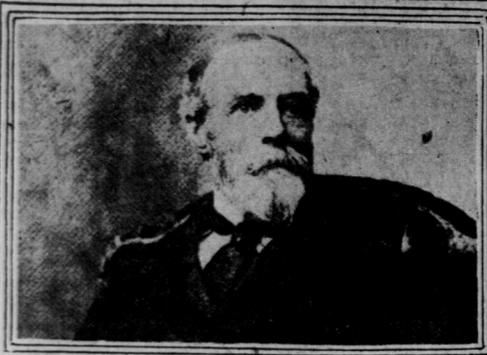


AMONG OUR EMBASSIES IN EUROPE

OFFICIAL HOMES OF OUR AMBASSADORS
PALATIAL SURROUNDINGS SUSTAINED

IN LONDON, BERLIN AND ST. PETERSBURG.
BY PRIVATE MEANS.



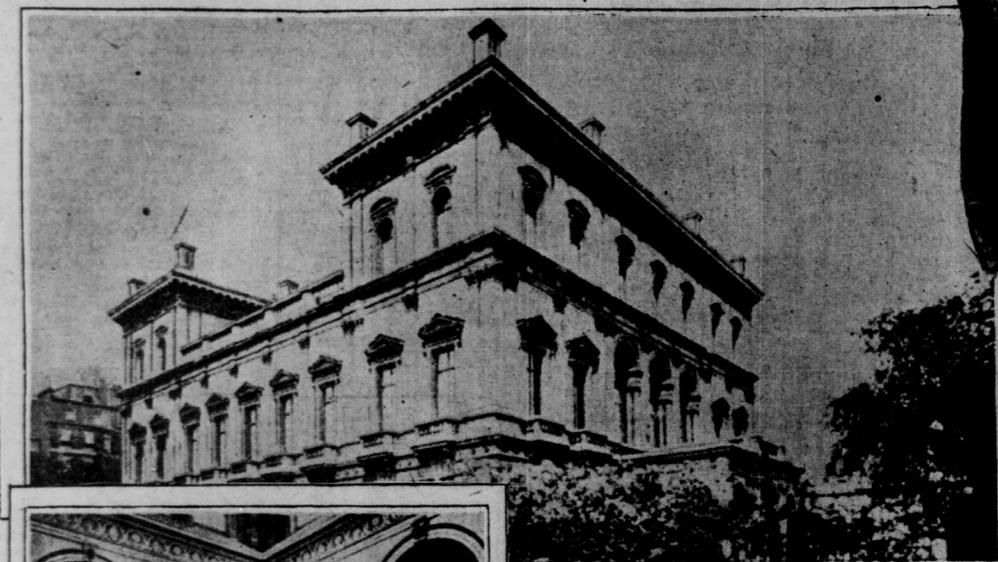
WHITELAW REID PHOTO BY A DUPONT.



