

**THE SECOND AMERICAN
CONFERENCE ON
INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C.,
JANUARY 12, 1904**

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THE VIEWS OF PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

HARRISON.

President Harrison, in transmitting to Congress, September 3, 1890, the arbitration treaties of the American Conference, said :

"The ratification of the treaties contemplated by these reports will constitute one of the happiest and most hopeful incidents in the history of the Western Hemisphere."

CLEVELAND.

President Cleveland, in transmitting the arbitration treaty of 1897 to the Senate, said :

"Its success ought not to be doubtful, and the fact that its ultimate ensuing benefits are not likely to be limited to the two countries immediately concerned should cause it to be promoted all the more eagerly."

McKINLEY.

In his inaugural address, President McKinley referred to the treaty of 1897 as follows :

"The importance and moral influence of the ratification of such a treaty can hardly be overestimated in the cause of advancing civilization. It may well engage the best thought of the statesmen and people of every country, and I cannot but consider it fortunate that it was reserved to the United States to have the leadership in so grand a work."

ROOSEVELT.

In his annual message of 1903, President Roosevelt made the following reference to the resort of the nations to The Hague Tribunal on the Venezuela question :

"Such an imposing concourse of nations presenting their arguments to and invoking the decision of that high court of international justice and international peace can hardly fail to secure a like submission of many future controversies. The nations now appearing there will find it far easier to appear there a second time, while no nation can imagine its just pride will be lessened by following the example now presented. This triumph of the principle of international arbitration is a subject of warm congratulation, and offers a happy augury for the peace of the world."

WORDS OF GENERALS WASHINGTON, GRANT AND SHERIDAN.

WASHINGTON.

In his Farewell Address, Washington said :

"Observe good faith and justice toward all nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all. Religion and morality enjoin this conduct; and can it be that good policy does not equally enjoin it? It will be worthy of a free, enlightened, and, at no distant period, a great nation, to give to mankind the magnanimous and too novel example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence. Who can doubt that in the course of time and things the fruits of such a plan would richly repay any temporary advantages which might be lost by steady adherence to it?"

GRANT.

In a letter to the Universal Peace Union of Philadelphia, in December, 1879, General Grant wrote :

"Although educated and brought up as a soldier, and probably having been in as many battles as anyone, certainly as many as most people could have been, yet there was never a time nor a day when it was not my desire that some just and fair way should be established for settling difficulties, instead of bringing innocent persons into conflict, and thus withdrawing from productive labor able-bodied men who, in a large majority of cases, have no particular interest in the subject for which they are contending. I look forward to a day when there will be a court established that shall be recognized by all nations, which will take into consideration all differences between nations and settle by arbitration or decision of such court these questions."

SHERIDAN.

In a speech made at the centennial banquet in Philadelphia, Pa., on September 17, 1887, General Sheridan said :

"There is one thing that you should appreciate, and that is the improvement in guns and in the material of war, in dynamite and other explosives, and in breech-loading guns, is rapidly bringing us to a period when war will eliminate itself, when we can no longer stand up and fight each other in battle, and when we will have to resort to something else.

"Now what will that something else be? It will be arbitration. I mean what I say when I express the belief that if any one now present here could live until the next centennial he would find that arbitration ruled the world."

INTRODUCTION.

On April 22d and 23d, 1896, a Conference on International Arbitration was held in the city of Washington. The object of this Conference was to promote the establishment of a permanent system of arbitration between the United States and Great Britain. A full report of these meetings was published under the title—"THE AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION, HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 22D AND 23D, 1896."*

The Resolutions adopted by this Conference, composed of nearly three hundred prominent men from all parts of the United States, were presented to President Cleveland and to the Secretary of State, Mr. Olney, by whom they were received in a spirit of hearty approval and sympathy.

Following this action taken by the Conference, a treaty was signed January, 1897, between the United States and Great Britain, calling for a permanent and obligatory system of arbitration between those two nations.

The National Arbitration Committee, which, as a permanent body, had been appointed at the Conference, thereupon sent out the following inquiry: "May we quote you as standing with ourselves in favor of the ratification of the arbitration treaty without amendment?" The list of men to whom this inquiry was sent was prepared without reference to their supposed views on the subject of arbitration, but because they were believed to be among the most intelligent and influential in their respective States. Out of one thousand and two replies, ninety-three per cent. expressed their preference for the treaty unamended, and of the remaining seven per cent., only twelve expressed themselves as opposed to arbitration, or 1.18 per cent. of the entire number. These opinions were embodied in a Memorial laid before the Senate of the United States. The treaty failed of ratification in the Senate, the majority falling short by four votes of the requisite two-thirds.

*Baker and Taylor Co., E. 16th St., New York.