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## NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS

### Uncle Sam's "Shirt-Sleeve" Diplomacy



WASHINGTON.—Long strides toward removing diplomatic posts from rewards for political service have been made during President Harding's administration, according to a report issued by the committee on foreign service of the National Civil Service Reform league.

The report says the first year "seems to indicate that an earnest effort has been made to retain the services of men of experience and to appoint to diplomatic posts persons with qualifications in diplomacy."

The committee reports that five of the nine ambassadors appointed by President Harding were men with previous experience in diplomacy.

Six of the thirty ministers now serving in the diplomatic corps, the committee found, were appointed on the basis of their experience and eight were men appointed during previous

administrations, but were retained by President Harding.

Four ambassadors, sixteen ministers, two agents and one minister resident and consul general appointed by President Harding, the report says, were persons without any previous diplomatic experience.

"While many of the 23 appointments made of persons without previous diplomatic experience operated as a recognition of political obligations," the report states, "the evil of such appointments is largely abated by the present administration and contrasts favorably with the records of the first year of other administrations."

For this record, President Harding and Secretary Hughes are to be commended. President Harding is furthermore deserving of commendation in that he had selected for secretary of state a man of the highest qualifications and one devoted to the merit principle.

The committee reported a still better showing, "an unequal record of adherence to the merit system" in its examination of appointments in the consular service. There has been during the first 15 months of the present administration, the report states, "not a single exception to the rules requiring appointments through examinations in the consular service."

### Has Uncle Forgotten He Bought 'Em?

DO YOU remember that Uncle Sam purchased of Denmark in 1917 for \$25,000,000 the Virgin Islands, with an area of 142 square miles and a population of 26,051? Well, if you do, that's more than Uncle Sam does, according to the Virgin Islanders.

Anyway, a delegation of three from the Virgin Islands called at the White House recently and arranged for a conference, at which they hope to get the attention of this country directed to the troubles of our newly-acquired islands. The United States purchased the islands in order to keep them from falling into the hands of Germany. We placed a navy officer in charge, and seem to have all but forgotten the islanders and their islands. The delegates who have come to get a hearing insist that being under the Stars and Stripes is a hardship to them, instead of a privilege.

The original act of purchase provided that all residents of the islands would become citizens of the United States, unless they recorded their wish to remain Danish subjects. No provision was made for natives of the islands who previously had come to the United States or moved to other islands in the West Indies. They are



citizens of Denmark, under the present program, if they are citizens of any country, which some among them seem to doubt. They want that question settled, so that those who wish will be granted American citizenship.

The political troubles of the islanders are not causing them half so much worry as are their economic difficulties, largely the result of extending the eighteenth amendment to them. The manufacture of bay rum was one of the foremost industries of the islands under Danish rule. That has been killed under prohibition, as has been the manufacture of rum. They complain that the enforcement of our shipping regulations operates to bar Spanish vessels, and that the trade of the islands has been crippled.

### Where's the Hay Fever This Summer?



UNCLE SAM'S experts in several of the bureaus of the Agriculture department and the bureau of public health service of the Treasury department and the various medical bureaus of the War and Navy departments are puzzled over the momentous question: What has become of the sneeze artist this summer?

Expert victims of hay fever, who usually count upon receiving the commiseration of friends and relatives about this time of year, are for some unaccountable reason pursuing the even tenor of their ways without the aid of a battery of handkerchiefs and nostrums.

Of course, the disappointment is

not hard to bear, but the reason therefor is perplexing. The fact remains, however, that most of those who are every summer in the throes of hay fever and incipient asthma are strangely free from the universal ailment.

Many learned authorities have attempted to explain the nature of the singular malady, but your real hay fever addict takes no stock in technical descriptions. He knows that it comes periodically and leaves periodically, and that while it remains it is violently and explosively in evidence. He has the consolation of knowing that relief is near in the higher altitudes, but owing to the fact the necessity of making a living interferes with his freedom of action, that consolation has no practical value unless he can avail himself of it.

Some hay fever victims fall heir to the affliction in August, but veterans of the art acquire it early and lose it late. The dandelions start it and the frost ends it. This summer, however, unexpected relief has been vouchsafed and sneezing has not been at all popular.

### Sugar, Senate and Charges of Scandal

CHARGES of a two-sided scandal in connection with the sugar schedule of the tariff bill in the senate caused a furor that resulted in a general demand for an investigation.

Senator Pat Harrison (Dem., Miss.), who provoked the row, first charged that the United States government had attempted to intimidate Cuba into restricting her sugar crop for the year to 1,500,000 tons, so as to protect American cane and beet sugar producers from competition.

He accused Senator Smoot (Rep., Utah) of writing a letter to Major General Crowder, in Cuba, "proposing that if Cuba would reduce her crop to 2,500,000 tons, this country then would take under consideration the maintenance of a reduction in the present rates on sugar."

The Mississippi senator then read from a newspaper copy of a document purporting to reveal an agreement between certain unnamed senators and the sugar interests whereby in lieu of an increase of four-tenths of 1 cent a pound in the duty on sugar, as demanded by American cane and beet producers, they were to be paid a subsidy of \$14,339,394. According to the alleged plan, this money was to be



raised by American refiners of Cuban sugar by arbitrarily adding one-fourth of 1 cent to every pound of Cuban sugar sold in this country.

The letter was signed for the "United States and Cuban Sugar Producers' Agreement Syndicate, Inc.," by "Alfred Grover." Grover gave his address as 17 State street, New York city, where, Senator Harrison said, he was in the office of Henry W. Peabody & Co.

Strenuously denying any knowledge of Grover, his syndicate or any such agreement as alleged, Senators Smoot, Lodge and Nicholson of Colorado, Republicans, demanded that there should be an investigation. Senator Harrison "gladly accepted the challenge" and introduced a resolution providing for an inquiry.

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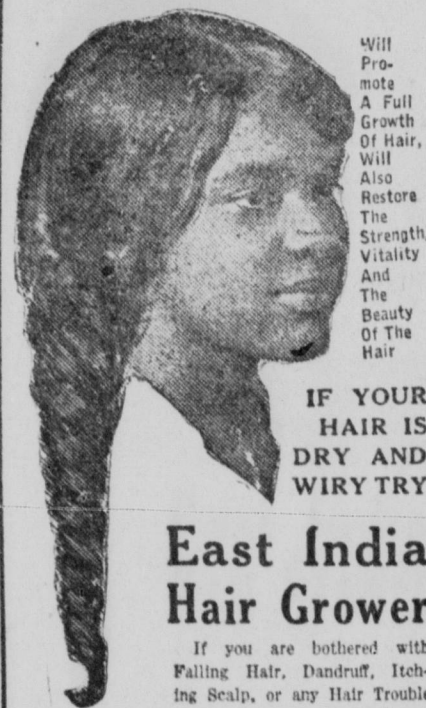
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