

Supreme Court in 1917, that under the existing international agreements and practice the captain of the *Kronprinzessin Cecilie*, in the words of the court, "acted as a prudent man."

GEORGE GRAFTON WILSON.

LESTER H. WOOLSEY, THE NEW SOLICITOR FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

On June 27, 1917, Lester H. Woolsey, Esquire, of New York, was appointed Solicitor for the Department of State. His name had previously been sent to the Senate for confirmation and the Senate has duly confirmed the appointment. Mr. Woolsey has entered upon the performance of the duties of the office and it is to be hoped that he will long continue to perform these duties, not merely in his own behalf, but in the interest of the Government, of which he is a faithful and competent, upright and loyal servant.

The duties of the Solicitor are technical. They require a broad knowledge of international law, not merely as found in the books, but in the actual and shifting practice of nations. The Solicitor must be versed in diplomacy, for the questions arise for the most part in diplomatic intercourse. They must be considered in the light of diplomacy; they must be determined with a full knowledge of the aims and purposes of governments, for a suggestion proper enough in theory is often unacceptable or unworkable in practice, and tact as well as law often determines the method and solution. Experience and temperament, judgment and learning, are indispensable for the successful performance of the duties of this office.

Mr. Woolsey possesses these qualities in abundant measure and his appointment is because of their possession, not because of influence in his behalf. He entered the Department of State almost ten years ago as a clerk in the Solicitor's Office, of which he is now the head. He learned at first hand its duties and performed them with skill and devotion. He was appointed Assistant Solicitor in 1913. He was appointed Law Adviser to the Department of State on July 1, 1916, an office especially created for him by Secretary Lansing, and since the outbreak of the European War he has, by his skill and devotion, amply justified the confidence of his chief — to such a degree, indeed, that the Secretary recommended his appointment as Solicitor to the Attorney General, who makes the appointment. In fact, the Solicitor

is an officer of the Department of Justice, though not in name an Assistant Attorney General.

Mr. Woolsey is, as the members of the Society and as the readers of this JOURNAL know, a member and a contributor to the JOURNAL. He has contributed to its columns two admirable papers, one in 1909 on "Early Cases on the Doctrine of Continuous Voyage" — a doctrine with which he was thus fortunately familiar during the European War — and another in 1910 entitled "A Comparative Study of the South African Constitution." Recently he delivered a notable address on "Economic Considerations of International Organization" before the Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Society, which, when it appears in the volume of the proceedings of the Society for 1917, will be regarded as possessing permanent value.

The opportunities of service were never greater than at the present time. The complicated questions of neutrality have given way to the complicated questions of war, and it is a matter of congratulation that the law officer of the Department of State is by natural ability, training, and experience as well fitted to cope with the one as with the other.

JAMES BROWN SCOTT.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

The Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Society was held in Washington, April 26 to 28 last. The meeting was opened on the evening of the 26th, in the New Willard Hotel, by the Honorable Elihu Root, President of the Society, who, although when he selected the subject of his presidential address several weeks prior to the meeting, he had no idea that he would soon be called upon to head the American mission to the new-born democracy of Russia, delivered a stirring address upon "The Effect of Democracy on International Law." It was a peculiar privilege of the members of the Society that to them Mr. Root made his last public utterance before leaving the United States to stir the Russian peoples and armies to renewed action in defense of democracy and the supremacy of law among nations. The theme of his address, the thought that he left with his fellow-members in the Society, the message that he took with him to the masses of new Russia struggling for liberty against autocracy both within and without their country, was contained in the following concluding passages: