

ercise a high and fruitful influence in international relations, the people must be impressed with a sense of their duties as well as with a knowledge of their rights.

JAMES BROWN SCOTT.

#### THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

Pursuant to the arrangements previously announced,<sup>1</sup> the ninth annual meeting of the Society was held in Washington, December 28-30, 1915, in connection with the meeting of the Subsection on International Law of the Second Pan American Scientific Congress.

The meeting was opened on Thursday evening by the Honorable Elihu Root, President of the Society, who delivered his presidential address before an audience that taxed the capacity of the large meeting place. The subject of his address was "The Outlook for International Law"<sup>2</sup> in which, while recognizing the difficulties under which international law now labors, he asserted that its development into a more definite body of rules with less uncertain means for insuring their enforcement will be a necessary prerequisite to the re-establishment and maintenance of the normal relations of intercourse between nations, and he indicated in a general way the steps which must be taken in order to place the science upon a firmer and more practicable basis. This address made a fitting keynote for the remarks which followed throughout the remainder of the meeting.

The opening session being a joint meeting with the Subsection on International Law of the Congress, Mr. Root was followed by two speakers on the program of the Subsection, namely, the Honorable John Bassett Moore and Professor George Grafton Wilson, who delivered scholarly papers upon "The Relation of International Law to National Law in American countries." The session ended with a suggestive discourse by Professor Norman Dwight Harris of Northwestern University, who spoke for the Society upon "The Duties and Obligations of Neutral Governments, parties to the Hague Conventions, in case of actual or threatened violations by Belligerents of the stipulations of the said Conventions."

The second session, held on Wednesday morning, was likewise a joint meeting between the Society and the Subsection on International Law.

<sup>1</sup> See the JOURNAL for October, 1915, p. 915.

<sup>2</sup> Reprinted in this JOURNAL, p. 1.

On this occasion Professor Theodore S. Woolsey and Mr. Edward A. Harriman appeared upon the Society's program. The former made a valuable contribution to the subject of "Retaliation and Punishment in International Law," and the latter discussed "The means to be provided and procedure adopted for authoritatively determining whether the Hague Conventions or other general international agreements, or the rules of international law, have been violated? In case of violation, what should be the nature of the remedy and how should it be enforced?" For the Subsection on International Law, Messrs. Jackson H. Ralston and Walter S. Penfield gave interesting historical presentations of "The Attitude of American Countries toward International Arbitration and the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes."

The third session was held on Wednesday night, the Society meeting jointly with the American Political Science Association and the American Society for Judicial Settlement of International Disputes. Professor Jesse S. Reeves, of the University of Michigan, representing the Political Science Association, made a careful analysis of international disputes, pointing out the fundamental difference between those of a justiciable nature and those of a non-justiciable nature. The nature and form of the agreement for the submission of justiciable disputes to an international court were carefully treated by Dr. James Brown Scott, speaking for the Judicial Settlement Society, and the session closed with a well considered address by Professor A. de Lapradelle, of the University of Paris, who covered the following topic on the program of the Society: "Is a uniform law of neutrality for all nations desirable or practicable? If so, what are the principles upon which such a law should be based, and what generally should be its provisions?"

The fourth session, held Thursday morning, was devoted to a consideration of the following subject upon the program of the Society: "What modifications, if any, should be made in the law and practice as now applied by the principal maritime nations concerning the following subjects of international naval law in order, under the conditions of the modern interdependence of nations, adequately to safeguard the interests of both neutrals and belligerents?" Blockade and continuous voyage were taken up and considered by President Harry Pratt Judson, of the University of Chicago, and Contraband and Visit and Search by Professor George C. Butte, of the University of Texas.

The concluding session took place on Thursday afternoon, this being a joint meeting of the Society with the Subsection on International Law

and the newly formed American Institute of International Law. The Honorable Elihu Root, representing the Society, Dr. Victor Maurtua, of the University of San Marcos, Lima, Peru, representing the American Institute of International Law, and the Honorable Simeon E. Baldwin and Mr. Arthur K. Kuhn, speaking on behalf of the Subsection on International Law, discussed the advisability and practicability of the codification of international law and the agencies by which it should be undertaken. In the course of his remarks upon this subject, Mr. Root took occasion to allude to the necessity for an agreement upon clear and definite rules of conduct to control the great nations in their dealings with the small and weak. Turning to the Latin American delegates, he said:

