THE CANAL TOLLS AND AMERICAN SHIPPING

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The canal tolls and American shipping by Lewis Nixon

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LEWIS NIXON

THE CANAL TOLLS AND AMERICAN SHIPPING



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LEWIS NIXON



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FOREWORD

It is proposed in this book to submit to an impartial examination the different interpretations of the meaning of the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty. Lest the writer's long association with American shipping interests may seem to militate against a detachment from personal bias in this discussion, he deems it wise to add that he is no longer engaged in shipbuilding, nor has he any interest direct or indirect in any vessel engaged in the foreign or coasting trade of the United States.

Finding many arguments advanced upon ideas gathered from hasty consideration which had not taken in both sides of the question, it was decided to try to put within these brief limits a general analysis of the Treaty's provisions, to review both sides of the controversy and to give furthermore all the state papers that show the development of the Treaty.

If the reading of this book adds to the general information of the ordinary reader without time for exhaustive study and enables him to criticise with confidence the many addresses and papers on the subject I shall feel that it has served the purpose of its inspiration.

Foreword

There seems to be an impression that the contention respecting the right of the United States to remit toll charges on its own vessels is an academic question, and that such contention is simply a battle of wits. As a fact it is the most serious determination that has been asked of our people for half a century.

Our foreign trade is in the hands of our commercial rivals and if the Panama Canal policy is not determined aright it will remain there with

ever strengthening control.

Some of our people upon hearsay, others upon blind acceptance of the opinions of others, owing to the fact that treaties were not available, have developed a state of mind in which an insistence upon secure, moral and legal rights is viewed as a breach of treaty faith.

LEWIS NIXON.

New York, 7 April, 1914.

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