

# WAR MAPS AND HOW PRESIDENT KEEPS IN TOUCH WITH WORLD.

## World Is Small Place To Head Of Nation.

### War Maps of Mexico, Nicaragua, Santa Domingo and the Balkans Hang in Cabinet Room of the White House—How Maps are Made, and Their Utility—The Diplomatic Service and It's Object.

A FAMOUS philosopher once said: "The world—that is, it is but a step in the eternity of time to circle the globe, and when you have done that you may with truth say, 'The world is but a small place, after all.'" The truth of the saying was never better illustrated than by the methods of the rulers of nations in keeping track of world events. Many people wonder how it is possible for one man to know about everything of consequence that goes on in the world and at the same time be able to direct intelligently affairs in any particular corner of the world that might demand immediate attention.

How easily this may be done is shown by the war maps of the President of the United States. In the cabinet room at the White House there is a series of large maps of the world hanging on the wall. Each one of the maps represents certain portions of the surface of the globe. In addition, there is a large sphere—very similar to those used by teachers in our public schools, only much larger—which there appears a map of the world. The sphere is fixed in its exact relation to the sun. When trouble breaks out anywhere upon the surface of the earth, a map of that particular section of the world is made at once by Uncle Sam's topographers, up to the minute in every detail. It usually occupies a conspicuous place in the cabinet room, and upon it the movements of the armies are shown by a number of different colored pins, so that the President or any member of his official family may see almost at a glance the exact condition of affairs in that particular section of the world.

**A Thrilling Tale.**  
There was never a more thrilling tale unfolded than the story of the war maps of the President of the United States. Behind this simple phrase, "the war maps of the President," stands an appalling array of international intrigue and diplomacy. How the data for these war maps are secured in the first place would make an unusually interesting tale of international events and probably cause serious complications. But because of the consequences the true story never will be told. Aside from that, however, there are many interesting things about these war maps never before published.

A striking example of one of the charts is the war map of Mexico, now occupying a prominent place in the President's cabinet room at the White House. On the wall is a map of Mexico, peppered with red, yellow and green headed tacks or pins. Here is registered every change in the Mexican situation. At the bases of some of the tacks figures are written on tiny pieces of varicolored paper. Other tacks fly miniature pennants, while still others are connected with lines of arrows, showing the line of progress of federal or rebel troops in that troubled territory.

Often a Senator or Representative or some other person interested in Mexican affairs will lay before the President a report regarding some district in Mexico. In an instant, by studying the map, the chief executive is able to verify the report with the latest information received from the United States consular and diplomatic officers in Mexico, which means that the map is corrected up to the minute. At a cabinet meeting the President has before him a complete survey of the Mexican situation.

Huntington Wilson, Acting Secretary of State, is the man responsible for the map, and there is one official of the State Department whose duty it is to keep the map corrected hourly, through information received from many sources. Many times a day the telegraph keys at the State Department, just across the street from the White House, click off a dozen or more code words, which are slowly unscrambled to form a message—the daily report, perhaps of the Consul at Durango, Mexico, announcing the advance of federal forces toward Velardena, where 100 Americans have been penned up awaiting relief. The map man crosses to the White House and advances one of the green-headed tacks 1-16 of an inch nearer the tiny speck marking the town of Velardena.

**Every Little Pin Has a Meaning.**  
At the War Department, Department of Justice and the War College other code messages are clicking off the keys. A secret agent of the Department of Justice reports a border raid or the threatened gathering of troops south of Juarez. To the War Department comes a report of the dispatch of American troops to some trouble spot. The War College is told of each bridge burned and each railroad track destroyed. Consular and diplomatic officers report each move of federal and rebels. All of this information and much more is conveyed to the Cabinet-room map. Each colored pin or tack tells a story of its own—the location of federal or rebel forces, conditions of unrest or of anarchy or the opinion of Consuls as to the safety of American lives or property. So that when telegrams are received asking protection for some American citizen or for American property in Mexico, the map will show the probable danger to that property or man. If the inquiry refers to a locality where conditions are especially bad the Consul there is asked to make a special report, but in many cases the inquiries concern a province known to be peaceful and the President can give reassurance at once.

In this way President Taft is kept in touch day and night with the rapidly-changing conditions in Mexico, Santo Domingo, Nicaragua, the Balkans and the whole world. He has only to walk into the Cabinet-room from his office, glance at a map and see whether the Mexican revolutionary movement has moved north or south, or whether the forces of either are threatening American interests. There is a duplicate of the President's map in the office of the Acting Secretary of State and another at the War College. It is never necessary for the President, when discussing any critical situation with the Secretary of War or State Department officials, to go back over the course of developments. He has the developments before him. The story of this map is the answer to the ques-



