

IMPORTANT AND FAR-REACHING DECISIONS

(Continued from Preceding Page.)

Garcia's Predicament

While the Venezuelan president was in Germany for a serious operation, a revolution against him and in favor of President Gomez, whom Castro had left in charge of the government, broke out in Caracas. Naturally, with the vice president directing it, it was successful, and shortly after, Castro was solemnly declared guilty in the federal court of Venezuela of plotting for the assassination of his successor. On March 28 Castro fled all for France, with the avowed object of waiting back his lost power, but he was still intensely gung-ho, wherever he turned for aid, he was told by the authorities that he could not remain there. As a result, Senor Castro—thanks to the European nations—responding as promptly to a hint from the United States to withdraw, fled to the United States, where he is still intensely gung-ho, wherever he turned for aid, he was told by the authorities that he could not remain there. As a result, Senor Castro—thanks to the European nations—responding as promptly to a hint from the United States to withdraw, fled to the United States, where he is still intensely gung-ho, wherever he turned for aid, he was told by the authorities that he could not remain there.

Our New Position in Far East

Undoubtedly the matters of greatest moment engrossing the state department had to do with the far east. One was the question of American participation in the Chinese railroad loan, and the other, the participation of the international commercial development of the Chinese empire. This matter came to the front in the early part of the year, when it was announced that the bankers of England, France, Germany and the United States were about to participate in lending a large amount of money for the completion of the Hankow-Szechuen road. American bankers at once demanded participation and the support of the federal government in their demand. Eventually, an amount of the loan was increased, but when the entire matter was believed to have been settled amicably, it was rumored that the Chinese government, tired of the international juggling, had decided not to make a loan at all.

Minister Crane's Withdrawal

This is now the state of affairs, meanwhile, the controversies between Spain and China had taken a turn that seemed to lead to all other nations, both countries having signed an agreement in regard to a railroad which was being built by Japan in Manchuria. Some of the Chinese protested that the agreement was coerced from China and that it was an advantage to the Japanese. The United States, in fact, constituted an aggression upon Chinese territory. Just at this moment, there appeared in one of the American newspapers a Washington correspondence setting forth the fact that the Chinese government was about to be investigated by the United States. The correspondence was alleged to have emanated from an interview with the newly appointed United States minister to China, Charles R. Crane. Secretary Knox accordingly recalled Mr. Crane, just as he was to start from San Francisco for his post, and secured his resignation. The second week of December it was reported that the Chinese government would doubtless accept the loan accepted by William J. Calhoun, former ambassador of Chicago, before the end of the present year. It is the duty of the administration to take active interest in the Chinese mission, and the president's appointment that attracted wide attention was that of United States Circuit Judge Horace H. Lunt of Tennessee to the United States supreme court to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Associate Justice Rufus W. Peckham. The appointment was sent to the senate on December 13. Judge Lunt and President Taft formerly sat on the same bench.

Whisper of the Nations

While the United States had little diplomatic activity in Europe, other nations passed through a peculiarly trying period. Holland being one of the European nations that escaped a large amount of trouble. There the year was a great rejoicing over the birth of a heir to the throne, little Prince Willem, princess of Orange, arriving on April 30, thereby causing the whole nation to be racked with transports of joy. With this babe among them, the Dutch no longer fear for the independence of their nation, following the life of their queen, who had she a child, would have been the last of her royal line, and the crown would have passed to a German princelet, making Holland virtually an annex of the German empire.

Revolution in Persia

The troubles of England, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Serbia and Turkey have already been reviewed, and the events in Turkey serve as a reminder of old Abdul Hamid, was not the only ruler to suffer dethronement because his dislike of constitutional government. Following an attempt of the shah to overthrow the constitution, the National party in Persia attacked the shah, and on July 18 deposed the shah, installing in his place a youthful prince, Sultan Ahmad. The latter made several pathetic appeals for return to his parents, but was coerced into remaining on the throne. Russian troops were sent to heron at the outset of the insurrection, to maintain order and to depose the shah. But the entire situation was apparently in the interest of all, and none seemed to gain any special advantage.

Spain Involved

Spain's energies were largely taken up with the fight with Rif in Morocco. The conflict was still in progress as the year drew to a close. It had proved to be a year not only in the expense of war, but also in the serious social and economic conditions of the country. The sections of Spain the people, under the alleged lead of the Republic, under the leadership of a possible conflict between this country and Japan.

