

garded as settled and fixed by the people most to be affected. If this decision can possibly have a tendency to disturb titles derived from one State or the other, by grants long acquiesced in, giving the force and right of prescription to the ownership in which they are held, *it will no doubt be the pleasure, as it will be the manifest duty, of the law-making bodies of the two States, to confirm such private rights upon principles of justice and right applicable to the situation.*

The court thereupon directed that a decree be entered settling the rights of the States to the western boundary in accordance with Deakins Line, and that commissioners be appointed to locate and establish said line. Should the respective States fail to agree upon three commissioners to run the line and to present a report, in accordance with the court's directions, the court stated that it would itself appoint commissioners and enter a decree in conformity with their decision.

#### SECRETARY KNOX'S VISIT TO CENTRAL AMERICA

On February 23d Secretary of State Philander C. Knox sailed from Key West on the Cruiser *Washington* upon an official visit to the Latin-American republics surrounding the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico. The purpose of his journey was very similar to that of Secretary Root's trip to South America in 1906 — to convey to the people and the governments of the Central American States the formal testimony of the continued good will of the United States, to cement the ties of traditional friendship between them, and to promote an increasing commercial intercourse. The visit of the Secretary was well timed, in view of the early completion of the Panama Canal, and one of his main objects as revealed in his series of addresses, was to call the attention of the states directly bordering upon the Canal to the new opportunities for the development of our trade relations which will follow the re-alignment of international commerce, sure to follow the successful inauguration of this great interoceanic waterway. In announcing the visit of Secretary Knox, its purpose and significance were made plain in the following statement issued from the White House on February 10th:

The relations of the United States to the Spanish republics surrounding the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico are of the utmost importance to us, in view of our interests and responsibilities in that region. The President thinks it will be of great assistance, in solving the diplomatic problems that are presenting themselves from day to day, if we manifest our friendly interest in these, our neighboring republics, by a visit to them of the Secretary of State.

By creating the closer relation and acquiring the more exact information that must come from such conferences as he will be able to have in the capitals of these republics with the heads of their governments, he will enable our government to deal with existing questions much more effectively. This will be the first time that an American Secretary of State has visited those countries.

Secretary Knox's first stop was at Panama, where he arrived on February 27th. He was cordially received by the Acting President, Señor Chiari, and by an esthusiastic concourse of people. In his speech on this occasion, Mr. Knox expressed in admirable terms the sentiments of good will which exist in the United States towards all her South American sisters; dwelt upon the new bond of union which the Panama Canal will create; and in particular he emphasized the bearing of the Monroe Doctrine upon the future relations between North, Central, and South America. The Panama speech was so tactful in phrase, and so comprehensive in scope, as to make it the keynote of all of the Secretary's addresses on this journey; and it is highly appropriate to reproduce it in full:

The President of the United States believes that the early completion of the Panama Canal should mark the beginning of closer relations to all Latin America and especially to the Caribbean littoral, as well as the relations of these countries to each other, and has sent me hither as a bearer of a message of good will to our sister American republics. It is the President's desire that I might personally meet your most hospitable peoples, might see for myself your beautiful countries with their boundless resources and economic possibilities, to the end that such direct personal knowledge, understanding and appreciation might result in mutual advantage and in co-operation for the development of all our countries. Responding to the hospitality of the country which has first and so generously received me and with which the relations of my country are so cordially intimate, I take this opportunity of assuring all the American republics that the purpose of the United States toward them is that we should live in amity and essential harmony and that we desire only that more peace, more prosperity, more happiness and more security should come into and become part of their individual and national lives.

While it is entirely clear to those who have fairly and intelligently considered the history of the relations of the United States to the other American republics that our policies have been without a trace of sinister motive or design, craving neither sovereignty nor territory, yet it is true that our motives toward you have not always been fortunately interpreted either at home or faithfully represented by some of our nation who have resided in your midst.