President William H. Taft



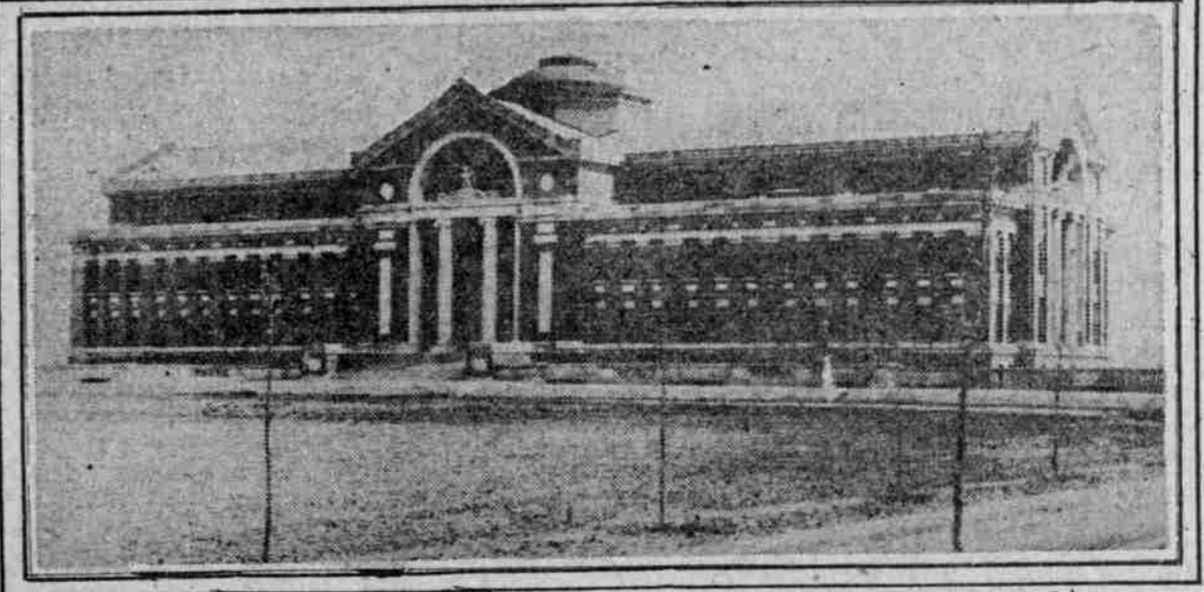
Major General Leonard H. Wood



Huntington Wilson, Asst. Sec. of State



Cabinet Room At White House With War Maps On Wall.



War College At Washington Where Are Kept War Maps Of The Nation.



tion often asked: How can a man as busy as the President keep abreast with reports from United States agents all over the world. These reports are compiled, indexed and printed at the State Department, put in book form and kept on the President's

table. In a crisis the President is able to direct the movements of troops and make quick disposition of international questions with almost as accurate information as if he were on the spot.

Major-General Leonard Wood and his staff at the War Department take a very important part in keeping the President informed regarding affairs in all sections of the world. On the wall in the aids' room there are 29 of the latest maps of various parts of the world. These are intended to keep the General in command of the Army in constant touch with all movements of the American Army. The General, in turn, advises the President of any change of importance that takes place. For instance, in the Mexican war situation along the border, he now has troops scattered all along the international boundary line between Mexico and the United States, and any information of importance coming to any member of the Army is immediately wired to Washington.

In an account of the war maps of the United States the War College at Washington should not be omitted. At this recently established institution there is one large room filled with steel cases. In these cases are kept the latest maps of every nation of the world. Confidential information received from our agents abroad. They show the latest fortifications, the easiest approach in case of war, and, in fact, all details necessary for an attacking army to know.

This room contains maps of almost incalculable value to the people of the United States. It contains the result of the labor of years of our agents all over the world. It contains confidential information relative to foreign nations that would be absolutely impossible to duplicate without years of la-

bor and great danger to the parties furnishing the information. The maps and the information are kept in cases absolutely fireproof, so that even were the building to burn down they would remain intact.

**Function of the War College.**  
Under the recent reorganization of the War Department the general staff is divided into the mobile Army division, the militia division and the War College division. The War College division is one of most interest to this story. In that division is worked out general schemes for reorganization and all schemes for offensive and defensive military actions. In addition, the War College has on file plans covering any possible point of attack upon the United States, so that in case of emergency the only thing necessary for the President to do would be to call for plans so and so, relating to the defense of any part of the United States.

He would be given plans drawn months, and probably years, before the event, worked out to the minutest detail. And yet they had been made at the moment of attack. The War College is directly under the control of Brigadier-General William Crozier. In close relation to the war maps of the President is the telegraph room of the State Department. This room is one of the most interesting places in that big gray stone building—the State, War and Navy Departments. It is here messages are received from the whole world. The room is never closed. A full force of expert telegraph operators is on duty day and night. Into this room come messages from our 43 embassies and legations and 655 consular offices, centered in every quarter of the globe.

