

THE NEED OF A CIVIL SERVICE ACADEMY.

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GREAT and powerful, with an overflowing treasury and boundless resources, the United States of America can afford to do whatever justice may demand, or wise policy approve. The following conditions now invite especial attention.

The enormous growth and development of our country have produced numerous important conditions which were practically unknown, even a generation ago. Then but few of our people visited foreign lands; and the idea largely prevailed that our foreign service was of little practical use, and the expense of maintaining it was grudgingly borne. But now tens of thousands of American citizens travel or sojourn in other countries, and form commercial or other relations with their inhabitants.

But our foreign service has notoriously not kept pace with the growth of the country in population, wealth, and power. Our treaties with other nations give us the right to maintain in almost every other part of the world, representatives of our government, for the protection of our citizens, and the promotion of our commercial interests. But it is well known that such representatives have in many cases been of too low official rank to command proper respect and attention; or have lacked the qualifications indispensable to good service; or have had so poor a support that their mode of living has been a personal humiliation, and a grave reproach to our rich and powerful nation.

While in all other departments of the public service we pretend to have some regard for the necessary qualifications therefor, we have in too many cases grossly neglected such qualifications in preparing for the conduct of our foreign affairs. We have neither a standard of attainments, nor a place of training for that branch of the government service.

In theory our sovereignty extends to every spot over which our flag has authority to wave, and our constitution and laws are applicable to cases arising within the jurisdiction which our government is authorised to exercise. We scarcely appreciate the fact that even a consul is in a certain sense a "public minister," and that our consuls and ministers are sometimes invested with great judicial powers, as in China, Siam, Madagascar, Turkey, Persia, Tripoli, Tunis, Morocco, and some other countries.¹ That those powers have sometimes been seriously abused is known, but how often or to what extent, the government has no adequate means even to ascertain, much less to give relief from or inflict punishment for such abuses.

The enormous increase of our products, and the ever-enlarging demand for foreign markets, now urgently require that means be devised for extending our commercial relations with other parts of the world. But we cannot sow in the morning and reap the harvest in the evening of the same day. We must give time for growth and development. Under existing circumstances it may be affirmed without hesitation, that the United States has now a greater interest than any other nation in the world in maintaining the best and most perfect system of foreign service that our statesmen can devise. Such a system would bring the amplest pecuniary returns for whatever it might cost, in the profits of enlarged commerce, and in the wealth and advantages to be derived from it.

A consideration of these conditions suggests the following measures of reform, to which attention is earnestly invited.

1. The establishment of a Civil Service Academy, to be to our civil service, and especially to our foreign affairs, what the military and naval schools are to our army and navy. In this school should be taught the modern languages, constitutional law and history, international law, commercial law and usage, the practical business of diplomacy, foreign jurisprudence, the protection of citizens, and the interpretation and application of the particular provisions of our treaties with the several foreign powers.

To that school should be admitted, from time to time, two students from each congressional district, selected as the military and naval pupils are now.

The prescribed course of instruction would at once become the standard for the foreign service, and all candidates would be expected to conform to that standard. Our preparatory system would then seem to be complete. But, strangely enough, it now

¹ U. S. Revised Statutes, *Foreign Relations*.

lacks that department which appears to be most important to the perpetuity of our free institutions, a national school in which at all times a fairly representative body of the young men of the country may pursue, with every advantage that unlimited resources could command, the highest branches of the science of government, and the practical art of its administration. Such a school would furnish a supply of qualified men for the foreign service. They would naturally enter the public service in clerical positions, while young, and would undoubtedly continue in it to a larger extent than the graduates of West Point and Annapolis have done.

2. All American Legations and Consulates should be kept so well supplied with maps, books, papers, and samples of the mineral and the agricultural productions of our country, that at any place in a foreign land over which our flag is authorised to float, a citizen of that land may find any information concerning our own, that he may properly desire. The expense would be trifling in comparison with the benefits that would result.

3. The present system of rewards for foreign service should be radically reformed. The highest qualifications for efficient service should be required, and the compensation of every foreign public servant should be such as would enable him to live in a manner suited to the locality and to the honor and dignity of the United States, and to save a reasonable amount for his time and labor. The expense of such an investment would, beyond question, prove one of the most profitable investments the country could make. It has lost through the false economy of a beggarly support of various departments of the public service, a thousand-fold more money than would have been required for the most adequate outfit, current expense, and compensation. We should have cause to boast the most complete and best sustained civil service in the world. It is confidently believed that the American people are now fairly well prepared to make this great advance.

4. Our judicial system should be extended to the protection of our citizens in foreign lands. It is a gross violation of the spirit of our constitution to permit a political officer to exercise judicial powers. We should have district and circuit judges who should be required to visit, from time to time, every consulate and legation where judicial powers may be exercised, and there hold courts for the trial of all cases properly brought before them. And such judges should also be required to hear and act upon all complaints that might be made touching the consular service. The time may come when the administration of our laws in foreign lands will re-

quire for its general supervision an officer who might be called the Chancellor of Foreign Jurisprudence, and who should have the rank of a justice of the Supreme Court, and might, indeed, be a member of that high tribunal.

The benefits of the reflex influence of such a foreign service on our home administration can hardly be estimated. The effect of such a service in exalting our country among the nations of the earth would certainly be gratifying to every patriotic heart.

5. The present consular reports are of very little practical value, for the following reasons: They are made at too great intervals of time; their publication is too long delayed, and is in a form not adapted to the public needs. Our consuls throughout the world should be required to report at once, by mail in ordinary cases, and by cable in extraordinary emergencies, any material change at their respective points in the demand for, or the supply or price of, any article of commerce which our own country needs to import, or which it produces for export to foreign markets. And the substance of such reports should be furnished, under the direction of the Secretary of State, and telegraphed over the country, as the weather reports now are. That information would be of such great practical value to American manufacturers, merchants, carriers and consumers, that it ought not to be left to private enterprise, and should not be monopolised by private interests. It ought to be published under the name of the consul and involve no liability on the part of the government.