# AMERICAN ADDRESSES AT THE SECOND HAGUE PEACE CONFERENCE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

#### ISBN 9780649046096

American Addresses at the Second Hague Peace Conference by Joseph H. Choate & Horace Porter & James Brown Scott

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#### DELIVERED BY

### JOSEPH H. CHOATE GENERAL HORACE PORTER JAMES BROWN SCOTT

#### EDITED WITH INTRODUCTORY NOTES

BY

#### JAMES BROWN SCOTT

TECHNICAL DELEGATE OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE BECOND HAGUE PRACE CONFERENCE ASSOCIATE OF THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

SECOND EDITION

BOSTON WORLD PEACE FOUNDATION 1916 Int 6829.5.2

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Cinn and Company - PRO-PRLETORS - BOSTON - U.S.A.

#### PREFACE

The following collection consists of addresses delivered by three members of the American delegation to the Second Hague Peace Conference, dealing with the subjects of the immunity of unoffending private property of the enemy upon the high seas, the limitation of force in the collection of contract debts, arbitration, an international prize court, and the project for the establishment of a permanent court of arbitral justice, composed of judges acting under a sense of judicial responsibility and representing the various languages and systems of law. General in their nature, it is believed that the publication of these addresses may be of some interest, if not of permanent value.

It has been deemed advisable to include, by way of introduction, an address delivered by each of the three members upon the conference and the results actually achieved by it. A brief note on formal and informal addresses at The Hague has been prefixed, and, where considered necessary to the understanding of the addresses proper, a brief introductory note has been supplied.

An appendix has been added, containing the texts discussed in the various addresses.

JAMES BROWN SCOTT

Washington, D.C., October 18, 1909



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#### INTRODUCTION

#### I. NOTE ON FORMAL AND INFORMAL ADDRESSES AT THE CONFERENCE 1

It may be interesting to consider briefly the character of the addresses made at the conference, in order that a clearer idea may be gained of the assembly, and of the manner in which projects were presented and justified, - indeed forced upon the attention of the delegates. The reglement provided that projects should be presented to the conference, printed, and distributed, before they were discussed, and this rule was adhered to. Amendments were indeed presented and accepted in the course of the sessions, but discussion did not take place upon original propositions until they had been printed and distributed to the members. The addresses, therefore, would naturally fall into two classes: first, formal and carefully prepared orations, in the nature of essays; and second, unprepared and impromptu specches delivered in the course of debate, either upon an original proposition, a proposed amendment, or a criticism of the subject under immediate discussion. The formal addresses were read from written copies, such as the opening addresses of the Dutch minister of foreign affairs and of the president of the conference. The various chairmen usually read their addresses, although that was not the case with M, de Martens, who spoke freely and without notes. The remarkable addresses of Baron Marschall von Bieberstein, in which he rejected arbitration with reserves, but promised to consider sans parti pris the arbitration of carefully selected lists of subjects, and his later address opposing the carefully devised and acceptable project of certain specified subjects, were documents prepared with great care and read from manuscript. Mr. Choate's elaborate argument for the immunity from capture of unoffending private property of the enemy upon the high seas was likewise read. The admirable address of General Porter upon the limitation of force in the collection of contract debts was a set speech,

<sup>1</sup> Reprinted from Scott's Hagus Peace Conferences of 1800 and 1907, Vol. I, pp. 173-179-