

Home of the British Embassy at Washington

Sir Michael Herbert Had Made Many Extensive Alterations and Repairs Previous to His Death.



THE death of Sir Henry Michael Herbert, British ambassador to the United States, after only a year of service in that capacity at Washington, has prevented his enjoyment of the extensive alterations and re-decorating of the British embassy at Washington, which were made last year following the death of Lord Pauncefoot and Sir Herbert's appointment to the important post. This building has been remodeled several times since it was built several years ago, and in accordance with the custom of the British government, architects were sent from England to plan and superintend the alterations, and in most instances the bulk of the constructive material necessary, even to door-knobs and hardware sundries, have been brought from the mother country, but the most extensive transformation took place during the last year, in order to prepare the embassy for occupation of Sir Herbert and his family. The interior of the famous structure was subjected to but slight alteration, but the interior was so changed as to bear slight semblance to its arrangement and aspect during Lord Pauncefoot's residence there.

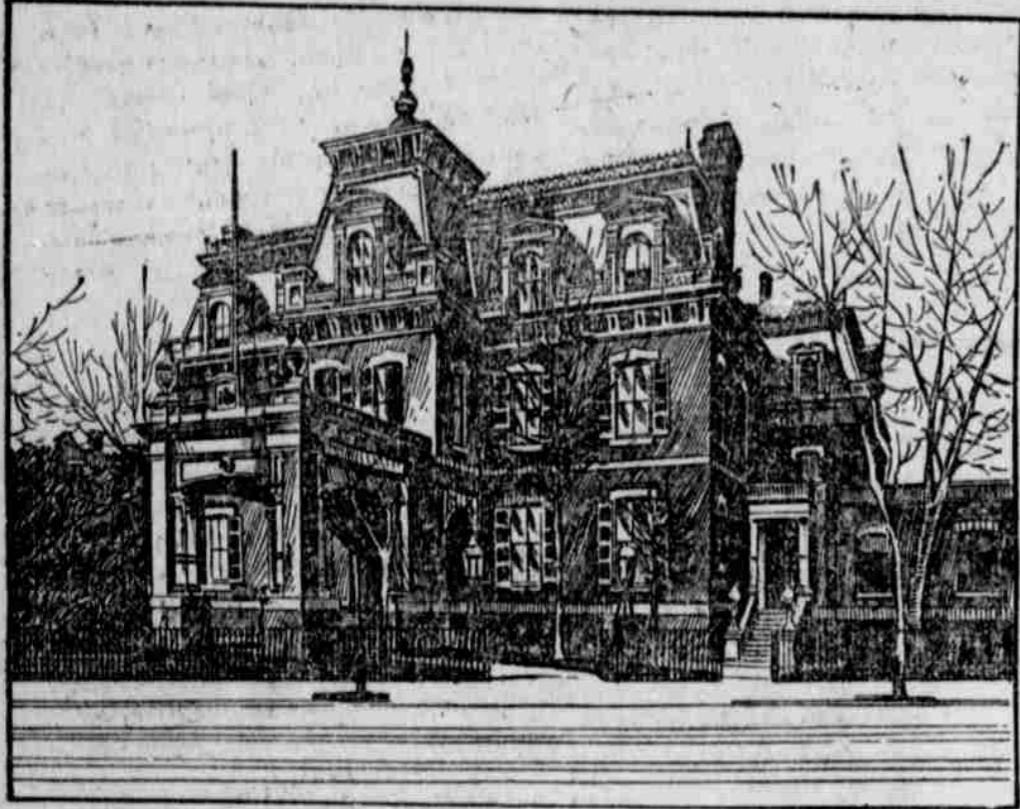
Sir Herbert was charge d'affaires at Washington in 1888 and served as secretary of the legation from 1892 to 1896, so that he was thoroughly familiar with the British embassy and had definite ideas in regard to its rearrange-

splendid property, comprising about 30,000 square feet, over which waves the British flag. The tax assessors have estimated the holding—which is, of course, exempt from taxation—to be worth not less than \$183,000, but in reality its value is double that sum.