Taft Reorganizes Cabinet

With Mr. Roosevelt our only living ex-president, and Mr. Taft inaugurated as president on schedule date, with Washington cut practically off from the rest of the country by a violent snow and sleet storm, the cabinet was entirely reorganized, leaving only Secretaries Wilson and Meyer in office. Philander C. Knox became secretary of state; Franklin MacVee, a Chicago merchant, secretary of the treasury; Jacob M. Dickinson, a Democrat and a lawyer of Tennessee and Chicago, secretary of war; George W. Wickensham of New York, attorney general; Frank H. Hitchcock, the chairman of the Republican national committee, postmaster general; George Von L. Meyer, postmaster general under Roosevelt, secretary of the navy; Richard A. Ballinger, who had been head of the land office under Roosevelt, but who had resigned,

restored the premiership to Moret P. Prendergast.

Socialists in Revolt

The Socialists of all European countries took up the Ferrer matter and made it their cause. In fact, in this and many other affairs the Socialists of Europe appeared as opponents of war. They were among the leaders of the opposition to the imperialist action policy in Germany, and they aided materially in the overthrow in July of Premier Georges Clemenceau in France, as the result of the uncovering of serious naval corruption, he being succeeded by Aristide Briand, a radical Socialist. Furthermore, the Socialists were active opponents of the Vatican in the controversy between France and the Vatican over the clerical association. All the year closed this controversy between the church and government in France has again become acute, through the opposition of the church to the attendance of Catholic children upon lay schools.

Anti-Liquor Movement

There was nothing in the religious atmosphere of the United States during the year that savored in the least of religious political controversy. There was, however, a strong development of religious and moral propaganda in general. Also, there was a continuation of the anti-liquor movement, which had begun even before 1908. This resulted in the enactment of extremely stringent prohibitive statutes in Alabama, Kansas and other states, Kansas forbidding the sale of liquor even in drug stores and rendering it practically impossible for one to have liquor in his own home. There was some reaction against this tendency in the elections of the fall, as the result in many cities attested, notably in San Francisco, where an attempt to raise the saloon license from \$500 to \$1000 per year was beaten most decisively.

Public Conscience Awakening

In some quarters the elections of November were interpreted as a general reaction from the extreme stringency of the prohibitive statutes. But, however that may be, the anti-corruption elements certainly were overthrown in such conspicuous places as San Francisco and Philadelphia, the reform candidates for district attorney, the celebrated Francis J. Heney and Clarence D. Giboney another noted fighter of political corruption, being elected under; while in Cleveland Tom Johnson, running for reelection as mayor, and his three first time in a long period. In Toledo the reform mayor, Brand Whitlock, succeeded in being reelected. And in New York the anti-Tammany forces triumphed in everything except the mayoralty, and even in this office, though elected rather in spite of than because of his support by Tammany. Another interesting election result was the reelection of Governor Guild of Massachusetts by the Republicans by the greatly reduced plurality of 7,000 votes. Disaffection over the various schedules in the tariff bill was given as one of the causes for the poor showing made by the Republicans.

Probing the Sugar Trust

So far as there was any conspicuous probing on the part of the public during the year, it centered in a series of exposures of the so-called Sugar Trust. The latter was caught in the early part of the year in perpetrating certain frauds in the weighing of its sugar importations. At the government dock in New York, New York, it was found to the extent of \$124,118 on March 5, 1909. Also, in April, it was compelled to disgorge \$2,000,000 for fraudulent entries. But in November Richard Parr, an agent of the treasury department, gave out a statement alleging that the frauds in weighing, in making untrue appraisals, etc., would aggregate nearly \$30,000,000 and would cover a period of 30 years past. The enormous amount of the so-called fraud created a sensation, started a general investigation at the specific order of the president and the cabinet, and led to what promises to be a complete overhauling of the customs service. The New York customs house employees having been dismissed up to December 1. Mr. Parr intimated collusion within the treasury department at Washington and alleged that his investigations had been impeded even by the treasury itself. The little Prince of Wales, James B. Reynolds, who entered a vigorous denial. Various sugar trust and government officials now stand indicted for collusion in these customs frauds.

