

CURRENT NOTES

POSTPONEMENT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

The annual meeting of the American Society of International Law will not be held in April as usual this year, but has been postponed until October, 1927. This action has been taken by the Committee on Annual Meeting after consultation with the officers and a number of members of the Society. The purpose of the postponement is to enable the Society to meet at the same time as the *Institut de Droit International*, which will convene in Washington on October 12th and remain in session until October 24th next. The members of the *Institut* will be invited to attend the sessions of the Society, and it is hoped that arrangements can be made whereby the members of the Society will be admitted to the sessions of the *Institut*. It is further expected that the Society will act as host to the members of the *Institut* at the annual dinner which will close the Society's meeting. The exact days of the Society's meeting between October 12th and 24th will be announced later.

This is the first time that the *Institut de Droit International* has met in Washington. It had planned to meet in Washington in the year 1920, but the situation then existing due to the political campaign of that year seemed to make it advisable to postpone the Washington meeting until some other occasion. In the view of the officers and members of the *Institut* the fall of 1927 seems to provide that occasion, and the Committee on Annual Meeting feels certain that the members of the Society will be glad of the opportunity to meet with the members of the *Institut* and to act as their hosts as far as practicable.

OSCAR S. STRAUS

December 23, 1850–May 3, 1926

Statesman, man of affairs, philanthropist, Mr. Straus belonged to all classes of our people; and yet, in a very real sense, the members of the American Society of International Law claim him as one of their own.

He was present at the founding of the Society, which would not have come into being but for the keen interest which he took in its formation. And the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW is likewise due to his support of the project, and his belief that it could be published with the fees of members of the Society, without the creation of a special fund. It is doubtful if the Society or the JOURNAL would have continued to exist had it not been for Mr. Straus' enthusiasm, encouragement, and enlightened support of each during the period of their infancy. Money debts can be repaid with money—the debt of gratitude can only be acknowledged, it

can never be adequately repaid; and as long as the American Society of International Law and its journal exist, the name of Mr. Straus should be held in grateful memory, not only by the members of the Society, but by students of international law in all parts of the world, so greatly has the labor of his hands prospered.

The American Society of International Law was proposed at the Conference on Arbitration held at Lake Mohonk in 1905. Mr. Charles Noble Gregory, then Dean of the Law School of Iowa State University, was one of the earliest and most ardent advocates of the Society and the *JOURNAL*. At Mohonk, Mr. Chandler P. Anderson, then engaged in the practice of law in New York City, and destined to become a leader of the international bar and an international arbiter of distinction; Mr. George W. Kirchwey, then Dean of the School of Law of Columbia University and later greatly interested in and favorably known for his services to prison reform; Mr. Robert Lansing, then a lawyer engaged in the practice of his profession at Watertown, New York, and within a few years to become Secretary of State of the United States, and the undersigned, were present. Mr. Kirchwey, on their behalf, laid before the Conference the proposal of forming the Society of International Law. It met with approval, and a committee was appointed, with Mr. Straus as chairman, and the undersigned as secretary, to take the necessary steps.

Had it not been for Mr. Straus, it is probable that with the dispersal of the committee nothing more would have been heard of the Society, except perhaps to "report progress at next year's session." In the autumn he requested Mr. Anderson and Mr. John Bassett Moore, then Professor of International Law and Diplomacy at Columbia University, and now crowning the achievements of a lifetime as Judge of the Permanent Court of International Justice at The Hague, and the undersigned, to meet at his residence, to see what could and should be done in order to create the Society and to start the *JOURNAL*. Every week a meeting was held until the 9th of December, 1905, by which time matters had progressed so far that Mr. Straus gave a dinner to the notabilities of international law. It was thereupon agreed that a meeting for the organization of the Society should be held in rooms of the New York Bar Association and, with the permission of that body, the meeting was held at its headquarters on Friday, January 12, 1906, when the Society was organized, a constitution adopted, and officers elected, with Mr. Elihu Root as President, Mr. Charles Henry Butler, Corresponding Secretary, Mr. Oscar S. Straus, Chairman of the Executive Committee, Mr. Chandler P. Anderson, Treasurer, and the undersigned, Recording Secretary.