The British embassy home is an immense, commodious brick structure, which, with its substantial stable, out-buildings and garden, occupies nearly a square. Shade trees flank the building on all sides and the English ivy forms a green mantle which in summer partially covers the walls. The house stands sufficiently far back from the street to give an air of seclusion to the place, the effect being heightened by the massive fence, which encloses the grounds. The front door is approached by an asphalt driveway and walks, another leading to the chancellery wing.

The magnificent hall, which is entered from a massive doorway, is from an architectural standpoint, one of the gems of the embassy. At the end of the spacious apartment is a wide staircase, down which looks a splendid portrait of the late Queen Victoria, valued at \$50,000. The hall is without extensive ornamentation. The wainscoting is of marble, and the paper is of a rich red tint. The staircase is of walnut, which has been enameled white.

Sir Herbert gave much thought to the decoration and arrangement of his study, which is to the right of the entrance hall, and directly opposite the two large drawing rooms. The study the ambassador had papered in red,



THE BRITISH EMBASSY AT WASHINGTON.

ment and decoration when his appointment to the post at Washington was made last year. During the incumbency of Lord Pauncefoot the great drawback of the embassy was the lack of brightness in many of the rooms, due in part to the shade trees which surround the building. Under the direction of Sir Herbert every one of the 50 odd rooms into which the ambassadorial residence is divided, was renovated or remodeled, and the general atmosphere of the mansion by recourse to light wall coverings and hangings, while the ceilings were all painted a cream color, that is in perfect harmony with the general decorative scheme.

A most important change in the arrangement of the house and one which was specially appreciated by Sir Herbert was a complete separation of the official and residential functions of the embassy. The chancellery, which occupies a wing of the main structure, and the construction of which was begun during the regime of Lord Pauncefoot, facilitates this. Prior to the erection of this addition visitors to the embassy were compelled to go along the side of the house to a wing of the building located not far from the kitchen, where they transacted their business with one of the secretaries. The chancellery is now near the building line of the embassy, and in consequence the distinguished visitor who enters through this portion of the structure feels no impairment of his dignity. The chancellery contains a reception room and three offices, the walls of the latter being well-nigh covered with the volumes of a valuable reference library.

The British embassy is perhaps the most interesting diplomatic establishment at Washington, as it is, from a monetary standpoint, unquestionably the most valuable of the residential properties owned by foreign governments at the capital of the United States. It is most advantageously situated at a central point in Connecticut avenue, the great boulevard which bisects the fashionable quarter of Washington and constitutes at once the principal thoroughfare and favorite promenade. Measured by the standards of the financial world it is a trifle difficult to estimate the exact value of the

with figures of Greek design in crimson, the effect being rich and dignified. At the rear of the staircase previously mentioned is the dining room, containing fully 800 square feet of floor space and capable of accommodating a dinner party of exceptional size. A particularly notable room is the ballroom on the first floor near the dining room. This apartment is 40 feet in length by 20 feet in width, and the whole ornamentation is in gold, the wall paper being embellished in Greek design.

The silver service which the British government has furnished for the use of its representative at Washington on the occasion of formal banquets is valued at \$50,000. To this Mrs. Herbert had added her magnificent collection of silver and cut glass ware, and now all will have to be repacked and sent back to England. The generous expenditure which the British government incurred at the suggestion of Sir Herbert, also embraced considerable outlays for modernizing the diplomatic residence in every possible way. An electric illuminating plant and steam heating plants were installed, the latter being in duplicate, so that in case one equipment became inoperative the other may be immediately commissioned. And all these changes and improvements will fall to the successor of Sir Herbert to enjoy. It seems especially sad that one who was at home at Washington, so well acquainted with President Roosevelt, having made his intimate friendship during his former service at the British embassy, and one whose wife was an American, the daughter of Richard T. Wilson, of New York, should not have been permitted to serve his country for several years as ambassador at Washington. The improvements which Sir Herbert caused to be made in the embassy, however, will be a reminder for many years to come of his short term of service as British ambassador at Washington.

