

## ELASTICITY OF OPERATION OF MONROE DOCTRINE IN THE PUTTING DOWN OF REBELLIONS

IS MOST SUITABLE DIPLOMATIC GARMENT TO COVER UP INTERNATIONAL EYESORES AND PRESIDENT TAFT MAY BE CALLED UPON TO INVOKE ITS POWER IN QUELLING THE DISTURBANCES THAT ARE FAST REDUCING CONDITIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA TO CHAOS.

Washington, D. C. July 30.—Re- would mark a new era for the two cent diplomatic developments and international discussions involving the attitude of European powers—especially Germany—toward Nicaragua have brought the Monroe Doctrine into the world's spot light again and the impression is strong that it will soon be given a new application.

The Monroe Doctrine is an elastic diplomatic garment—not so elastic as the popular imagination depicts it, but capable of so much stretching, when occasion demands, that it will fit a multitude of situations however different. There has not been an administration since its inception in which this guiding principle has not been hauled out of its historic recesses to do service in connection with one difficulty or another, and indications are that President Taft's will be no exception from this rule.

The Monroe Doctrine is already spoken of as a most suitable diplomatic habiliment to enfold the international eyesore, into which the chaos of Nicaragua is fast developing, while the United States restores order and sets the struggling republic on its feet again. Agitation has already begun, too, in the Pan-American conference on the part of the Latin-American governments which owe much of their development to its existence, to make the doctrine—now merely a declaration of the United States—a guiding principle for the entire western hemisphere. Such a political profession of faith

There is little doubt that the Monroe Doctrine of the present day contains much that was not contemplated by the President who first gave it formal expression. Each administration, in a crisis has tacked a new meaning on it or stretched an old meaning to greater lengths until it has become a coat of many colors, but none the less a stout garment and showing no sign of wear.

President Monroe, in his message of December 2, 1823, said: "The occasion has been judged proper for asserting as a principle in which the rights and interests of the United States are involved, that the American continents, by the free and independent conditions which they have assumed and maintain, are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers. We owe it, therefore, to candor, and to the amicable relations existing between the United States and those powers, to declare that we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety. With the existing colonies or dependencies of any European power we have not interfered and shall not interfere. But with the governments who have declared their independence and maintained it, and whose independence we have, on great consideration and on principles, acknowl-

edged, we could not view any interposition for the purpose of oppressing them, or in controlling in any other manner their destiny, by any European power, or in any other form than as the manifestation of an unfriendly disposition toward the United States."

Briefly the Monroe Doctrine, as so uttered, declared against the interposition of European powers in the affairs of the American States, the particular kind of interposition being that undertaken for the purpose of controlling their political affairs and of extending to this hemisphere the system in operation on the continent of Europe.

Out of the Monroe Doctrine, Luis M. Drago, Argentine minister of foreign affairs, evolved the now famous Drago doctrine, declaring that "the public debt cannot occasion armed intervention nor even the actual occupation of the territory of American nations by a European power." This naturally led to another question. If the United States expressly declared against the occupation of American territory by a European power, who is going to take the matter in charge when a country, much the same as Nicaragua now find herself, persists in such a course that there is no prospect that its debts will ever be paid or its just international obligations fulfilled?

President Roosevelt, in answer to this, tacked on another patch to the Monroe Doctrine, giving expression to the function of "police power" to be exercised by the United States in such contingencies.

"Chronic wrongdoing," he said in his message, of December 6, 1904, "or an impotence which results in a general loosening of the ties of civilized society, may in America, as elsewhere, ultimately require intervention by some civilized nation, and in the western hemisphere the adherence of the United States to the Monroe Doctrine may force the United States, however reluctantly, in flagrant cases of such wrongdoing or impotence, to the exercise of an international police power."

It may be for President Taft, in dealing with the Nicaraguan situa-

tion, to formulate still another phase of the Monroe Doctrine which has not yet come into view in the diplomatic experiences of the United States.

Although President Monroe's name is attached to the doctrine, the principle underlying it goes further back, even to the beginning of the United States. Washington, in his farewell address, declared that the policy of the United States was to avoid entangling alliances with European powers. The Republican form of government was, in contradistinction to the monarchical form prevailing in Europe, an ideal for which the colonists had fought and to which they were passionately attached. Anything threatening that ideal was to be looked upon as a foe.

When, therefore the Holy Alliance was formed of the foremost European powers, with the exception of Great Britain, the fledgling republic held aloof with some suspicion of its purposes; and, when the alliance threatened to support Spain in maintaining its grasp upon its American colonies which were fast slipping through her fingers the occasion for the declaration of the Monroe Doctrine first arose though the sentiment underlying it had developed long before.

With that declaration the effort of Europe to dominate the world was curtailed. The United States took its place as a world power and the American ideal of government, as distinguished from that of Europe, assumed its sphere of control.