When the canal is opened and the ships of all the countries of the world come sailing through these Carib seas, the peculiarity of our position with its special requirement will be accentuated and the wisdom of that doctrine be confirmed again and specially. It serves admittedly your interests as much as ours. Even

now it is a great bond between us. In its future amplification I perceive it will be a common heritage binding together the nations of this hemisphere with a force no power can break, and while it has in Providence been given to us of the North to state and interpret it, it has never been invoked to the detriment of the people of the South or operated to their hurt.

In my judgment the Monroe Doctrine will reach the acme of its beneficence when it is regarded by the people of the United States as a reason why we should constantly respond to the needs of those of our Latin-American neighbors who may find necessity for our assistance in their progress toward better government or who may seek our aid to meet their just obligations and thereby to maintain honorable relations to the family of nations. Great as will be the glory of having physically divided a hemisphere, a greater glory will be to have contributed to the unity, happiness and prosperity of its people.

After an inspection of the Canal and a series of social and official functions, Secretary Knox and his party sailed for Port Limon, Costa Rica, arriving there March 1st; his reception at San José, the capital, was equally cordial.

At a banquet tendered by the President of the Republic Secretary Knox made an address, which took its key-note from the fact that he was speaking "in the City which is the home of the Central American Court of Justice \* \* \* the most perfect type of an international court of arbitral justice." The main portions of his speech are given:

It is given to few countries to make the just boast that within her borders the school teachers outnumber the soldiers and that resting upon her bosom in the very center of America is the first perfect type of an International Court of Arbitral Justice.

The attitude of the Government of the United States toward the peaceful settlement of international disputes, of which this court forms a model, has been consistently maintained since the foundation of our Government, as is evidenced by the treaty of Ghent. The attitude of the Republic of Costa Rica has likewise been consistent and is amply evidenced by the course adopted for the settlement of the century old boundary dispute with Panama. I repeat, Mr. President, that the people of Costa Rica may justly felicitate themselves that in their very midst is the home of the Central American Court of Justice, the one tribunal before which one nation may bring another, yes, before which an individual may bring a nation to determine before the bar of impartial justice the differences that exist between them. My Government, and I am sure the Government of Mexico, feel proud of the part played by them in the Central American Peace Conference, convoked under their auspices, out of which grew this international forum, which is the prototype of the court it has long been the desire of the United States to see established by the nations of the earth. In this connection, Mr. President, let me express the feeling of profound satisfaction that the people and Government of the United States entertain, not only because of the rapidly increasing prosperity of Costa Rica, but because

of her love for peace, because of the respect she inspires in the family of nations, because she has laid the foundations of perpetual freedom upon the eternal rock of justice and occupies an exceptional and enviable position among the American Republics due to the general distribution of property among her people, and because of the constantly increasing intimacy and friendliness between her people and our own.

It is but a short time, Mr. President, until at Panama a new highway of commerce will be opened to the world. That event, so conspicuous and significant, will remove the countries of the Caribbean Sea from their comparative isolation and place them upon the greatest commercial highway on the globe, a highway from the Northern to the Southern, from the Western to the Eastern world. The republics of this hemisphere will be thrown into a new day and a new condition. It would be folly to enter that new day without a proper conception of its opportunities and possibilities for our common good. We should go into the new epoch as befits it, with new aspirations and enthusiasms and with greater promise. The casual relations which once marked our intercourse are now happily not casual, but they must be closer and more friendly still, so close indeed that as we labor to better human conditions this common end will be a bond of trust and hope.

I bear to you then, not only a message of good will but one bespeaking a mutual understanding and union in aspiration and effort toward furthering the progress of the western world through deeds of reciprocal helpfulness.

The free and equal republics which have established themselves upon this hemisphere have a singular harmony of destiny, and that is, to bring their common form of government to the highest point of efficiency for the maintenance of popular rights. The greatest strength of these republics whose heritage is so wonderful lies in unity of aim and effort.