KRIEGHOFF



GEORGE VON L. MEYER PHOTO BY ELMER CHICKERING



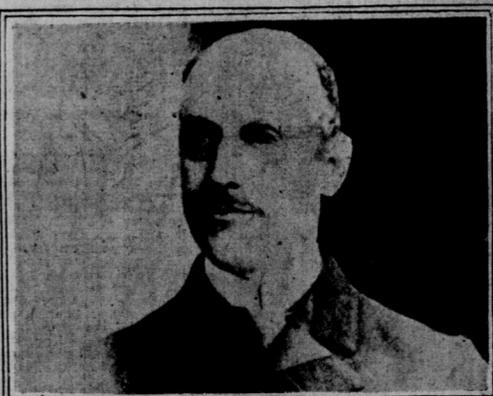
DORCHESTER HOUSE PARK LANE



RECEPTION ROOM, KLEINMICHEL PALACE



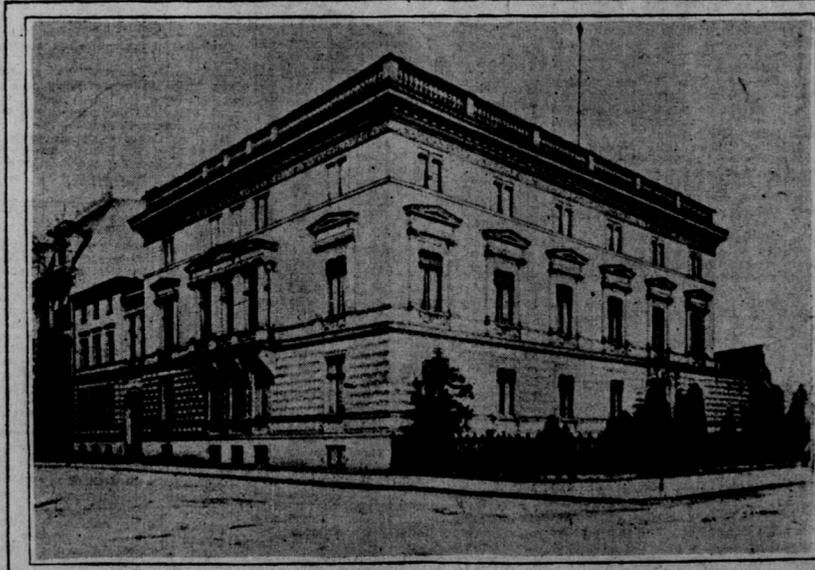
STAIRCASE DORCHESTER HOUSE



CHARLEMAGNE TOWER



KLEINMICHEL PALACE, ST. PETERSBURG



AMERICAN EMBASSY BERLIN RESIDENCE OF CHARLEMAGNE TOWER

THE days of extreme republican simplicity in the homes of United States envoys abroad have passed. The economic shabbiness which formerly caused many a lip to curl with contempt at foreign courts exists no longer, as Uncle Sam's diplomatic representatives are now housed as sumptuously as are those of any other nation. Entertaining by public officials abroad is quite conducive to the good will of nations, as similar courtesies between individuals are to good business relations. For instance, the acquisition of the beautiful Kleinmichel palace in St. Petersburg by George von Lengerke Meyer undoubtedly brought the growing importance of the United States as a world power more forcibly before the eyes of the ruling classes in Russia and certainly was not without its influence in facilitating President Roosevelt's efforts to induce the Czar's Government to treat for peace with Japan.

Of all the American Embassies who have thus enhanced the dignity and importance of their country in the minds of foreigners, Whitelaw Reid, envoy to the Court of St. James, has the most palatial residence and is in the best position to entertain even royalty. It was Mr. Reid who first set the example of renting princely houses in 1899, when as Minister to France he leased the famous Paris residence of the Comte de Grammont, on the corner of the avenue Hoche and the rue Beaubaton, a beautiful palace which was, some years later, taken at the expense of the French Government for the use of the King of Siam during his sojourn in the capital. Now Mr. Reid, like many members of the British aristocracy, has two mansions, one in town and the other in the country for occupancy during the winter when London is dark and dreary.

Few private residences in the English metropolis can equal Dorchester House, which Mr. Reid has just leased. Its only rivals are Stafford House, Grosvenor House, Bridgewater House, Lansdowne House, Devonshire House and Apsley House. In location it excels all the others, standing in Park Lane, the combined Fifth Avenue and Champs Elysees of London, opposite the Stanhope gate of Hyde Park, by which many of the fashionable equipages of the West End enter for their afternoon drives. It is at the apex of a triangle formed by Park Lane, South street and Dean street, in the heart of the aristocratic section of the city, not far from Buckingham Palace. It was leased from Captain George Lindsay Holford, squerry to King Edward, and was built by Captain Holford's father about fifty years ago, being a modern edifice in

comparison with most of the other London palaces, more comfortable and better arranged. Its interior appointments have been renovated from time to time, so that its sanitary arrangements are perfect, and it has been thoroughly redecorated for Mr. Reid's occupancy. Its facade, approached from the Deanery Crescent, leading toward Hill street and Berkeley square, is almost imposing, and the central hall is one of the handsomest in London, being rivaled only by that of Stafford House. The grand staircase of marble is reported to have cost \$150,000. There is a large picture gallery, and valuable works of art are also distributed about the house in all the large rooms. There is a library with one of the most costly collections of rare books to be found in England. Its treasures, in fact, are too priceless to be frequently handled and are constantly kept under glass. Many of the volumes can be matched only in the British Museum and the Bodleian Library.

