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The North American has some very timely thoughts presented in the following article, showing how the diplomatic service has been degraded, and how men of years of experience have been ousted and replaced by men of little or no experience. The article contains many statistical facts and is well worth the time and attention of our readers.

In his astonishing plea to congress the other day for repeal of the clause exempting coastwise vessels from Panama canal tolls President Wilson confessed that grave problems have arisen in our foreign relations. He begged for repeal because, he said, without this sacrifice, "right or wrong," he "would not know how to deal with other matters of even greater delicacy."

Speculation as to what the threatening conditions are would be impolitic and unpatriotic. But there is no impropriety in pointing out the fact that the complications have multiplied and become acute since the diplomatic service, under this administration, has been subjected to the disorganizing and degrading spoils system in its crudest form.

It is notorious that the dismissal of trained ministers, to make places for the incompetent beneficiaries of political pull, has disrupted the efficiency and destroyed the morale of the service. Can it be doubted that the scandal has also had its effect abroad? Is it not reasonable to suppose that the foreign pressure which alarms the president results in part from the contempt which other powers feel toward this surrender of our diplomacy to the basest uses of machine politics?

That creditable sense of generous trust toward a new president, which we have noted before, has led the public to look leniently, or carelessly, upon the debauchery of the diplomatic service. But it is time that the facts should be understood. The plain truth is that Secretary Bryan, supported by the president, has overturned the salutary system built up during ten years under two preceding administrations, and has sacrificed American prestige abroad to the exigencies of political advantage at home.

It is an inveterate habit among Americans to regard our representatives at foreign capital as mere social figures—and in some noted appointments there has been too much justification for such an attitude. Yet a diplomatic service rightly organized and conducted is capable of far-reaching achievements for the nation, and there is no more serious indictment of American common sense than our neglect of this branch of the government. It is, in theory, a permanent corps of representatives of the government maintained at foreign capitals to transact the business of our own government with other governments; to supervise the rights and interests of our country in the countries of their residence, and, with the equipment of experience and acquaintance of language, law and usage there, to create a continuous atmosphere of conciliation, good feeling, and friendly relations, in which international misunderstandings can readily be avoided or dispelled.

The consular service was long ago organized on a basis of efficiency, because its work shows direct results in the way of business. The diplomatic service does not so patently translate itself in terms of dollars and cents, and, therefore, has been treated by the people with good-natured contempt.

Yet it is clear that a trained, experienced service, working harmoniously with Washington, would have prevented the government's drifting into entanglements with Mexico, Japan and other nations, and would have obviated needless sacrifice not only of lives, but of vast trade devel-

opment.

It should be said that President Wilson and Secretary Bryan did not invent the disreputable system of appointments which they have carried to such an extreme. For many years ministerial posts and ambassadorships had been parceled out shamelessly as rewards for big campaign contributions or other favors rendered to the party in power. The public has not forgotten how President Taft sent Doctor Schurman, of Cornell, on a year's holiday to Greece and accredited various political "lamie ducks" to the courts of friendly nations.

But the evils of the old system were in a measure counteracted by the masterly diplomacy of John Hay and Elihu Root; no nation could fail in respect to a State Department administered by such men, while it is not going too far to say that no such influence radiates from the present secretary as would dignify a contemptible appointment.

Our diplomacy, however, has been far less discredited by weakness in the department than by open adoption of the spoils system in place of the system of merit and regular promotion which Mr. Bryan found in operation. President Roosevelt in 1905 undertook to organize the lower branches of the diplomatic service upon a basis of efficiency and permanency. He issued an executive order providing that "appointments should be made either by transfer or promotion from some branch of the foreign service, or upon the successful passing of an examination." Four years later President Taft perfected these rules, so that "neither in designation for examination nor in appointments after examination should the political affiliations of the candidate be considered."

Thus the embassy and legation secretariats were withdrawn from patronage and secretaries of proved ability were gradually advanced until they became ministers. The purpose was to make the service permanent; to attract to it young men of high character and ability, who would train themselves for the duties of diplomacy; to promote them, on their records of merit, to the higher posts; to make the diplomatic service, in fact, a profession of dignity, authority and the widest usefulness, as it is in every civilized country of the globe except this.