Loeb Stops Smuggling

An important factor in the sugar trust expose was that William Loeb Jr., the secretary to the president under Mr. Roosevelt, who was transferred by Mr. Taft to the collectorship of port at New York. Mr. Loeb set about his new duties with a determination against entering of goods without due declaration, establishing a vigorous system of espionage to prevent smuggling, and even subjecting to search persons of distinction and captains of great wealth, and even to the searching of individuals and the general rigor of the Loeb administration led to strong protest from many sources, and toward the end of the year determined efforts were being made in the quarters to effect Mr. Loeb's removal. However, it was given out from Washington that the secretary of the treasury endorsed Mr. Loeb's policy and would support his actions generally and specifically as to the sugar expose.

Roosevelt in Africa

As for Mr. Loeb's former chief, he departed for his widely advertised African hunting trip on March 23, reaching Mombasa on April 21, after stopping only at Gibraltar, Naples and Aden. At Naples Mr. Roosevelt was received by the king of Italy. From Mombasa he went at once into the hunting fields, and since then he has been killing all manner of large and small game and forwarding the hides and skeletons of the same to the Smithsonian institution at Washington for mounting and exhibition. Mr. Roosevelt's last notable act as president was to exert his influence successfully against the passage of several radical anti-Japanese bills by the California legislature, thus quieting once more talk of a possible conflict between this country and Japan.

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secretary of the interior; Charles Nagel of St. Louis, secretary of commerce and labor; James Wilson, retained as secretary of agriculture. The nomination of Wickensham aroused much public interest because of his known affiliations with a law firm most of whose business had been with trusts and large corporations.

Taft Welcomes Roosevelt's Lead

The president himself answered whatever might be his reaction to his pursuit of the Roosevelt policies by expressing complete faith to them in his inaugural address. He added, however, that it had become necessary to reinforce these policies by strengthening up the judiciary, and in the latter part of the year, he pointed to the unusual array of legal talent in his cabinet as an earnest of his intention.

Dissolving Standard Oil

Undoubtedly, the most important legal decision of the year was that of the federal circuit court of appeals, sitting in St. Louis, which, on November 20, handed down a decision in favor of the government in its suit to dissolve the Standard Oil company. This decision "not only returns the control of the Standard's numerous subsidiary companies to their separate stockholders, but enjoins the Standard Oil company or its agents from voting any stock it holds in the subsidiary company." By a unanimous bench—four judges sitting—this dissolution was ordered on the ground that the Standard restrains trade and stifles competition in violation of the Sherman act.

Oil Case Appealed

Of course, the Standard Oil company has taken an appeal to the United States supreme court, which earlier in the year virtually affirmed the decision of Judge Grosscup and associates in the federal court in Chicago nullifying the famous Standard Oil fine of \$23,240,000. Later, Judge Anderson, sitting at Indianapolis, instructed the jury, in the case of the government's rehearing to bring in a verdict of not guilty. In Missouri, however, the Standard Oil company did not have such good fortune, the state supreme court sustaining the lower court in ousting the company from the state. In Texas the prolonged prosecution of the Standard Oil company, as an alleged affiliation of the Standard Oil, was brought to an end by the payment of a fine of \$1,808,750 by the company and a promise by it not to do business within the state.

Courts After the Trust

As it is, the Standard Oil decision is a reaching, provided it is upheld by the supreme court, and under the Sherman act, sustained, the government will be in a position to prosecute and break down any combination of any sort, and attempt to restrain trade or destroy competition.

Another notable decision by the United States supreme court sustained the general validity of the Hepburn act regulating interstate commerce, but the commodity clause of the same was overruled. By this other decision, the same court compelled the Consolidated Gas company of New York to sell gas at 80 cents per 1000 cubic feet, according to state statute, thus requiring the company to repay to its patrons several million dollars in rebates for gas charged in excess of the state fixed price.

A notable financial deal of the year was the purchase of control of the Equitable Life Assurance society by J. P. Morgan, he securing the majority stock control from Thomas F. Ryan, who obtained the same at the time of the famous life insurance investigation of 1908. The Equitable's assets are \$470,000,000, and with the stock control goes control of several large trust companies, with millions of assets. Another important financial deal of the year was the selling of the Frisco system of railroads by the Rock Island railroad to B. F. Younk and Edwin Hawley. Over 6000 miles of railroad changed hands.

Another financial matter of great possibilities was brought to the attention of the country when President Taft, in his annual message to congress, stated that a Pan-American bank would be established in this country. This will be done early in the coming year. The parent bank will be in New York, there will be branch banks, where needed, throughout the nations to the south of us, and the object of this great bank will be to furnish capital for American enterprises in these countries.

