

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

The Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law took place in Washington April 26-28, 1928, and the program was successfully carried out as previously announced. The commodious room in the Willard Hotel was not large enough to accommodate the hundreds who attended the opening session to hear Mr. Hughes' presidential address, and many were turned away. Mr. Hughes took as the subject of his address "The Outlook for Pan-Americanism—Some Observations on the Sixth International Conference of American States." The address was the first authoritative pronouncement made by Mr. Hughes on the subject of the conference, since he returned from Habana as Chairman of the American Delegation. After some preliminary observations on the Pan-American Conferences and the policy of the United States toward them, Mr. Hughes dealt particularly with the acts of the Habana Conference with reference to the reorganization of the Pan-American Union, the codification of international law, problems of communications and various coöperative efforts between the Americas, and proposals concerning conciliation and arbitration.

Mr. Hughes was followed on the program by the Honorable Benjamin Russell, formerly Justice of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, who, in a paper entitled "Canada's International Status," undertook to refute recent contentions of Canada's political independence of the British Empire in some of its international relations.

The opening session on Thursday evening was concluded with the report of the Special Committee on Collaboration with the League of Nations Committee for the Progressive Codification of International Law. The report of the committee, presented by Professor Jesse S. Reeves of the University of Michigan, Chairman, recommended that the Society express its sympathy with the research in international law recently undertaken by an advisory committee selected by the faculty of the Harvard Law School,<sup>1</sup> and that the Society approve the publication of the results of that research in this JOURNAL; that the Society express its approbation of the coöperation of the Government of the United States with the League of Nations Committee for the Codification of International Law, and its hope that the Government will participate fully in the forthcoming conference at The Hague for the codification of the subjects of nationality, territorial waters, and responsibility of states for damage done in their territory to the person or property of foreigners. The recommendations of the committee were later unanimously adopted at the closing session of the Society.

The second session took place on Friday morning, April 27, at ten o'clock, and was opened with a formal paper on "Nationality," by Colonel Clement L. Bouvé, American Agent of the General Claims Commission—United

<sup>1</sup> An editorial comment on the organization and work of this Research Committee appeared in the January, 1928, JOURNAL, page 151.

States and Mexico. Colonel Bouvé limited his treatment of the subject to certain suggestions concerning the termination of dual nationality at birth.

The afternoon session on the 27th was formally opened by Professor Charles E. Hill, of George Washington University, with a paper on the subject of the "Responsibility of States for Damage Done in Their Territory to the Person or Property of Foreigners," and the evening session of the same day was opened by Professor George Grafton Wilson, of Harvard University, who read a most interesting paper on the subject of "Territorial Waters." The three sessions on Friday, the 27th, it will be noted, were devoted to the three subjects which have been placed upon the program of the Conference on the Codification of International Law proposed to be held at The Hague in 1929. The papers by Messrs. Bouvé, Hill and Wilson, which opened the respective subjects, were followed by animated discussions of the members which made the meeting the most lively and interesting one held in recent years. The verbatim report of these discussions, which will be reproduced along with the formal papers in the printed volume of Proceedings, now in the press, will provide the absent members with the views and opinions of statesmen, professors, lawyers, judges, arbitrators, government counsel and agents, who were present and took part, upon the three subjects which are now being given intensive study with a view to their eventual codification. One full day was not sufficient to exhaust the debates of the subjects under discussion, and the greater part of Saturday morning was therefore given over to the conclusion of these discussions.

After the discussions were concluded on Saturday morning, the Society reelected the officers of the preceding year, adding Judge Edwin B. Parker and Mr. Jackson H. Ralston to the list of Honorary Vice Presidents. Professor Frederick A. Middlebush, of the University of Missouri, was elected to the Executive Council to serve until 1930 in place of Mr. Edward C. Eliot, deceased, and the following new class of the Council was elected to serve until 1931: Messrs. Green H. Hackworth, Charles E. Hill, Manley O. Hudson, Edwin R. Keedy, Charles E. Martin, Leo S. Rowe, Henry W. Temple and Charles Warren. Judge Dionisio Anzilotti, of the Permanent Court of International Justice at The Hague, was elected an honorary member. At a meeting of the Executive Council which followed the adjournment of the Society, committees were appointed for the ensuing year, and the Board of Editors of the *JOURNAL* was reelected. Appropriate minutes were entered in the record concerning Mr. Archibald Cary Coolidge and Mr. Edward C. Eliot, who died during the preceding year.

About two hundred and twenty-five members and guests attended the annual dinner which closed the meeting on Saturday evening, April 28. Mr. Hughes presided as Toastmaster, and the speakers were the French Ambassador, the Secretary of State, Honorable Edith Nourse Rogers, Representative in Congress from Massachusetts, and Dr. James Brown Scott, the Honorary Editor-in-Chief of the *JOURNAL*. The dinner was made the occa-

sion for an important announcement by the Secretary of State giving the views of the United States upon the six major points raised by the French Government in the negotiations for a multilateral treaty denouncing war and agreeing not to resort to it for the settlement of international disputes. These points dealt with the bearing of the proposed treaty upon self-defense, the Covenant of the League of Nations, the Treaties of Locarno, treaties of neutrality, wars with a treaty-breaking state, and the universal application of the proposed treaty.

When President Hughes sounded his gavel bringing the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting to a close on Saturday evening, every member felt that the meeting had been a distinct success, that the discussions will prove valuable in the clarification of the subjects treated, and that the personal contacts formed by many members from all parts of the country would prove of mutual benefit in the future. All were disposed to agree with the Toastmaster's concluding remark, that "There is no reason why this Society, meeting in the capital, dealing with international law, should not be the center of a very wide and intelligent interest."

GEORGE A. FINCH.

#### REFORMS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND FOREIGN SERVICE

The State Department has recently had to bear a heavy burden of public criticism, both as to its policies and as to its methods. This is perhaps the inevitable result of the public realization that the Department of State has become in fact, what it was so long in law only, the most important department of our government.

There has been a considerable clamor in regard to appointments in the Foreign Service. When Senator Harrison introduced a resolution asking the Foreign Relations Committee to investigate the administration of the Rogers Act and to report its findings and recommendations to the Senate,<sup>1</sup> that committee referred the matter to a subcommittee of three under the chairmanship of Senator Moses, who formerly served as our Minister to Greece.<sup>2</sup> In order to secure the freest testimony from those who appeared, the hearings were held in camera and under a pledge of secrecy. Statements and complaints were also received from others who were unable to attend.

<sup>1</sup> S. Res. 76, introduced December 17, 1927: "*Resolved*, That the Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized and directed (1) to investigate the administration of the Act entitled 'An Act for the reorganization and improvement of the Foreign Service of the United States, and for other purposes,' approved May 24, 1924, as amended, and particularly the work of the Foreign Service Personnel Board, for the purpose of determining what results have been obtained under the provisions of such Act, and (2) to report to the Senate, as soon as practicable, the results of its investigation, with such recommendations as it deems advisable."

<sup>2</sup> In addition to Senator Moses, as chairman, the subcommittee consisted of Senator Harrison, introducer of the resolution, and Senator Reed of Pennsylvania.