Dorchester House is especially well adapted to entertaining, from its commanding site. In the fashionable section, its massive size and large and well arranged rooms. The drawing-room and ballroom are well lighted and spacious. One of the most notable decorations is a splendid mantelpiece supported by the crouching figures of nude caryatids. Though full of artistic treasures belonging to a private owner, the contents of this magnificent mansion are pretty well known to the public, owing to the courtesy of Captain Holford, who was always ready to open Dorchester House to art lovers on certain mornings of the week, and who seldom refused requests for the exhibition of his pictures at Burlington House, the Guildhall and other galleries. Consequently the masterpieces on the walls of the picture gallery, drawing-room, dining-room and other apartments are well known. Among them are two early works of Velasquez in perfect condition. One is a life size portrait of Philip IV in buff doublet over chain armor and the other is a large portrait of the painter's patron at court, the Duke Olivares, the Prime Minister responsible for the loss of vast possessions of the Spanish dominions.

Naturally such a house requires a large staff of servants. Captain Holford, when he occupied it, had as many as twelve men and a score of women to keep the establishment in proper condition. A still larger retinue was engaged by the British Government when it rented the building for the use of the Shah of Persia on his visit to England some years ago. The stables of Dorchester House will also require a number of grooms, as Mr. Reid's equipages are surpassed in elegance of appointment only by those of royalty

itself. He has taken over several of his own horses and others have been added to his stable abroad. His head coachman is William Brown, who served in the same capacity for Messrs. Lowell, Phelps, Lincoln, Bayard and Hay when they represented the United States at the Court of St. James. Brown when a stable lad was in the service of the late Lord John Russell, Prime Minister of England. Dorchester House was selected by Mr. Carter of the United States Embassy, who acted for Mr. Reid, after receiving several offers and looking over half a dozen houses. The amount of the rental has not been made public. One report had it that the sum is \$45,000, but a recent statement in the Tribune, evidently authorized by Mr. Reid, declared the printed estimates to be "wild guesses," and stated that neither Captain Holford nor Mr. Carter had any intention of satisfying public curiosity on this point. Leases of this kind are complex and have to be drawn up at the embassies, after consultation with the imperial and local authorities. As the British Ambassador in Washington is relieved from taxation an approach to reciprocity is made

in London. When the United States Ambassador takes a house a portion of the rates is relaxed by arrangement between the imperial Government and the local authorities, the remainder alone being levied against the property while it is occupied by the Ambassador. Mr. Reid's English country house is the late Earl Cowper's seat, Wrest Park, near Ampthill, Bedfordshire, where the Ambassador and his family will soon take up their residence for the winter and entertain lavishly. Wrest Park is a fine place of 700 acres, on which there is good shooting. The mansion is almost as large as Dorchester House and is richly furnished and well equipped with everything necessary for the entertainment and comfort of house parties. Charlemagne Tower, United States Ambassador to Germany, has also chosen one of the finest private buildings in the capital to which he is accredited for his official residence. This palace, belonging to a nobleman of high rank, is situated on the Konigsplatz, Berlin, just opposite the Reichstag building and the colossal Bismarck statue. Of plain yet impressively substantial exterior, its interior is

dence as Ambassador to Italy, has since his appointment to Russia, leased the famous Kleinmichel palace already referred to. It is an imposing structure, situated on the fashionable Serghievskain, near the Franch and other Embassies. Its interior contains some of the finest decorations in St. Petersburg. The palace has been the scene in the past of many famous entertainments at which the imperial family have attended. Its exterior, decorated with huge carved blocks of ice, deftly lighted up by electric lights, in these occasions, presented a most artistic appearance. In the library are some historical paintings by the Countess Kleinmichel, and from his frame in the big room known as the armory the famous Minister, Kleinmichel, confidential adviser of Emperor Nicholas, often looks down upon scenes of gayety unparalleled in Europe. The family was annihilated by Catherine the Great. Since the death of Count Kleinmichel his widow has leased the palace.

George von Lengerke Meyer, who brought eclat to the United States Embassy in Rome during his official residence as Ambassador to Italy, has since his appointment to Russia, leased the famous Kleinmichel palace already referred to. It is an imposing structure, situated on the fashionable Serghievskain, near the Franch and other Embassies. Its interior contains some of the finest decorations in St. Petersburg. The palace has been the scene in the past of many famous entertainments at which the imperial family have attended. Its exterior, decorated with huge carved blocks of ice, deftly lighted up by electric lights, in these occasions, presented a most artistic appearance. In the library are some historical paintings by the Countess Kleinmichel, and from his frame in the big room known as the armory the famous Minister, Kleinmichel, confidential adviser of Emperor Nicholas, often looks down upon scenes of gayety unparalleled in Europe. The family was annihilated by Catherine the Great. Since the death of Count Kleinmichel his widow has leased the palace.



SALON, BERLIN EMBASSY