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The Editor is always glad to receive for examination illustrated articles on subjects of timely interest. If the photographs are sharp, the articles short, and the facts authentic, the contributions will receive special attention. Accepted articles will be paid for at regular space rates.

THE PEACE CONGRESS.

It is unfortunate that the aims of the Peace Congress which recently closed in this city should not have been more intelligently appreciated and clearly emphasized by the New York press. It is always more difficult to kill a false impression than to create a true one; and unfortunately the later movements directed to the promotion of international peace have been hampered by the misapprehension that peace was being sought by the altogether impractical road of immediate disarmament.

As a matter of fact, the aims of the recent Congress were purely educational—the inculcation and development of an idea. No one realized better than the sponsors of the congress that all those mighty changes in sentiment and practice which because of their magnitude are known as the revolutions of history, are of slow growth, and require, from the time of the sowing of the first seed to the final harvesting of results, a period which is frequently measured by centuries.

War, with everything that the term involves, political, diplomatic, material, and sentimental, is one of the most stupendous facts of national and international life. The forms and instrumentalities of war, both material and human, and all its vast organizations and varied interests, are so interwoven with the national life, that the abolition of war by the immediate disbanding of fleets and armies would be altogether impracticable.

The reign of international peace can be brought about only through a campaign of education similar to that inaugurated by the Peace Congress, which has just closed its labors. Regret it as we may, it is a fact that the average citizen does not realize that war is savagery; that when the citizens of two modern nations set out deliberately to butcher each other, they are simply reverting to that age in the development of the race, when man was emerging from the brute into the human. The world must be made to understand that war is the greatest anachronism of the day. When these facts have been clearly settled in people's minds, and their significance appreciated, a great step will have been taken toward the final abolition of war.

Of the many suggestions advanced at the congress, the most practical, the one which if adopted would produce the most immediate results, was that set forth by Secretary of State Root, in the course of his very able address. After stating that the great obstacle to the universal adoption of arbitration is not the unwillingness of civilized nations to submit to the decision of an impartial tribunal, but rather an apprehension that the tribunal selected might not be impartial, Mr. Root went on to state that what is needed is "the substitution of judicial action for diplomatic action, the substitution of judicial sense of responsibility for diplomatic sense of responsibility. We need for arbitration," said the Secretary of State, "judges who will be interested only in the question appearing on the record before them. Plainly this end is to be attained by the establishment of a court of permanent judges, who will have no other occupation and no other interests but the exercise of the judicial faculty under the sanction of that high sense of responsibility."

Of the success of the Peace Congress there can be no two opinions. Seldom, if ever, has a more representative and distinguished body of men gathered for deliberations of such international importance. In addition to the fact that men pre-eminent in every important sphere of human activity were present from all corners of the earth, the congress received the highest national and local recognition; as witness the fact that the President sent a personal letter and was

represented by the Secretary of State and that the mayor of the city and governor of the State in which the congress gathered were also among its principal speakers.

SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THE JAMESTOWN EXPOSITION.

The traveler who may be ascending the sluggish waters of the James River, in search of the wealth of historic associations with which its banks abound, after he has covered some thirty miles of his journey, and unless some timely informant be at hand, will be apt to overlook a stretch of shore which, scarcely lifting its uninteresting level above the waters of the river, has little to break its monotony beyond an irregular clump of trees, scarce hidden within which he will, on closer inspection, should his curiosity be so far aroused, discern the dark red and green walls of an old ivy-covered tower. Desolate, remote, and largely sedge-covered, this little island affords the passing traveler virtually no suggestion that it holds all that is left of the crumbling walls and scattered graves of the town and people of Jamestown—the first colonial settlement in America. It needs a creative imagination to realize that here was witnessed the "beginnings of a nation," which to-day, after the lapse of three brief centuries, numbers eighty millions of people, and believes, not without cause, that it is destined to become, at least in material resources and material power, the leading people of the earth.

The sponsors of the Jamestown Exposition are to be congratulated on the judgment and good taste with which they have determined the scope and characteristics of the enterprise. With the memories of the colossal Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis fresh in the minds of the people, it would have been folly to attempt to rival that over-big affair in the size of its buildings and the number of its exhibits. Magnificent though it was, the St. Louis Fair was big to the point of burdensomeness and boredom. It was a *reductio ad absurdum* of the cult of the superlative; and it taught the valuable lesson that future expositions should aim to be intensive rather than interminable, distinctive rather than discursive.

The Jamestown Exposition will be both intensive and distinctive. It aims at historical and educational results; the one being secured largely by the character of the buildings, the other by a careful selection of the exhibits which they will house. In searching for a fitting means to embody those spectacular effects which have come to be regarded as an essential, and by many people, alas! as the most desirable, feature of a great exposition, the management have availed themselves of the fine opportunity presented by the waters of Hampton Roads, and have arranged for an international display of the naval forces of the world, which, if it does not rival in extent, will possibly exceed in interest, any previous pageant of the kind.

The Jamestown Exposition is essentially a display of the peaceful arts; hence, it is peculiarly fitting that its most imposing feature should consist of a gathering of battleships and cruisers—those stately patrolmen of the high seas, whose day-by-day duty it is to preserve the peace of the world and render the ocean highways secure; whose activities are mainly concerned in the promotion of international peace; and whose pacific purpose is never so clearly manifested as in an international review of the kind now being organized at the mouth of the James River.