To Fight the Hookworm

While not figuring conspicuously in the affairs of Standard Oil, Mr. Rockefeller signalled the year by additional gifts to the University of Chicago, a donation of \$1,000,000 to the general education board, and of \$1,000,000 for the study and prevention of hookworm in the south, which, it was officially announced, held 2,000,000 Americans in thrall.

Death's Shining Marks

In October the supreme court lost one of its members, Associate Justice Rufus W. Peckham, who died after 14

years of service and at the age of 70. Two other most notable deaths were those of H. H. Rogers, on May 19, and E. H. Harriman, on September 9, shortly after his return from Europe, whether he had gone in search of health. Mr. Rogers' death caused no palpable change either in the administration or the plans of Standard Oil; while Mr. Harriman had discounted the effects of his death by planning out ahead just who would direct his great railroad system and how they should be done. Judge Robert S. Lovett becoming head of the Union and Southern Pacific roads. Mr. Rogers' fortune was estimated at \$40,000,000; Mr. Harriman's at \$30,000,000, his widow being left in sole control of all of it, and the bulk of it will that ever disposed of millions.

Taming Wealth's Bane

A death which resulted in great direct benefactions for the public was that of John Stewart Kennedy of New York, known as "cash on hand" Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy had been, next to Russell Sage, the man to whom Wall Street knew it could most successfully apply for money in times of stress. In his will Mr. Kennedy bequeathed half of his fortune, or about \$30,000,000, to various religious and charitable purposes, this being the largest testamentary gift of the sort in the history of the world.

Literature's Heavy Loss

Out of the financial world, the noted deaths of the year included George Meredith and Algernon Charles Swinburne, two of England's greatest literatures; Richard Watson Gilder, poet and editor of the Century Magazine; W. M. Martin, editor of the New York Sun and art connoisseur; P. F. Collier, the publisher; F. Marion Crawford, Charles Warren Stoddard, Sarah Orne Jewett, Rosa Nouchette Carey and Olive Logan, all distinguished in the world of letters; Cesare Lombroso, the Italian criminologist; Edward Everett Hale, at 87; the Rev. Dr. W. R. Huntington, rector of Grace church, New York city; the Rev. Dr. Theodore L. Cuyler, at 87, and for many years a leader in the Presbyterian church; the Most Rev. Arthur Sweetman, archbishop of Toronto and primate of all Canada; Miss Martha Finley, at 81, author of the "Elsie" books.

Leaders in Activity Called

In the activities of the world are recorded the deaths of Dr. Alfonso A. Moreira Penna, president of Brazil; Mrs. J. Addison Hayes, daughter of Jefferson Davis, Countess de Lezeque, widow of the builder of the Suez canal; Grand Duke Vladimir, eldest uncle of the czar of Russia; General John S. Kounta, past commander-in-chief of the G. A. R. and known as "the drummer boy of the Civil War"; J. C. Carter of Honolulu, who made fame for himself as the chief adviser of Queen Liliuokalani both before and after the overthrow of the Hawaiian dynasty; Ernst and Heinrich Constant Corsetti, the French naval officer; John, the noted Russian priest, who exercised for a time potent control over Czar Nicholas; Geronimo, the famous Indian chief of the Apache times, who had been in captivity for many years and who passed away at Fort Sill, Okla., on February 17, at the advanced age of 85.

Heroes of War and of Peace

Among prominent people death has called are Catulle Abraham Mendes, the French poet and mysticist, who was killed in a railroad accident; Admiral Rojestvensky, the commander of the Russian naval forces in the last, fast-paced battle with Japan; Carroll D. Wright, the American statistician, educator and president of Clark college; Manuel Amador, the first president of the Panama republic; Dr. Theodore Barth, the leader of the German navy; Cervantes, the Admiral of the Spanish fleet in the war with the United States; Heinrich Conried, the noted theatrical manager, who had been conspicuous in his later years for his management of the Metropolitan Opera House in New York; Israel V. Durham, the political organization leader of Philadelphia; Ethan Allen Hitchcock, former secretary of the interior and one of the originators of the land fraud prosecutions; Dr. Sheldon Jackson, a pioneer missionary in Alaska; George J. Lile, governor of Connecticut; Frederick de Martens, the Russian international law authority, who had been an important figure in the deliberations at The Hague; Alexander K. McClure, the veteran journalist of Philadelphia; Helena Modjeska, the Polish-American actress; Lieutenant General Henry C. Corbin, who was the adjutant general of the army throughout the war with Spain; Francis W. Cushman, congressman from Washington state, who had risen to an important position on the ways and means committee of the house; Don Carlos, the pretender to the throne in Spain; Clyde Fitch, the American playwright; Governor John A. Johnson of Minnesota; Charles F. McKim, the architect of New York; Simon Newcomb, the astronomer; Consuelo, dowager Duchess of Manchester (nee Yzarn).

