

## Develop Trade With Latin-America

The following statement was issued from Washington, D. C., under date of August 22, 1915:

At the request of the president, the federal trade commission will make a thorough investigation of the tariff laws and customs regulations of the countries of Central and South America for the purpose of assisting in laying the foundation for the development of the largest measure of reciprocal trade between the United States and Latin America. The commission will make a searching study of all the artificial barriers raised by adverse laws and regulations that hinder the expansion of our commerce with the republics of the Western Hemisphere, and will submit recommendations to the president for the removal of the obstacles and for the establishment of reciprocal trade relations.

The inquiry was suggested to the president by Secretary McAdoo and grows out of the Pan-American Financial conference recently held in Washington. The conference was unanimous in endorsing co-operative effort among the American governments for the expansion of Pan-American finance and trade, and pointed the way for its accomplishment. The essential thing now, the secretary said, is to take up the threads where the conference left off and by quick and intelligent action bring its purposes to fruition. Many of the existing obstacles to the extension of finance and trade among the American nations were disclosed by the interchange of views at the conference. Tariff laws, customs regulations, classification of merchandise, consular certificates and invoices and port charges in many Latin-American countries are serious impediments to the growth of their trade with the United States.

Secretary McAdoo already has taken a number of definite steps to bring practical results from the work so auspiciously begun by the conference. He is now organizing the international high commission, created by the conference to consider uniformity of laws relating to trade, commerce and international commercial court. This commission will be composed of nine members from each of the nineteen countries that participated in the conference, the minister of finance, or secretary of the treasury, of the respective countries being chairman of each group. Secretary McAdoo has suggested that the commission meet in Buenos Aires on November 1, 1915. The United States, Cuba, Ecuador, Chile, Panama and Peru already have appointed their members of the commission, and the remaining countries are expecting to complete its personnel within the next few weeks.

The federal trade commission will co-operate with the international high commission, as far as practicable, to bring about, if possible, uniformity of laws in all the Latin-American countries and the United States with respect to customs regulations, consular invoices, port charges, etc. Aside from exposing conditions and barriers which impede trade relations between the United States and Central and South America, the federal trade commission will give careful consideration to the larger question of reciprocity, which would be a practical and substantial basis for the enlargement of Pan-American commercial relations.

The Simmons-Underwood tariff act of October 3, 1913, opens the way for the negotiations of reciprocal trade agreements by the following provision:

"That for the purpose of readjusting the present duties on importations into the United States and at the same time to encourage the export trade of this country, the president of the United States is authorized and empowered to negotiate trade agreements with foreign nations where in mutual concessions are made looking toward freer trade relations and further reciprocal expansion of trade and commerce: Provided, however, that said trade agreements before becoming operative shall be submitted to the congress of the United States for ratification or rejection."

Each American nation has its distinctive problems and the federal trade commission will deal with them separately, so as to make the investigation of as much practical value as possible. For years it has been known that the development of trade relations between the United States and her sister republics has been retarded by restrictive laws and regulations. It will be

the aim of the commission to expose these difficulties and to suggest remedies. It is believed that this investigation, sweeping in scope, will be of great assistance not only to the United States, but to every republic of America in improving its foreign trade and consequently its prosperity.

In addition to the co-operation of the treasury department and the international high commission, the federal trade commission will have the assistance of the departments of state and commerce through the commercial attaches and the diplomatic and consular officers of the United States in Latin-America.

Several leagues, that have for their object the enrollment of a million or more citizens in a defense movement have recently been organized in New York. The activities of the arms and powder manufacturers know no bounds.

### PROBLEMS FOR A PREPARATIONIST

Militarism has no scruples as to its weapons. How would we fight a nation which used gas, poisoned food, or spread typhoid bacilli?

The aim of the "Preparationists," as we may call those militarists who do not like to be called militarists, obviously is to increase the warlike efficiency of the nation. Some of them lay most stress on the needs of the army, and some on the needs of the navy; some go in for flying machines and submarines, and some still stick by dreadnaughts; but all of them want the United States to have a strong killing and destroying power on hand to back up such notions of righteousness as now or hereafter they may entertain. They all regard the disarmament movement as at best visionary, and at the worst silly, besotted, effeminate and criminal. They refer to "preparation" as though we could take it like a pill, once we made up our minds to it.

But the state of the military art—which is the art of destroying property and mangling human flesh—is not such as to bear out this assumption of practicality and simplicity. Methods of killing cattle, hogs and sheep, as in the great Chicago stockyards, change slowly, but methods of killing men are being revolutionized almost every week. If the United States should start out to kill its enemies by obsolete methods it would be committing suicide.

So far Colonel Roosevelt and his fellow preparationists have contented themselves with preaching a principle, without going very far into the practical difficulties of carrying out that principle. Now, let it be assumed, that this newspaper and its readers have been converted to the principle of preparation. What concrete measures would Colonel Roosevelt recommend to make the country a strong military power? Would he build dreadnaughts, submarines, or aeroplanes, and in what numbers and proportions?