In the short time of nine years this new system had produced the most encouraging results. Secretariats, instead of being given to idle sons of rich men, were earned by capable young Americans through examination tests. With steady promotion offered as reward for fidelity and increased efficiency, they developed into hard-working, valuable adjuncts of the system. Ministers rose "from the ranks" and found themselves, in their exalted posts, treated with a deference which had never been accorded to the political appointees. American diplomacy began to acquire a respect in foreign capitals which it had not enjoyed for generations.

And at one blast of Bryanism this system was destroyed. From the time that statesman took office until now he has openly and deliberately flouted the requirements of experience and merit and has displaced one capable, trained minister after another with appointees whose selection paid political debts or purchased political support for the administration. These are general assertions, but the facts to support them are matters of public knowledge. Collier's Weekly has collated the records of a score of men named at ministers by Mr. Bryan and of the officers who they displaced. These we shall briefly outline:

A. M. Beaupre, dismissed as minister to Cuba, had been in the service seventeen years, rising from secretary of legations in Guatemala, to hold three successive posts as minister. His successor is W. E. Gonzales, a South Carolina newspaper editor, without any diplomatic experience.

G. T. Weitzel had seven years' service in various grades before being made minister to Nicaragua; was deposed to make way for B. L. Jefferson, a doctor and legislator in Colorado.

Montgomery Schuyler, Jr., twelve years in the service, especially qualified for diplomacy by education, replaced as minister to Ecuador by C. S. Hartman, a Missouri lawyer and ex-congressman.

William W. Russell, in nineteen years' continuous service in Venezuela, Panama and Colombia, rose to be minister to the Dominican Republic and was ousted for James M. Sullivan, who had never held a diplomatic post.

H. Percival Dodge, a Harvard graduate, studied two years in Europe and served in the diplomatic service several years before being made minister to Panama; dismissed to make room for a novice, William Jennings Price.

Peter Augustus Jay served in Paris, Constantinople and Tokio, replaced by Olney Arnold as consul general



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Charles D. White, made minister to Honduras after ten years' service, is succeeded by John Ewing, with no experience.

John B. Jackson, in twenty-five years, rose through the ranks to be minister to Roumania, Bulgaria and Serbia; he was dismissed to make a place for Charles J. Volpicka, a Chicago banker.

R. S. R. Hitt, made minister to Guatemala after thirteen years' training, ousted for W. H. Leavelle, a South Carolina clergyman.

Lewis Einstein, in the service eleven years, displaced as minister to Costa Rica by Edward J. Hale, a North Carolina editor.

The list might be extended, by those examples will suffice to show how the diplomatic service has been prostituted to political ends. Blame for the condition is general charged to Mr. Bryan, but the policy clearly has White House authority. Indeed, a writer in the Outlook makes this grave accusation:

Mr. Wilson has bought the Bryan-controlled votes of congress with the patronage which he has turned over to the Secretary of State. Upon the President's shoulders rest the ultimate responsibility for demoralization of the service, our consequent loss of prestige abroad and the present menace to our foreign relations.

These facts go far to explain the threatening nature of those problems which the President confesses he cannot deal with until the tolls exemption clause has been repealed.

Natural Jealousy.

Jess—They went to the lake district on their wedding trip, and Ethel was wretched.

Bess—What was the trouble?

Jess—George fell in love with the scenery.—Cleveland Leader.

Same Sensation.

At dinner one day, little Howard, aged two and a half, suddenly began to cry and hold his hand to his mouth. His father asked him what was the matter, and Howard said, "Ouch, daddy, I stepped on my tongue."—Kansas City Star.

The Twinge of Conscience.

A teacher in one of the schools defined conscience as "something within you that tells you when you have done wrong."

"Oh, yes," said a little lad at the end of the room, "I had it once last summer after I'd eaten green apples, but they had to send for a doctor."—New York Globe.

Masonic Notice.

There will be a call meeting of Bula Lodge No. 409, A. F. & A. M. in their hall on Thursday night, March 19th, 1914 at eight o'clock. Work in the Third Degree.

C. A. WALKER, W. M.,
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