Usual Way.

Ernie—Dear me, I wish Jack and I could have a little quarrel.
Edith (in surprise)—What for?
Ernie—Why, if we don't have a lovers' quarrel now and then people won't believe we are really in love.—Chicago Daily News.

GOOD ROADS SENSE.

Col. J. B. Killebrew Tells Why Farmers Should Favor Government Co-Operation.

The rapidity with which the sentiment in favor of national aid to the common roads of the country has spread and the eagerness with which the proposition is welcomed since the introduction of the Brownlow bill in congress, have not only been highly gratifying to the friends of the measure, but surprising and astonishing to its opponents. The truth is the great body of the farmers of the land are slow in demanding what they are justly entitled to. Had the same necessity as the want of good roads among farmers existed in relation to the manufacturing, mining or commercial interests of the country, such a necessity would have long since been recognized and met by adequate appropriations from congress. The tillers of the soil do not work in concert for their own advancement. By the census of 1900 the whole number of people above the age of ten years engaged in gainful occupations in the United States was 29,074,117. Of this number 10,381,765 were engaged in agricultural pursuits. No other specified occupation employs so many. The manufacturing and mechanical pursuits employ 7,085,992 persons; trade and transportation, 4,766,964, and professional service, 1,258,739. And yet the farmers of the country, that contribute more to its permanent prosperity than all other classes combined, have the smallest amount of consideration in the matter of congressional appropriations. In all the history of the past legislation of the country but few efforts have been made to equalize the benefits of congressional appropriations. Until the rural mail routes were established a citizen living in the country rarely received direct benefits from the money expended by the general government, except that for the agricultural department.

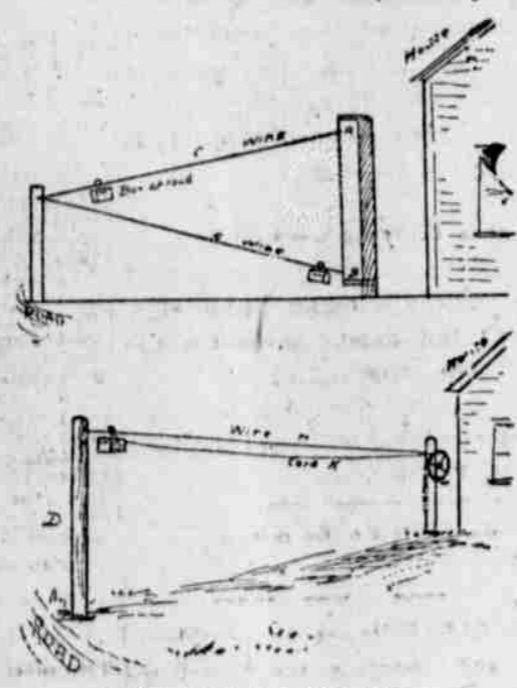
The commerce of the country felt the exuberance of fresh and lusty life and vigor from the improvement of the rivers and harbors, but this exuberance would have been vastly increased had half the money appropriated for rivers and harbors been applied to aid in the improvement and maintenance of the public roads, the very foundation of commerce.

It must not be imagined that anyone proposes that the government shall enter upon the work of building public highways without the cooperation of the state, county or other political subdivision. The policy of the government should be to help those communities that help themselves; to stimulate action and enterprise rather than to repress it by appropriating money to those communities that do nothing for themselves.

TRAVELING MAIL BOX.

Follow Instructions Here Given and Your Letters Will Come from Road to House.

Request is made for a device for running a mail box on wheels. If ground is level from point of delivery to house this diagram will send the box to and from the house. If you want the box at the road slip the wire up the post from B to A on the wire AB; when you



MAIL BOX ON WHEELS.

wish the mail to come to the house slip C down to B and it will come. If the house is uphill from the route near the house plant a post, and attach a wheel with a groove in its outer edge, with crank attached with a wire stretched up hill as H, and a cord K attached to mail box. When the box is wanted turn the crank to the right and the mail box, suspended on the wire by a pulley, will come to the house as prompt as a cow will come to her calf. It can be loaded and sent back. If the distance is too great for two posts more posts may be added. As to boys meddling with the mail box there should be no fears, as boys get tired of meddling with Uncle Sam's property.—Rural New Yorker.