Wireless in Great Disasters

There were many catastrophes of a tragic nature during the year, but no persons of great distinction were overboarded. On January 23, the steamer Republic was rammed in the off Nantucket, Mass. The lives of several hundred persons were endangered, but the use of wireless telegraphy by the Republic operator, "Jack" Binns, summoned aid from ocean liners and government vessels, and only six persons met death. This was the first signal use in history of wireless telegraphy for the relief of distress at sea. Naturally, it was followed by general efforts to extend the use of the wireless system. Messages were received

during the year from a distance of nearly 3500 miles out at sea.

Fires and Violent Storms

Other notable casualties of the year were the theatre fire at Acapulco in Mexico, which occurred on February 12, and in which more than 300 persons were burned to death, the earthquake in southern France, Portugal and Persia, which wrought much damage and destroyed 50 Persian villages and 200 lives in Portugal; the earthquakes in Mexico, the cities of Chilpancingo, Mexico, and Acapulco being damaged to a very great and costly extent; and the earthquake and fire at Osaka, Japan, wherein more than 1000 houses were destroyed and 15,000 people rendered homeless.

There were violent storms, particularly around the Gulf and southern states, and in these the property loss ran into the millions and the death toll into hundreds. One of the heaviest of the storms in the south occurred in July and another in September. Cuba also was visited by a damaging cyclone, the West Indies, and particularly Jamaica, were devastated early in November; Hongkong suffered from a typhoon, and in Russia and Sicily blizzards and cyclones destroyed villages and crops.

Cherry Mine Horror

The second week of November an explosion in a coal mine at Cherry Hill, Ill., imprisoned 300 miners, 20 of whom were rescued after being entombed for seven days. One hundred and eighty coal miners were also entombed by an explosion near Newcastle, England; 100 at Lick Branch, W. Va., and 240 at Veszprém, Hungary.

The biggest loss of life at sea occurred in Montevideo when 150 persons were drowned as a result of the collision between an excursion steamer and the North German Lloyd liner Schlesien. Floods in Natal and the Transvaal claimed 175 victims. And for the first few weeks of 1909 the entire world was busy trying to alleviate the suffering caused at Messina and elsewhere in Sicily and Italy by the earthquake and tidal wave, which on December 28, 1908, destroyed Messina and Reggio, causing a loss of life estimated at 200,000 and of a billion dollar's worth of property—probably the most awful natural catastrophe the world has ever known.

Yukon-Alaska-Pacific Exposition

But despite this and many other big tasks that the world was called upon to master during the year, 1909 has been a 12 month of celebrations, as far as this country is concerned. On June 1 there opened at Seattle the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition, celebrating the purchase of Alaska and the development of our northwest. This proved to be one of the most successful expositions ever held, ending on October 1 with all debts paid and even the bond holders indemnified.

Hudson-Fulton Celebration

In New York city and along the Hudson river valley, as far north as Troy, was observed the tercentenary discovery of the river by Hudson and the centenary of the launching of Fulton's steamboat, the Clermont. Conducted on a most elaborate scale, many nations took part in it, being represented by especially appointed commissions and warships, which, together with the American fleet, constituted the largest force of fighting vessels ever assembled at one time in an American harbor.

San Francisco's Celebration

On July 5 the tercentenary of the discovery of Lake Champlain was observed by a general fête participated in by the states of New York and Vermont representatives of France and England and President Taft. On October 19 San Francisco celebrated the discovery of the bay by Francisco Pizarro, the city's recovery from the effects of the earthquake and fire of 1906. And on Lincoln's birthday the entire country celebrated his centenary, with a large part of the world joining in in commemoration of his great work and the nation himself. Other men whose birth dates were observed were Poe, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Darwin, Tennyson and Milton.

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