

Assistant Secretary of State, was elected. The Committee on Publication of Proceedings was discontinued and these duties assigned to the Editor-in-Chief and Secretary of the Board of Editors of the JOURNAL.

The meeting closed with the annual banquet at the New Willard Hotel on the evening of the 28th. Eighty-five members and guests were present. In the absence of President Root, who had left the city to prepare for his important public errand to Russia, the Honorable David Jayne Hill presided as toastmaster. In his remarks opening the speaking of the evening, Dr. Hill took occasion to reply to those who assert that international law has been destroyed. In answer to this statement he remarked:

International law can never be destroyed; it may be violated; its rules may be disobeyed, but so may the rules laid down by municipal law, or by any legal system; but the law is there, and, so far as it goes, so far as it is the expression of that justice toward which all law aspires, it is a reality, in spite of violations. There is an analogy which has often impressed me, between the jurist and the man of science, who is exploring the arcana of nature with the idea of discovering the truth. There is not a scientific text-book in the world ten years old that is fit to teach in school or college today; and so, when we find that our international law books are already uncertain and will have to be revised, this should not in the least shake our faith in the reality and the solidity of the law. The search for justice is, to the jurist, what the search for truth is to the physicist, the psychologist, and the historian. Let me say, with the strongest possible emphasis, gentlemen, that so long as the idea and the ideal of justice persists in the human mind — and it will never cease to persist — there will be international law.

The speakers were Mr. Justice Russell, of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, Hon. Oscar S. Straus, M. Frederic Allain, in charge of the legal department of the French Purchasing Commission in the United States, Hon. Sheldon Amos, Judge of the Egyptian Mixed Court, and Professor B. E. Shatsky, of the University of Petrograd.

The complete addresses delivered during the meeting and at the banquet, together with the discussions, will appear in the Proceedings now in press and shortly to be issued.

GEORGE A. FINCH.

JUDGE ADVOCATES IN THE ARMY

On June 15, 1917, the War Department announced the selection from civil life of twenty Judge Advocates, to serve with the first levy of approximately 600,000 men of the national draft army. It was stated that each of the Judge Advocates would be assigned to a division

of the Army and that all of them would be Majors on the staff of the Judge Advocate General in the field. Those appointed were:

Henry L. Stimson, ex-Secretary of War, who has been assigned to duty for the present at the Army War College; Professor Eugene Wambaugh and Professor Felix Frankfurter, both of the Law Faculty of Harvard; Dr. James Brown Scott, a leading authority on international law; Professor John H. Wigmore, Dean of Northwestern University; Gaspar G. Bacon, son of Robert Bacon, former Ambassador to France; Frederick Gilbert Bauer of Boston; George S. Wallace of Huntington, W. Va.; Nathan W. McChesney of Chicago; Lewis W. Call of Garrett, Md.; ex-Congressman Burnett M. Chipfield of Chicago; Joseph Wheelless of St. Louis; George P. Whitsett of Kansas City; Victor Eugene Ruehl of New York; Thomas R. Hamer of St. Anthony, Idaho; Joshua Reuben Clark, Jr., of Washington; Charles B. Warren of Detroit; Arthur C. Black of Kansas City; Edwin C. Davis of Boise, Idaho, and Hughe Bayne of New York.

The Committee on Public Information issued the following statement in connection with the announcement of the appointment of the Judge Advocates:

The men who have sought appointment have been so highly qualified — and many of them have been so distinguished in the law — that it has been hard at times to select a few from so much good material.

It would be well to disabuse the public mind of any superstition to the effect that the applicants under the legal branch of the army are looking for a “snap” or for a “silk stocking” position far in the rear of the actual fighting. The officers acting on the staff of the Judge Advocate General will be members of the actual fighting force, and, in the pursuit of duty, will be brought into the danger zone just as often as other specialized commissioned men, medical officers, for instance. The large percentage of casualties among army doctors fighting in France will stand as a convincing argument that military surgeons are not spared when the general assault begins.

A great many distinguished lawyers and legal professors, men of national standing, applied to the Judge Advocate's Department early after the declaration of war and even before the President's final word was read. They were eager to act as soldier, lawyer, or to accept any post where there was a chance to offer themselves to their country. After a painstaking weeding out several Majors were created.

It is not the purpose of the present note to comment or to criticize the appointments, but rather to call attention to the fact that many of the appointees are members of the American Society of International Law and to express, on behalf of the Society, the satisfaction that its members are offering their services in the line of their profession for such use as the Government may care to make of them; and it may perhaps be proper to remark in this connection that the President of the United States is a regular, not an honorary, member of the Society,

that the Secretary of State is not only a member but a founder of the Society and an editor of its JOURNAL, and that the Judge Advocate General of the Army is likewise a member of the Society. It is peculiarly fitting that the persons appointed from civil life to Judge Advocates should be versed in international law, because, in our Army, the Judge Advocate General advises the War Department as to the laws of war, and the Judge Advocate of each division will be called upon to express his opinion as to the laws of war; for in the conception of the United States the laws and customs of war are not national but international.

JAMES BROWN SCOTT.

THE PORTO RICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Among the many societies of a quasi-international nature which are daily organized in this country, the Porto Rican Association of the United States of America, which has just been founded in Washington for the specific purpose of "fostering and stimulating in the United States of America, and especially in the capital city thereof, as the seat of the Government, a warm interest in Porto Rico, which may give rise to the establishment of closer bonds of friendship and culture between Porto Ricans and Americans and thereby tend to solve beneficially and definitively the legal and political status of the Island," has a claim to a friendly welcome and support by the American people.

In view of the present conditions in the world, and of the recent passage of the so-called Jones-Shafroth Act "to provide a civil government for Porto Rico," which was printed in the Supplement to this JOURNAL for April, 1917, p. 66, it becomes interesting to examine the present legal and political status of the island in order to ascertain with some sort of accuracy, what the real aims and purpose of this association are.

As it is well known, the island was ceded by Spain to the United States as a result of the Spanish American War, and Congress, after some hesitation as to the disposition which should be made of the island, passed the so-called Foraker Act as a temporary measure to provide a form of civil government for the island. When the question of the status of Porto Rico came up for decision by the Supreme Court in the so-called Insular Cases, it decided under this law by a divided court, that while Porto Rico was not a foreign country for international purposes, yet, in the constitutional sense it was no part of the United