blum
William A. Day	Michael Coleman
Cleveland H. Dodge	Robert E. Simon

MISS STRACHAN FAVORS BILLS.

Teachers' Head Urges That McKee Legislation Be Passed.

Miss Grace C. Strachan, a district superintendent in the public schools and president of the Interborough Association of Women Teachers, sent a circular letter to the members of the Legislature yesterday appealing to them on behalf of the "largest association of teachers in the world" to vote for the McKee-Blauvelt bills now before that body.

The bills take away power from the board of superintendents and confer it upon the Board of Education. The Board of Education has approved the bills.

Miss Strachan says she has 33,000 public school children under her personal supervision and that their welfare and proper schooling demand the passage of the bills.

MITCHEL GOES TO SEE WILSON.

Nothing Political, It Is Said, in Visit to the President.

John Purroy Mitchel, President of the Board of Aldermen, and Henry Bruere, director of the Bureau of Municipal Research, went to Washington last night for a talk with President Wilson on municipal government. They said there was no political significance in the trip.

Mr. Bruere said that they were not going to Washington to advocate the establishment there of the bureau's efficiency system, but if Mr. Wilson wanted to start something of that sort that was another matter.

INFLUENZA LESS EPIDEMIC.

City Death Rate Is Still Higher Than in 1912.

One thousand, six hundred and eighty-five deaths were reported last week, with a death rate of 16.36 per 1,000, against 1,534 deaths, with a rate of 15.47, for the week before.

The increase is due to epidemic influenza, first noticeable in February, but now beginning to wane. Pneumonia has increased because of the influenza.

The death rate for the first twelve weeks of 1913 was 15.78, as against 15.60 in 1912, an increase of .18 of a point.

PROCTOR GIVES TO HARVARD.

Essex and Peabody Get $5,000 Each by Salem Man's Will.

BOSTON, March 24.—Several public bequests to take effect on the death of his mother are made in the will of Abel H. Proctor, who died at Salem on March 6.

Five thousand dollars will go to the Essex Institute of Salem, $5,000 to the Peabody Academy of Science of Salem, and $50,000 to Harvard, to be added to the fund of Ellen Osborn Proctor for the study of chronic diseases.

Mikado Honors C. P. Bryan.

CHICAGO, March 24.—Charles Page Bryan of Chicago, former Ambassador to Japan, who is now in California, has received the grand cordon of the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun, the highest Japanese decoration, according to information received in Chicago to-night.

COLOMBIAN CONSUL TAKES KNOX TO TASK

Francisco Escobar Raps Ex-Secretary for "Spoliation of Panama."

CRITICISES HIS REPORT

Says Present Administration Is Expected to Remove "Blot on Honor of U. S."

In an open letter to ex-Secretary of State Philander C. Knox Francisco Escobar, Colombian Consul-General at New York, accuses Mr. Knox of being "one of Mr. Roosevelt's partners in the spoliation of Panama" and adds that the former Secretary of State has "stopped at nothing, not even at the misinformation of Congress, in order to minimize the blot placed upon the honor of the United States and which all Latin America expects to see removed by the present Administration."

Señor Escobar writes that Mr. Knox, in his report to President Taft which the President sent to Congress on March 1 last, "deliberately created" a wrong impression by stating that the Colombian Government "has never to this day presented anything even approaching a question justiciable by arbitration." To sustain his contention that this statement of Mr. Knox was untrue Señor Escobar quotes at length from a note sent by Señor Don Diego Mendoza, Minister of Colombia, to Secretary of State Root on April 6, 1906.

This note compared the Colombian claims regarding Panama with the Alabama claims, said that the action taken by the British Government "is one of the greatest honors achieved" by that Government and suggested that "a similar honor can now be achieved by the United States." Then the note, as quoted by Señor Escobar, sets forth seven specific points regarding Colombia's right of sovereignty over Panama and invites arbitration.

