

For generations the British government has understood the diplomatic significance of its ships. It has favored the frequent appearance of its flag wherever a vessel will float. Not only martial, but mercantile craft have helped in the diffusion of the realization of British power and hence the augmentation of British prestige. Moreover, Britons have known that sailors preserve a higher morale when they are traveling from one definite objective to another rather than circling aimlessly at sea. Similar views have not prevailed to anything like the same extent in American naval practice. We almost have seemed afraid to travel regularly and widely abroad.

Such home port huggers have our warships been, as a general thing, that when President Theodore Roosevelt proposed a trip by the American fleet around the world foreign newspapers discussed the idea as a sensational departure and even hinted that it boded ill to the peace of the nations. American naval vessels stand for peace, not for war, and the more there are of them within rational limits the greater will be America's influence not only for pacific relations among the peoples, but for all the ideals implied in the word Americanism.

We want sea power proportionate to our industrial and commercial greatness and we want to make a continual friendly transmaritime showing of both our ships and our men.

*Chinese visés are necessary on passports used in China.*

*Buildings are limited in Manila, which has never had a severe earthquake, to a height of 30 meters.*

*Manila is a leading primary market for snakes skins.*

*Monthly imports of machinery into the Philippines have averaged \$759,009 during a year.*

## U. S. Policy Forms in South America

By EDWARD PRICE BELL

Aboard U. S. S. *Utah*, En Route to Key West, Fla., Dec. 24.—As the resplendence and hospitality of Rio Janeiro recede, President-Elect Herbert Hoover settles down to a close consideration of his forthcoming policy relative to the southern American republics.

Every situation touched since the first delightful landing at Amapala, Honduras, has been improved. Where prepossessions were favorable to the United States they were strengthened, and where prejudices ran counter to good continental American relations they were diminished or destroyed. The ground everywhere has been cleared or put in process of clearing for the greatest edifice of understanding ever designed for the Americans.

But only these preliminaries have been accomplished. The real and lasting work remains to be done. And nobody knows better than does Mr. Hoover that this work is going to test him and his aids far more severely than he or they have been tested hitherto.

Sentimental tides flow swiftly in Central and South America. If they bear strongly toward pan-American unity today, they carry within themselves the

possibility of a quick change. It is Mr. Hoover's purpose to act with promptness to prevent such a change. In this, as in other matters, he will put his faith in organization. He will equip the state department at Washington with what it needs to observe the tides of feeling and thought in Latin America and to influence these movements for the good of the Americans as a whole.

The American secretary of state is a hard pressed man. He cannot survey the entire world, and still less can he look after the incredible mess of detail demanding the attention of his department. Central and South America constitutes a special problem. We know less about these diversified and sensitive peoples than we know about Great Britain or France or Germany or Italy, or even of Japan and China.

I expect to see in the state department at Washington a reorganized and vastly better Central and South American division with some expert such as John P. Fletcher (ambassador to Italy, now with the Hoover party) at its head and with a group of ambassadors, ministers and other officials working under it such as the United States never has had in

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the southern hemisphere.

Particular responsibility and particular knowledge are the requisites in Washington. In the southern republics familiarity with Spanish and Portuguese tongues on the part of our representatives will be included among the primary requirements. General culture also will be esteemed. President Hoover will try to find diplomats, consuls and commercial attachés who speak not only the linguistic, but the sentimental tongues of these peoples. These are difficult criteria and they cannot be had all at once, but a start can be made in the direction of their realization.

The so-called career men in diplomacy will not be preferred necessarily. Diplomatic inclination and experience will not be enough. Fundamental fitness for the delicate service in the harmonizing of inter-American standpoints will be compulsory. What confronts us broadly is an escape from the stereotyped practice in our dealings with the southern American world. Its importance has not been appreciated and its problems have not been understood. Given the support of American public opinion, Mr. Hoover's administration, I think, will carry the United States far on the road of all-American conciliation.

On Board U. S. S. *Utah*, En Route to Hampton Roads, Va., Dec. 29.—Does freer economic intercourse between the Americans threaten the integrity of Latin-American civilization? Such a possibility disturbs some Latin-American minds. In yesterday's dispatch I tried to show why the peoples south of the Rio Grande fear aggression and exploitation, pointing out their natural wealth and naval and military weakness in the midst of external power and with long memories of plunder at foreign hands.

President-Elect Hoover returns to the United States where he will arrive Jan. 6 with information of still another fear and I think a deeper one than that indicated above. Those who are apprehensive in this sense feel that no amount of material prosperity could compensate Latin-America for the loss of its spiritual birthright.

The southerners are proud peoples. They hark back fondly to their racial origins. They prize their languages, their social customs, their religious faith. Looking about them even now they see American aspects everywhere—American automobiles, street cars, the telephone, electrical machinery, radios and merchandise. Strip Central and South America of the products of North American genius and enterprise, and they would soon fear an instant reversion of from a quarter to half a century.

One of the finest features of all we have seen on this journey has been the electrical feature. The Buenos Aires and Rio Janeiro electrical displays will glitter in our recollections for many a day. North American genius and toil produced this light, as well as useful things almost countless. Swell this im-

portant tide of American manufactures, reason some Latin-Americans, and eventually we shall be swayed beyond salvage.

Mr. Hoover, in my opinion, has done much to lessen this apprehension. He has shown the keenest interest and sympathy in local Latin-American problems, giving his counsel liberally when requested and suggesting ways to further Latin-American progress. And he must have put a final quietus on at least one fantastic notion.

His hosts thought him intolerant. They fancied that the recent election in the United States was a contest between protestantism and Catholicism, and that since protestantism won Mr. Hoover might be invading Latin America as a protestant crusader. It seems

safe to say that this notion has been not only scotched but killed in all the ten countries visited.

English is spreading among the Latins, but the loss of their language obviously is so remote as not to warrant so much as theoretical notice. Their social customs also may be modified somewhat by American influence, but they will remain overwhelmingly Spanish or Portuguese probably to the end of time. As for their religious faith, if it ever changes it will change, needlessly to say, through other than American impetus.

Moreover, students of races and nations know that, however far they may travel in outward modification, they keep their inward identities—the only things which really matter.



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