Pumpkin Pie.

Two cups of stewed pumpkin, one cup cream, two cups sweet milk, four eggs, one teaspoonful cinnamon, two teaspoonfuls of ginger, two tablespoonfuls of molasses, a little salt, and sugar to suit taste. Line pie plate with a rich crust, pour in prepared pumpkin and bake in a moderate oven for three-quarters of an hour.—Prairie Farmer.

The Zionist Colony in British East Africa

Arnold White, the Distinguished English Writer and Traveler, Says It Is Foredoomed to Failure.

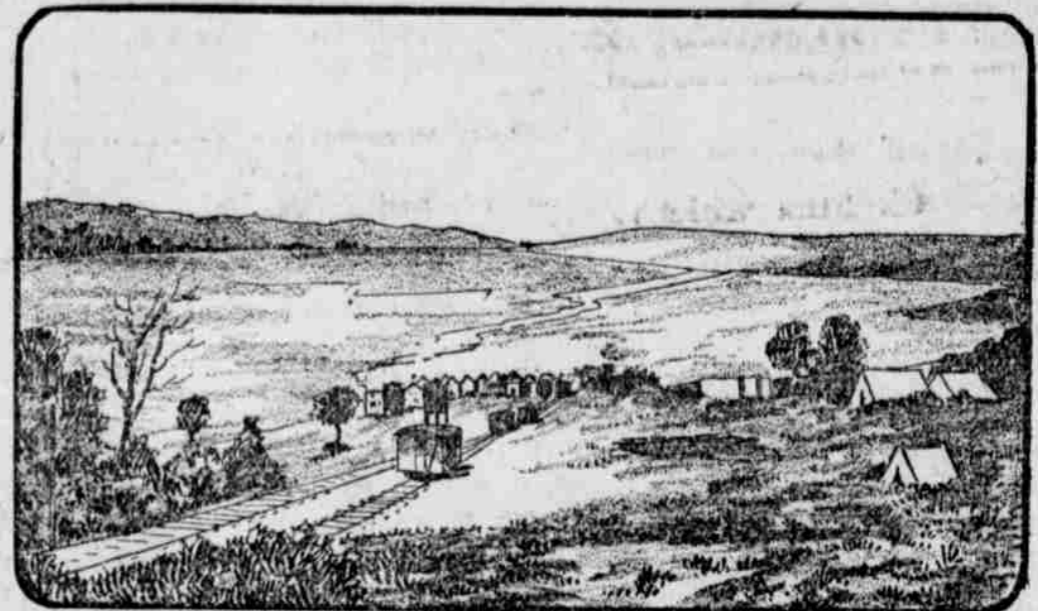


THE dreamers of the Ghetto," in Mr. Zangwill's phrase, have sat patiently at the door of Christendom for more than a thousand years. They have asked for justice and a home, but so far Christendom has turned a deaf ear to their prayer.

From time to time wealthy and well-meaning philanthropists have devoted their thoughts and their money to the solution of the Jewish question. But as the years roll by, the final settlement of humanity with the Ghetto has been postponed to a more convenient season. The late Baron de Hirsch dedicated \$50,000,000 to the solution of the Jewish question in the Argentine Republic and elsewhere. His efforts have, unfortunately, turned out to be a complete failure. The annual increase of the Hebrew subjects of the Russian emperor is at least three times as great as the absorbing capacity of the Hirsch schemes. Nothing was wanting so far as money, brains and good intentions were concerned; but the scheme failed because the chief sufferers—the Jews in Russia and Roumania—resolutely de-

about 18,000 square miles available. The British taxpayer has found the money to build the Uganda railway, which has cost up to date, about \$42,000,000. As the English law stands, there is nothing to prevent Frenchmen, Germans, Russians or Roumanians, irrespective of creed, if they have capital, from acquiring domicile and landed property in British East Africa. The foreign office, however, appears to have departed from an attitude of neutrality and has undertaken to assist in the creation of a semi-independent Jewish state or community in British East Africa or Uganda.

As a student of colonization and of the Jewish question, earnestly and sincerely as I could wish to see the success of the Zionist movement, I regret that it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that if a Jewish state were formed in Uganda it is demonstrable that it is foredoomed to failure. The proposed site is in the region of the equator; it is between 300 and 400 miles from the sea. The drawbacks, therefore, can be appreciated most thoroughly by those who, like the writer, have had practical experience in the organization and government of colonial communities. The first fact which



IN THE HEART OF THE NEW ZION. Showing One of the Railway Stations Which Will Serve the Jewish Colony.

clined to cross the ocean in order to engage in agricultural pursuits.

During the past summer I was in Russia investigating the circumstances connected with the deplorable Kishineff outbreak, and I there had the opportunity of discussing with Russian ministers and with the Jewish leaders the problem which is one of overcrowding within the Jewish pale in Russia.

His British majesty's government has conceived the idea of granting facilities for a settlement in Uganda. The tract of territory offered by Lord Lansdowne occupies an area of 200 square miles.

When the plan was placed before the Zionist congress tremendous enthusiasm was excited among those of the delegates who were not resident in Russia. The Russian delegates, however, as I have already pointed out, are resolutely determined not to compromise the Zionist scheme of a return to Palestine and the establishment of a Jewish state there by giving their sanction to any plan by which the Argentine failure of Baron Hirsch shall be repeated under less favorable conditions. The Russian delegates, accordingly, left the congress in a body rather than support by their presence a scheme which violates the first principle of Zionism.

The Russian Hebrews, however, are by no means the only section of the Hebrew community who are opposed to the establishment of a Jewish state in Uganda. The wealthy members of the community in the United States, England, France and Germany are for the most part equally hostile to the political ambitions of Zionism, whether in Palestine, Uganda, or elsewhere.

Nevertheless, the proposals communicated by Lord Lansdowne to the managers of the Basle congress have ma-



MAP OF BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

terialized sufficiently to warrant expert examination of the prospects of success in the event of an autonomous Jewish colony being established on the proposed site.

Of the 23,000 square miles available for the settlement of European colonists in British East Africa, about 5,000 square miles are too remote to be worth consideration. There remain, therefore,

the leaders of the proposed Jewish state will have to consider is the question of access to market. There are few commodities in the present state of international competition which will bear the expense of land transport for 400 miles on a tropical railway. Wheat, vegetables and timber are not among these commodities. Coffee, rubber, tea, ostrich feathers, gold and diamonds would pay for export; but the cultivation of coffee, which is rather a horticultural than an agricultural pursuit, requires large capital, and the hard work is unsuited to European settlers, especially to a race so intellectual and nervous as the Hebrew community of Russia. If the cultivation of coffee by the proposed Hebrew community is impracticable because labor in the sun is unsuited to the sedentary town dwellers, who will form the bulk of the immigrants, what is there that remains? Cereals, of course, might be grown for home consumption by the colonists, but there would be no market for them. It is an established principle of successful colonization



A NATIVE OF THE PROMISED LAND.

that a colony, to succeed, must have ready access to a market. In Uganda such does not exist.

It is impossible to describe the splendid courage and patience of the sufferers in the Sixteen Provinces of the Pale. They cry: "How long, O Lord, how long?" and, although tortured and suffering, they prefer the continuance of their present misery to recourse to a plan which, though well meant, and on the surface containing many attractive features, they well know destined to fail. Every person will wish success to the Zionist colony in Uganda, if it is formed; but those who desire the well-being of the Jewish race will prefer that Russia, England and America should confer for the solution of the Jewish problem on wise, humane and large international lines.

ARNOLD WHITE.