Señor Escobar also calls attention to a paragraph in Mr. Knox's report in which the then Secretary of State said:

"Within forty-eight hours from the proclamation of Panama independence the last vestige of Colombian authority on the isthmus had disappeared, and the people of Panama through the unanimous vote of the municipalities had ratified the republic."

This, says Senor Escobar, is "unqualifiedly false." He writes that Panama was recognized by the United States "seventy-two hours after the fake rebellion, at a time when no elections had been held, when she had no Constitutional Assembly, when the news of the so-called independence had not reached any of the populous towns of the interior." The news didn't reach many of the towns until a month later, says Senor Escobar, and then it was brought by United States warships cruising along the coast. He adds:

"The unanimous vote of the municipalities of which you, Mr. Knox, Speaker was only obtained in the case of the township of David, on December 8, 1903, under the guns of United States steamship Concord, as appears from Admiral Glass's official report."

Taking up Mr. Knox's statement that the President of Colombia helped to bring about the rejection of the Hay-Herran treaty, by "failing even to recommend for approval a treaty signed under the explicit directions of its President on behalf of the sovereign State by its empowered agent," Senor Escobar writes:

"As a matter of fact, when Charge d'Affaires Herran was inveigled into signing the treaty by William Nelson Cromwell the following cable was actually on its way from President Marroquin of Colombia to Mr. Herran at Washington: 'Do not sign canal treaty. You will receive instructions in letter of to-day.'"

A paragraph in Mr. Knox's report in which he speaks of the "attribute of self-government" which Panama "regained" brings the comment from Señor Escobar that "the right of Panama to secede from Colombia was exactly on all fours with the right of the States of the Confederacy to secede from the Union."

The Consul-General also attacks Mr. Knox's statement that negotiations for the Cortez-Root-Arosemena treaties "were proposed by the Government of Colombia itself," saying that this statement is "in direct contradiction to the official record."

Señor Escobar writes that he has noted "a few of the most glaring inaccuracies in your report," and adds:

"I take the liberty of rectifying them as much on behalf of historical accuracy as in defence of my country, which has so long suffered from the unexpected and cowardly usurpation to which Mr. Roosevelt confessed in his speech at Berkeley, Cal., on March 23, 1911, when he said:

"'I am interested in the Panama Canal because I started it. If I had followed traditional conservative methods I should have submitted a dignified State paper of probably 200 pages to the Congress and the debate would have been going on yet. But I took the Canal Zone and let Congress debate, and while the debate goes on the canal does also.'"

JOHN S. WILLIAMS SWORN IN.

Virginia Banker Becomes Assistant Secretary of Treasury.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—John Skelton Williams of Richmond, Va., railroad man and banker, was sworn in to-day as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. He succeeded Robert C. Bailey in charge of the division of finances.

Robert W. Wooley of Kentucky is slated as successor of Sherman Allen as another Assistant Secretary. The successor of James F. Curtis, the present ranking Assistant Secretary in charge of the customs, has not yet been made.

While Richard Parr has been strongly indorsed for Collector of the Port of New York, Secretary McAdoo is not prepared to make an announcement. Obadiah Gardner of Maine is slated for the office of Collector of the Port at Portland, Me.

Students Hiking to New York.

PHILADELPHIA, March 24.—Thirteen University of Pennsylvania students, comprising the "Hardship Club," started this morning on a hike to New York. Headed by William J. Comie, university gymnasium director, and Oscar E. Gerney, his assistant, they expect to average thirty miles a day, arriving in New York on Wednesday. Each walker carried a heavy umbrella to be used as an alpine stick.

Hilles Pays Respects to Wilson.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—Charles D. Hilles, chairman of the Republican National Committee, who was secretary to ex-President Taft, called at the White House to pay his respects to President Wilson to-day.

Taft to Come North Next Sunday.

AUGUSTA, Ga., March 24.—Ex-President Taft and his party will leave next Sunday for the North, Mr. Taft going direct to New Haven, where he will assume his duties as Kent professor of law