Within the same year, on the 29th of the month of January, to be specific, the first regular meeting of the Executive Council was held in Washington, under Mr. Root's presidency, and the plan for the *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW*, which had been presented and read on December 9,

1905, at Mr. Straus' residence, was approved, and the matter referred to the Executive Committee "with the approval of the Council." Of this Council, Mr. Straus was Chairman. The next meeting of the Executive Council was held on June 1, 1906, at Lake Mohonk in connection with the Conference on Arbitration, and the proposal to launch the *JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW* was approved. Mr. Straus was present in person. It is thus a matter of record that the American Society of International Law and the *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW* came into being under the chairmanship of Mr. Straus. They are but two small monuments which his associates hope will indeed be more permanent than brass or stone.

Mr. Straus' career, other than the small portion of it connected with the American Society of International Law and its journal, is thus set forth in a minute adopted December 2, 1926, by the Trustees of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, of which institution he was a trustee from its foundation:

Mr. Straus was born in Bavaria on December 23, 1850, and at the age of four years emigrated with his parents to the United States. He lived in Georgia until he was 15 years old, and then removed to New York City, where he received his collegiate and professional education at Columbia College. From his graduation in 1873 until 1881 he practised law in New York City, and then engaged in the mercantile business from which he finally retired in 1906.

His long career of public service started in 1887, when he was appointed American Minister to Turkey, which position he filled for two years, again resumed it for a three-year term in 1898, and finally finished his services at Constantinople as American Ambassador from May, 1909, until December, 1910.

In 1902, Mr. Straus was appointed a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague, and was reappointed by Presidents Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson. On December 17, 1906, he entered President Roosevelt's cabinet and served as Secretary of Commerce and Labor until March 4, 1909, . . .

It was upon this record of achievement in the promotion of friendly and just relations between nations that Mr. Carnegie, in December, 1910, invited Mr. Straus to become one of the original Trustees of his Endowment for International Peace. Mr. Straus' faithfulness to his duties as a member of this Board during the ensuing sixteen years is a matter of official record in the minutes.

Mr. Straus gave liberally of his time and energy to the domestic questions and affairs of his state and nation. He was a former President of the New York Board of Trade and Transportation, the National Primary League, the American Social Science Association, and Vice President of the National Civic Federation. He was Chairman of the Arbitration Commission appointed in 1912 to decide the wage dispute between the eastern railways and their engineers. From 1915 to 1918 he was Chairman of the New York Public Service Commission, First District, and was a member of President Wilson's Second Industrial Conference.

His thorough Americanism and deep interest in the basic problems of American life and government appear from the pages of a number of volumes which he published at intervals in his busy life. His first book appeared in 1886 and dealt with "The Origin of the Republican Form of Government in the United States." Another phase of his interest was shown when he published in 1894 "Roger Williams—the Pioneer of Religious Liberty," to be followed two years later by "The Development of Religious Liberty in the United States." In 1897 Mr. Straus published a volume on the "Reform of the Consular Service"; in 1901 another on "The United States Doctrine of Citizenship," and a year later he issued "Our Diplomacy with Reference to Our Foreign Service." A volume entitled "The American Spirit" appeared from his pen in 1913, and his final volume in the nature of memoirs appeared in 1922 under the title "Under Four Administrations."

JAMES BROWN SCOTT.

MR. HUGHES APPOINTED TO THE PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION

On September 30, 1926, the Secretary of State announced the designation by the President of the Honorable Charles Evans Hughes as a member for the United States of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague for a term of six years. The Government of the United States is fortunate in having available for appointment to this international tribunal established by the Hague Convention of 1899 for the peaceful settlement of international disputes, a former Secretary of State of the United States, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, and Governor of the State of New York, and the members of the American Society of International Law felicitate its president upon receiving and accepting this well deserved honor.

Membership in the panel of the Permanent Court of Arbitration has assumed added importance since the adoption of the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice. Article 4 of the Statute provides that the members of that court shall be elected by the Assembly and Council of the League of Nations from a list of persons nominated by the national groups in the Permanent Court of Arbitration. The nominations are made upon the written request of the Secretary General of the League of Nations at least three months before the election of the judges. The members of the national groups on the Permanent Court of International Justice nominate not more than four persons, two of whom only may be of their own nationality (Article 5), and before making nominations they are recommended to consult the highest court of justice of their country, its legal faculties and schools of law, its national academies and the national sections of international academies devoted to the study of law (Article 6).

Mr. Hughes has been appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Judge George Gray. The other representatives of the United