As part of the methods by which the

President keeps informed of world affairs is the volume of dispatches sent from the United States foreign service. These dispatches, both telegraphic and mail, are laid before the President each morning, just as they are laid before the Secretary of State, Philander C. Knox, and the Assistant Secretary of State, Huntington Wilson. These officers and their personnel constitute the "general direction" of the State Department. Besides all this written information, Mr. Knox frequently spends an hour or two with the President going over important or critical matters in our foreign relations. When Mr. Knox is away, Huntington Wilson is frequently called into conference with the President. In all grave matters of policy, all questions of new or drastic action, and short, all great diplomatic affairs.

**Huntington Wilson Interviewed.**  
Huntington Wilson is familiarly dubbed general manager of the State Department, and he probably is more familiar with our foreign relations than any other one man, with the exception of the Secretary of State, the President. The writer requested an interview relating to the war maps, the President, and how he is kept informed of world affairs. Also a few words on conditions in Mexico, Nicaragua, Santo Domingo and the Balkans, which are now much in the public eye.

"For more than two years the situation in Mexico has been tremendous acute," said Mr. Wilson. "It is done that an Administration is subjected for so long a period to no nerve-racking affair as the Mexican troubles which have been. Never a day passes but a number of Americans call for protection and telegrams have to be sent immediately, calling on the Consuls to their utmost to protect American interests and communicating news anxious relatives or to interested business men in all parts of the United States."

"The raids of Mexican rebels, surging up and down the frontier, are a constant menace to the peace of the American towns on this side. The report of consular officers, who have to be referred instantly to the War Department, so that they may have the border patrols adjusted to meet conditions changing almost hourly. You remember the excitement caused recently when bullets fell in the towns of Paso and Douglas on the American side and several of our citizens were injured. This particularly acute situation has been threatened at several other points, but by prompt action, strong representations to the Mexican Government, and the Mexican among other Latin-American business, known no office hours, telegrams being sent and received and acted upon in the small hours of the night."

"Our foreign service has a staff of trained men on the firing line. To complete recent reorganization of the State Department has given American picked men who have had actual experience on the spot. The machinery by which the President is kept informed of conditions all over the world."

**The System of News.**  
"During the recent Mexican trouble for instance, besides the daily telegrams reporting important events, every Consular officer in Mexico sent to Washington twice weekly a comprehensive account of the situation in his district. All these reports also are sent to the embassy in Mexico City for use in connection with its daily telegraphic reports upon the situation as a whole. Thus, diplomatic service, consular service and the Department of State dovetail together to form a great mill turning out prompt and accurate information on everything that is going on anywhere in the world."

"Just now we are having a good deal of trouble with our Latin-American neighbors to the South—in Mexico, Nicaragua, and Santo Domingo. The United States are on a fair road to adjustment. When one reflects that the United States was placed by the Monroe doctrine and the Pan-American policy, intimate relations with 20 republics many of which have been the victims of turbulence, it is not strange that the United States is to have an active, constructive policy of helpfulness, instead of sitting by and attempting to accomplish nothing, there must, in the nature of things, be such trouble-free days from time to time. This is especially evident when one analyzes the fact that President Taft's Latin-American policy has been to make Pan-American a real bond, based upon mutual justice and helpfulness. Instead of an empty policy, celebratory in speech and expressions of sentiment, the administration has endeavored to be helpful to our neighbors of the Caribbean, and has always been ready to do justice, but has, on the other hand, insisted on justice to American citizens."

**The American Diplomat.**  
"Our diplomatic service takes a leading part in keeping the President informed of world affairs, and at that point a few words upon this service may not be amiss. The welfare of peoples, rather than the ambition of rulers is the basis of the diplomacy of modern times. The Medea trickery has disappeared. All that is needed today is a good case for one's country and an able man to advocate it. As heritage from the days gone by, the conventional idea that diplomacy is polite dishonesty is quite common. There is a saying that a diplomat is a honest man sent abroad to lie for his country."

"Another fallacy in regard to the service is the belief that diplomats are creatures fashionably attired, 'preferably in gold lace exclusively'; their occupation principally that of hobnobbing with royalty and aristocracy, quarreling about precedence and gossiping at afternoon teas, whose chief accomplishments are having heard of and speaking foreign languages while forgetting their own, and whose diet consists entirely of trifles and champagne. The idea is all wrong. An American diplomat as a rule is a plain American gentleman who sets right values on things, avoids affectations or ostentation of any kind. Instead of the toothy attributes he is supposed to have, he is a man of patriotism, education, industry, intelligence, tact, and sagacity. These things qualify him to devote day and night to the advancement of his country's interests."

How important are the political phases of diplomacy? The difference between peace and war. What is not generally realized is the fact recognized in every foreign office in the world, that the diplomacy of the 20th century is largely occupied with the extension of trade, and the work of the diplomatic and consular service is intimately connected with the industrial and commercial progress of the nation. (Copyright, 1912, by William L. Aldorfer.)