

## NEWS AND NOTES

### THE FIRST PAN-AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

The fourth Latin American Scientific Congress will meet in Santiago, Chile, on the twenty-fifth of December, 1908. It will convene under the auspices of the Chilian government. Previous congresses were held at Buenos Ayres, Montevideo and Rio de Janeiro. The present congress will be known as the First Pan-American Scientific Congress, because, for the first time, all the nations of America, North and South, have been invited to send representatives. The program embraces all the sciences and humanities. For political science, the following themes of discussion have been set by the committee of organization under the presidency of Valentin Letelier, rector of the national university of Chile:

#### I. PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW

1. The influence which the discovery and conquest of America and its colonial development have exercised upon international law.
2. Principles of international law which, first proclaimed in American congresses, treaties, or practices, have since been accepted by European states. How far have these principles been the result of the special political and economic conditions in America?
3. The support which American countries have lent to certain international principles and conventions of a world-wide character.
4. The influence which the principles of international law have exercised over the domestic legislation in American countries.
5. Is there any possibility of the American states accepting a group of principles or rules of international law in respect to which as yet no general accord is possible?
6. Considering the particular conditions of the new continent, can we speak of the existence of an American international law, and what would be the conception which should be formed of this law, of its basis, and component materials?
7. Admitting the existence of an American international law, how should instruction in it be organized?
8. Bases for a codification of public and private international law on this continent.

#### II. PROBLEMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN AMERICA

1. How far the different forms of states recognized in international law can be applied to America.

2. Responsibility of the American governments for the acts of savage tribes which inhabit territories under their sovereignty, but not under their effective control.

3. Responsibility for acts of indigenous tribes which are under effective authority.

4. Responsibility for the acts of nomad tribes wandering within the frontiers of a state.

5. Responsibility for the acts of civilized persons or native tribes who are in disputed territories.

6. Responsibility for damage caused to foreigners in consequence of civil wars, strikes, and other interior commotions.

7. The importance of historical frontiers, or the *uti possidetis* of 1810. The manner in which American countries have fixed their boundaries.

8. Uniform regulation, for the countries of America of neutrality in the case of civil war.

9. Is it desirable that the American states should adopt the principle of free navigation of international rivers?

10. The institution of nationality in America.

### III. CONVENTIONAL INTERNATIONAL LAW

A. Critical study of the following conventions framed for the states of America in the second and third international conferences.

1. The reorganization of the international bureau of American republics.

2. Condition of naturalized citizens who renew their residence in the country of their birth.

3. Rights of foreigners.

4. Pecuniary claims for damages.

5. Exercise of liberal professions.

6. Sanitary police.

7. Patent and trade-mark legislation.

8. Literary and artistic property.

9. Exchange of official scientific, literary, and industrial publications.

10. Extradition and protection against anarchism.

11. Codification of public and private international law.

B. Critical study of the following conventions framed in the South American congress of private international law. (Montevideo.)

1. International civil law.

2. International commercial law.

3. International penal law.

4. International law of procedure.

### IV. DIPLOMATIC HISTORY

1. General outline.

2. The Latin-American international conferences.

3. The international Pan-American conferences.

4. Movements of approach between American states—attempts of confederation and alliance.

5. Diplomatic reclamations against Latin-American states.

*International Politics*

1. What are the best means, of a political and economic nature, to bring about relations of friendship among the American states?
2. The basis on which diplomatic and scientific Pan-American congresses should be organized.
3. Means which would be put in practice by the American states for assimilating the foreign immigrants to the national element?

## V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW.

1. Influence of foreign constitutions on those of Latin-American states.
2. Development of the political institutions in these states.
3. *Id.* in the United States.
4. The organization and functioning of the parliamentary system in American states which have adopted this form of government.
5. Considering the habits, traditions and education of American peoples, is it desirable to introduce the referendum, and if so, in what form should it be adopted?
6. Results which have been obtained in American countries through reforms designed to give the people direct participation in public affairs.
7. Suffrage in the different American countries. Comparison of results obtained through the different systems of voting.
8. The municipal régime in American states. Participation of foreigners in local administration.
9. The self-governing commune and its workings on the new continent.
10. The liberty of teaching.
11. Influence of associations and the development of public opinion on the political and administrative system of American states.
12. Legal and political situation of the indigenous tribes in these states.

Comparative study of American and European constitutions on the following points:

1. Conception of sovereignty.
2. Representative system.
3. Parliamentary system.
4. Unitarism and federalism.
5. Centralization and decentralization.

There are similar series of themes for political and social economics, criminology and police administration.

## THE MICHIGAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF 1907-1908

JOHN A. FAIRLIE

This convention was called by vote of the people of Michigan in April, 1906. At its session last year, the legislature provided for the election of delegates, which took place in September. The convention met on October 22, and completed its work on February 21; and the revised