While we will all be more or less in the future as in the past engrossed in questions affecting our internal development and our own acute problems, it is wise to seize every opportunity to impress upon the world and upon ourselves that ours is a Pan-American Union of lofty Pan-American public opinion doing justice and exacting justice, disclaiming ignoble suspicion and putting to scorn international acts of unworthiness when unhappily they may be found among us.

From Costa Rica Secretary Knox went to Nicaragua, and at Managua, on March 6th, was welcomed by President Diaz, whose guest he was during his stay at the capital. The following day was observed as a public holiday. Secretary Knox visited the Congress, where he was formally received, attended a session of the Supreme Court, was the guest of honor at a public reception and ball, and spoke at a banquet.

In his speech at the banquet Secretary Knox served notice that the United States intends to preserve the Central American republics from disintegration within as much as from foreign menace without. He disavowed any desire on the part of the United States for territorial aggrandizement.

The warmth of the Secretary's reception in Nicaragua was emphasized, rather than marred, by some demonstrations of hostility in local newspapers controlled by adherents of the deposed President Zelaya. The Secretary's speech made reference to the American efforts to reorganize the finances of Nicaragua and Honduras, as outlined in the treaties now pending in the United States Senate, and which were referred to in Mr. Knox's address before the American Society for the Judicial Settlement of International Disputes, in the following words:

The logic of political geography and of strategy and now our tremendous national interest created by the Panama Canal make the safety, the peace and the prosperity of Central America and the zone of the Caribbean of paramount interest to the United States. Thus, the malady of revolutions and financial collapse is most acute precisely in the region where it is most dangerous to us. It would not be sane to uphold a great policy like the Monroe Doctrine and to repudiate its necessary corollaries and neglect the sensible measures which reason dictates as safeguards.

The next visit was to Salvador, where Mr. Knox arrived at Acajutla on March 10th, and proceeded by special train to San Salvador, where he was received by the President of the Republic, Dr. Manuel A. Araujo. At a state dinner on the same evening the Secretary spoke at length, and portions of his remarks were plain-spoken and significant. He said:

The supreme purpose of my visit is to show that there is no justification and no reason for the prejudice and misunderstanding existing between the peoples of the United States and Central America. Both are sorely in need of the truth. The Central Americans desire their high civilization, lofty purpose and hospitality to reach the United States through unpolluted channels; and the truth of the motives of the United States in Central America should reach here without wicked perversions.

The opening of the Panama Canal shortens by 10,000 miles the water route between Acajutla and New York, which should be naturally one of the chief markets for the products of Salvador. When Central American products become popularized in the United States, trade with our Caribbean neighbors will grow to an enormous extent.

The people of the United States have been too ignorant of their southern neighbors and their undeveloped resources. Friendship and peace will result from the reciprocal dependence of the countries upon each other's products, sympathies, and assistance.

From Salvador the Secretary proceeded to Guatemala, arriving at San José on March 14th, and he spent the next two days in Guatemala City, where he was welcomed by six thousand school children, bearing the flags of the two republics. The University of Guatemala conferred

upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws. From Guatemala the Secretary proceeded to Honduras, arriving at Puerto Barrios on the 17th, where he again went aboard the Cruiser *Washington*. He was met at the seaport by members of the Honduran cabinet and the Chief Justice, who made the two days journey from the capital on mules. A brilliant reception was given by the Secretary on board the cruiser. On March 22d he arrived at Caracas, Venezuela, where he spent the two following days, and was the recipient of honors and attentions not surpassed by those at any previous stage of his journey. His subsequent itinerary includes visits to Porto Rico, on March 28-30; Santo Domingo, on March 31-April 1; Haiti, on April 3-4; Jamaica, on April 8; Havana, April 10-13; and he is due to arrive at Key West on April 23d. A visit to Mexico, scheduled in the Secretary's original itinerary, was omitted because of the disturbed political conditions in that republic.

As the JOURNAL goes to press the Secretary has but partially completed his mission of good-will and peace. There can be no doubt that his message of friendly sympathy and appreciation has been well received. His visit has been a continual triumph, and it may be confidently predicted that it will mark an important date in the relations between Central America and the United States.