RAISING THE ASSOUAN DAM.

The Egyptian government, as a result of prolonged deliberations, has now finally decided to raise the height of the water of the River Nile impounded behind the Assouan barrage to 22 feet above its present maximum level. This project was first mooted shortly after the works were completed and opened, and the plans and calculations were prepared by the Irrigation Department as far back as 1904, and submitted to Sir Benjamin Baker, the consulting engineer, for his consideration and approval in the fall of that year. About this time, however, no little sensation was created in scientific and engineering circles by the paper published by two professors of the London University, Atcherley and Carl Pearson, regarding the theory and stability of dams, in which reference was made to those thrown across the Nile at Assouan and Asyut. As a result of this discussion, the Egyptian government invited Sir Benjamin Baker to visit the works and announce his decision regarding the advisability of raising the level of the works, as proposed in the plans drawn up by the Irrigation Department. Sir Benjamin Baker spent several weeks inspecting both the barrages and the protective apron which had been built below the toe of the dam, to prevent the friable rock of the river bed being scoured away by the force of the water escaping through the sluices. Upon the completion of his surveys he expressed the opinion: (1) That the dam was perfectly safe and sound throughout, and that there was no reason whatever for the slightest anxiety regarding its stability. (2) That extensive works should be carried out on the talus

downstream of the dam. (3) That no decision could be given by him regarding the advisability of raising the dam for at least two years, at the expiration of which time it was hoped that the protective works would have been completed and tested.

In the early part of this year Sir Benjamin Baker visited the barrages and made a prolonged and detailed investigation of the protective works, the greater part of which had been completed, and was able to inspect the behavior of that section of the operations which had been first completed and submitted to practical test for several months. They were found to be perfectly satisfactory, and the increase in the height of the barrages was thereupon approved.

During the interval that has elapsed between the completion of the plans for this work in 1904 and the recent decision, elaborate surveys and exhaustive examinations have been carried out by the Irrigation Department throughout the Nile Valley between Wady Halfa and Khartoum, to ascertain the practicability of throwing a barrage across the river at a suitable point above the Assouan dam, and thereby creating a subsidiary reservoir, as an alternative to raising the height of the Assouan dam. It was found that no such dam could be built.

The raising of the barrage will be a work of only less importance than the erection of the structure itself, while the advantages reaped by the barren lands of the Nile Valley will equal those conferred by the original dam. The additional quantity of water that will thus be impounded by raising the level 22 feet will be two and a quarter times greater than that stored by the existing barrage. By this new supply it will be possible to bring about a million acres of land under irrigation. At the present moment there are approximately 950,000 acres of government land in the northern tracts of the Nile Valley lying untilled because of the dearth of water. It is intended to reclaim the whole of this tract by using the additional water that will be impounded in the enlarged reservoir. The wealth and revenue of the country will be immediately and greatly increased. In the cotton crop alone the increase, due to the additional water supply, will represent, it is estimated, a sum of between \$17,500,000 and \$20,000,000. The undertaking is to be commenced at an early date, and the total cost of completing the work will approximate \$7,500,000, which outlay will include the compensation to be awarded to the inhabitants of Numidia whose land will be submerged. The work will take some six years to complete, so that the country will not reap the full benefit accruing from this huge increase in the water supply for irrigation purposes until the year 1914.

Unfortunately, the raising of the water level will entail the still further submergence of the temples of Philæ and other Nubian archeological monuments, upon the protection of which, by elaborate underpinning, a vast sum of money was expended when the existing structure was thrown across the river. Although the government deplures the necessity of partly submerging these historic remains, it is realized that the economic and agricultural demands of the country must receive first consideration. However, the authorities pledge themselves to do everything possible to minimize the injury. An archeological survey, extending from Wady Halfa to Assouan, has been made by the order of the government, and the various archeological societies have been invited to co-operate with the authorities in their task of preserving the remains as far as the exigencies of the country will permit.

AN OPPRESSIVE POSTAL REGULATION.

On April 17 the publishers of the United States received notification from Washington that the Canadian postal authorities had made new regulations affecting the rate on newspapers and periodicals, whereby the postage to Canada was increased nearly six times. This law is to go into effect on May 8, 1907. The publishers in this country are powerless to protect themselves in view of this arbitrary act. It would not be honorable or fair to terminate or curtail subscriptions which have been sent in good faith up to the present time. The result is that the publishers are obliged to pay this considerable increase in postal rates without compensation from subscribers. This is a heavy and unjust burden, which could have been avoided by giving due and reasonable notice of such contemplated change of rate. This act has been done in the most arbitrary and unnecessarily abrupt manner, and it is hoped that when the great injustice to American publishers is understood at Ottawa, and the unnecessary harshness of the provisions of the act, the matter will be reconsidered, and some measures taken to defer the enforcement of the new rate until the end of the year.

While this rule is a matter of such considerable financial loss to American publishers, in the end it is sure to be most severely felt by the Canadian reading public. By far the largest percentage of periodical literature is in the widest sense educational. To increase the cost of such literature to the reading