It is now nearly ten years ago since your people, gentlemen, and the other peoples of South America, were good enough to give serious and respectful consideration to a message that it was my fortune to take from this great and powerful Republic of North America to the other American nations. I wish to say to you, gentlemen, and to all my Latin American friends here in this congress, that everything that I said in behalf of the Government of the United States at Rio de Janeiro in 1906<sup>3</sup> is as true now as it was true then. There has been no departure from the standard of feeling and of policy which was declared then in behalf of the American people. On the contrary, there is throughout the people of this country a fuller realization of the duty and the morality and the high policy of that standard. Of course, in every country there are individuals who depart from the general opinion and general conviction both in their views and in their conduct; but the great, the overwhelming body of the American people love liberty, not in the restricted sense of desiring it for themselves alone, but in the broader sense of desiring it for all mankind. The great body of the people of these United States love justice, not merely as they demand it for themselves, but in being willing to render it to others. We believe in the independence and the dignity of nations, and while we are great, we estimate our greatness as one of the least of our possessions, and we hold the smallest state, be it upon an island in the Caribbean or anywhere in Central or South America, as our equal in dignity, in the right to respect and in the right to the treatment of an equal. We believe that nobility of spirit, that high ideals, that capacity for sacrifice are nobler than material wealth. We know that these can be found in the little state as well as in the big one. In our respect for you who are small, and for you who are great, there can be no element of condescension or patronage, for that would do violence to our own conception of the dignity of independent sovereignty. We desire no benefits which are not the benefits rendered by honorable equals to each other. We seek no control that we are unwilling to concede to others, and so long as the spirit of American freedom shall continue, it will range us side by side with you, great and small, in the maintenance of the rights of nations, the rights which exist

<sup>3</sup> Pertinent extracts from Mr. Root's address at Rio de Janeiro in 1906, are printed in an editorial comment in the *JOURNAL* for April, 1909, Vol. III, p. 424.

as against us and as against all the rest of the world. With that spirit we hail your presence here to cooperate with those of us who are interested in international law; we hail the formation of the new American Institute of International Law, and the personal friendships that are being formed day by day between the men of the North and the men of the South, all to the end that we may unite in such clear and definite declaration of the principles of right conduct among nations, and in such steadfast and honorable support of those principles as shall command the respect of mankind and insure their enforcement.

At the business meeting of the Society, and at the meeting of the Executive Council, held on Thursday morning and afternoon, the officers and committees, who, owing to the postponement of the meeting from April to December, have been holding over since the 1914 meeting, were re-elected, and the Honorable Robert Lansing, Secretary of State, and the Honorable Robert Bacon were added to the list of Vice-Presidents. Professor Amos S. Hershey was elected to serve in the Executive Council until 1917 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of General George B. Davis, and Professor Charles Cheney Hyde was elected a member of the Council to serve until 1916 to fill the vacancy caused by the election of the Honorable Robert Lansing as a Vice-President.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding due to the holding of the ninth annual meeting in December, the Executive Council directed that the tenth annual meeting of the Society should be held at the usual time in 1916, namely, during the last week of April.

The meeting was brought to a brilliant close on Thursday night by a banquet at the Shoreham Hotel, given by the Division of International Law of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace to the members of the American Society of International Law, the American Political Science Association, the American Society for Judicial Settlement of International Disputes, and the delegates in attendance upon Section Six of the Second Pan American Scientific Congress. Mr. Root presided as Toastmaster, the Secretary of State was the guest of honor, and addresses were made by Dr. Ernesto Quesada, President of the Delegation of Argentina to the Second Pan American Scientific Congress, Dr. V. K. Wellington Koo, Minister of China to the United States, and the Honorable Charles H. Sherrill, formerly American Minister to the Argentine Republic.

From the point of view of the numbers and character of the audience, the ninth annual meeting was undoubtedly the most successful meeting in the history of the Society. The importance of the occasion seemed to be an incentive to the speakers to give to their subjects the most care-

ful study and to their utterances mature and deliberate consideration. The proceedings were consequently marked for their exceptionally high quality and impressiveness. The only regret is that the limitations of time did not permit the inclusion of all of the sessions of the Subsection on International Law within the time set apart for the Society's meeting so that the discussions in them might be included in the proceedings of the Society.

GEORGE A. FINCH.