Submarines have driven dreadnaughts out of the fighting zones. Improved aeroplanes, with an improved gun and an improved projectile, may destroy the usefulness of the submarine. Two or three years more may see aeroplanes destroyed by electricians pressing keys in safety, miles from danger. The most vigorous mechanical and scientific minds of our day are working on this one problem of efficient butchery.

There is a further question, which concerns morals. Where would Colonel Roosevelt draw the line in instruments of destruction? He would, of course, be willing to dismember the enemy with shrapnel. Would he also poison him with gas? The German army has been using gas with great effect, notwithstanding the agreements of The Hague conventions, and gas is consequently certain to be used in future wars. From poisoning by gas it is an easy step to poisoning wells, poisoning food supplies, and distributing the germs of fatal diseases. If military force is to be the world's law, as the preparationists have to assume, no international agreement hereafter adopted will prevent the use of any means and all means that kill and destroy. A nation which uses gas will no more spare a nation which refuses to use gas than (as Colonel Roosevelt tells us) it would spare an unarmed nation; a nation which poisons wells will not spare one to which this practice is abhorrent, and so on. The most brutal, the least scrupulous of nations will surely triumph. The United States must prepare to be absolutely inhuman and pitiless, or it had better not prepare at all.

Thus, the same argument, on the same basis, with the same supporting facts, can be urged in favor of the use of typhoid bacilli in war that

has been urged by Colonel Roosevelt in defense of ordinary old-style "preparation."

Is this the simple choice between manliness and Miss Nancyism that Colonel Roosevelt would have us think it?—San Francisco Bulletin.

### LIQUOR MEN FEARFUL NOW

Asserting that heretofore the church was afraid of the saloon, Mrs. Mary Harris Armor of Georgia, in an address at Philadelphia, declared that the situation was now reversed. She said:

"The fight now being waged against the liquor interests in this country is an irrepressible conflict. It is irrepressible because the American people have an aspiration to drive the liquor interests out of business. The cause is righteous, and the struggle will not end until that aspiration of the citizens is fulfilled or the liquor traffic passes into oblivion."

"Heretofore, the church was afraid of the liquor interests. Now matters have been reversed. The liquor interests fear the church. For that reason the cause of prohibition will win. Victory for national prohibition is coming. We are bound to win."

"The recent victory of the prohibition forces in congress is a forerunner to the victories of the prohibition movement. The good people of this nation want prohibition. They have God on their side and will eventually win."

If the war should come to a speedy ending it will throw out of employment a number of men who make a business of putting forth claims for the various belligerents at each step in the battles. The fact that a presidential campaign is about to begin in the United States, however, will bring cheer to their hearts and a chance for a job.

Congressman Jim Mann of Illinois has a well-deserved reputation for acumen. He added to this recently by announcing that he would not enter the republican primary as a candidate for the presidency. The Hon. Jim is not trading his chances of continuing in office for something that won't assay high at the election mint.

The banks of the country report the possession of a larger amount of gold and a greater amount of money than they have had on hand for many years. The task the republican campaign managers have set themselves of talking hard times will present increasing difficulties in the face of this remarkable showing.

The Topeka papers boast that thirty per cent of the persons sent to the Kansas state insane asylum are sent back home cured. There really is no excuse for despair either over the future restoration of those republicans who still believe that the democrats don't know how to govern the United States.

### LOVE VS. FORCE

"Put up thy sword!" the voice of Christ once more

Speaks in the pauses of the cannon's roar,  
O'er fields of corn by fiery sickles reaped  
And left dry ashes; o'er trenches heaped  
With nameless dead; o'er cities starving slow  
Under a rain of fire; through words of woe  
Down which a groaning diapason runs  
From tortured brothers, husbands, lovers, sons  
Of desolate women in their far-off homes,  
Waiting to hear the step that never comes!  
O men and brothers! let that voice be heard.  
War fails, try peace; put up the useless sword!  
Fear not the end. There is a story told  
In eastern tents, when autumn nights grow cold,  
And round the fire the Mongol shepherds sit  
With grave responses listening unto it;  
Once, on the errands of his mercy bent,  
Buddha, the holy and benevolent,  
Met a fell monster, huge and fierce of look,  
Whose awful voice the hills and forests shook.  
"O son of peace!" the giant cried, thy fate  
Is sealed at last, and love shall yield to hate."  
The unarmed Buddha looking, with no trace  
Of fear or anger, in the monster's face,  
In pity said: "Poor friend, even thee I love."  
Lo! as he spake the sky-tall terror sank  
To hand-breadth size; the huge abhorrence  
shrank

Into the form and fashion of a dove;  
And where the thunder of its rage was heard,  
Circling above him sweetly sang the bird:  
"Hate hath no harm for love," so ran the song;  
"And peace unweaponed conquers every wrong."

—Whittier.