A similarly momentous change inevitably will take place in the orient when China rises to assert her individuality. The world will then be dominated by those spheres of diplomatic influences—European, the American and the far eastern. The last undoubtedly being under the guidance of China and Japan. The Monroe Doctrine is the political gospel of the Western Hemisphere. That of the Eastern is yet to be enunciated.

**PENSIONS FOR AGED PEOPLE.**  
Washington, D. C., July 30.—Old age pensions in foreign coun-

tries have been the subject of investigation by Congressman Frederick Lundin (Repub., Ills.) He finds that they have proved successful and he is hopeful that some such provision for the care of the aged may be made in the United States.

"Germany was the pioneer in the movement," he says, "with a law passed in 1889; amended in 1891 and perfected in 1899. The present law covers 25 per cent of the population and is compulsory in many instances and voluntary in some. The pension is granted up to \$57.50 a year, according to class and weekly premium paid. Beyond 70 years of age no incapacity need be shown to avail the beneficiary his or her pension."

"Denmark fell into line in 1891. All persons over 80 years of age are eligible to pension benefits, with certain limitations as to residence, health and record of citizenship."

"Laws were passed in New Zealand at intervals from 1897 to 1903, when all of them consolidated to create a liberal and enlightened system. Sixty-five years is the pension age, and to all those who are without a minimum competence and can show 35 years' honorable residence in New Zealand the government pays \$2.50 weekly. The cost per capita of population is small. The benefits conferred are free, and not only redounded to the benefit of pensioners, but to that of society in general."

"Belgium adopted an insurance annuity and nationally sustained pension act in 1900. Annuities are granted according to age and amount of premium paid. Pensions are paid to all over 65 years of age under certain prescribed conditions of want and disability."

"Italy, France, and Australia are operating systems of annuities and pensions. Old age relief is recognized in these countries as an institution of worth, and the system cannot fail to grow with the advance of the times."

"Australia probably presents the best example of growth and modernization of the old-age pension idea."

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## UNITED STATES PAYS BIG PREMIUM UPON COLLECTION OF ITS CUSTOMS DUTIES

WHILE ONE-THIRD OF REVENUE FOR THE EXPENSE OF BILLION DOLLAR CONGRESSES ARE GARNERED FROM CUSTOM HOUSES IT COSTS UNCLE SAM ABOUT \$300 FOR THE COLLECTION OF EVERY DOLLAR OF DUTY AT SOME OF THE MINOR STATIONS

Washington, D. C., July 30.—

Some of the most expensive luxuries, comparatively speaking, maintained by Uncle Sam are small customs houses, according to figures just made public. Scattered about the country are about 100 custom stations. Through them the government collects the tariff on imported goods and various assessments on the merchants. A large majority of the customs houses are extremely profitable, and they garner nearly one-third of the money spent by billion dollar congresses.

Customs receipts at Port Jefferson, New York, were so small, being nothing at all, that collector Arthur H. Randall sought to surrender the post. For five years he struggled to surrender the shackles of the office. The Treasury Department would grant him freedom but could find nobody to take the place. The department relented a short time ago, gave Randall freedom, closed the office and transferred the business, if there should be any, to New York.

There are other ports where no difficulty is found in securing collectors even if there is little or no business. Some of these where the receipts aggregated nothing last year, with the expense of maintaining them, are as follows: Tappahannock, Va., \$664; Yaquina, Ore., \$1,034; Beaufort, N. C., \$1,550; Bridgeton, N. J., with seven employees, \$2,123; Cairo, Ills., \$434; Galena, Ills., \$405; Little Egg Harbor, N. J., \$438; Nantucket, Mass.,

\$262; Paducah, Ky., \$549, and Patchogue, N. Y., \$668.

Tab is kept by the government on every custom house to find the cost of collecting the revenue. Annapolis had customs receipts of \$3.09 last year and the cost to the government of collecting each dollar was \$399.41. There are considerable vessel businesses at Alexandria, Va., but the total customs receipts amounted to only \$10 and on that basis the cost of collection on each dollar was \$122.49. The amount paid for each dollar collected at some other points were: Natchez, Miss., \$52.76; St. Marys, Ga., \$45.40; Saco, Me., \$41.46; Great Egg Harbor, N. J., \$25.14; Rock Island, Ills., \$23.68; Teche, La., \$25.45 and Portsmouth, N. M., \$16.12.

In the large ports the expense to the government in collection of a dollar ranges from a little over two cents to five cents. In New York last year the cost per dollar was 2.2 cents and the aggregate receipts were \$202,655,809. The average cost of collection in the country was 5.4 cents.

Customs houses are created by Congress and can be abolished only by the same authority. In the interest of economy secretaries of the treasury have recommended that collectors be abolished at ports where there seems to be not enough business to justify the expense. Members in Congress, however, have

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