

**AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES:
AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE
AND AN ADEQUATE CONSULAR
LAW. ISSUED BY NATIONAL
BUSINESS LEAGUE OF AMERICA**

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ISSUED BY

The National Business League
of America

(NON-PARTISAN)

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INCORPORATED JUNE 18, 1907

AN ALLIANCE OF LEADING DIVERSIFIED BUSINESS INTERESTS
OF THE UNITED STATES, FOR THE PROMOTION OF
NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND ADVANCEMENT
OF AMERICAN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES

CHICAGO, U. S. A.

1909

FOREWORD

SEVEN years ago, at a banquet of the National Business League of America, in Chicago, where reform of the American Consular Service was discussed by several distinguished men, Dr. William Rainey Harper, in an address on "The Universities and the Commercial World," said:

"Technological work now is regarded as a necessity of our universities. Within five years twenty have established colleges of commerce and administration. This new development is as rapid and marvelous as the industrial development of the nation. There have been wonderful changes in the world in all lines of business and industry, and education must keep pace with the advantages offered by the modern conditions. We have concluded that Latin is not an essential. Greek is not an essential requirement to a full life. The man of today must study those things with which he will come in contact in his every day life as a business man and a man of commerce and engineering and agriculture. Thus the universities are influenced by the progress of industries. In the future, as in the past, universities are to be in touch with the commercial world and colaborers in this great field."

Mindful of the words of that eminent educator and executive, whose career and achievements will ever be a priceless legacy to posterity, the Directors of the League, in January, 1906, corresponded with the Presidents of some of the leading universities of the United States for the purpose of ascertaining the facilities for fitting young men for the American Consular Service. The replies to the queries of the League, which were given to the public press, showed that a promising beginning had been made by a few educators to specially train students desiring to make a career in the service.

Now, however, with the efforts being put forth by the executive branch of the Government to successfully con-

tinue the measures for consular improvement, made operative through the combined efforts of President Theodore Roosevelt and Secretary Elihu Root, and the further endeavors of the business interests of the country to make permanent that which already has been accomplished temporarily by Executive Order, the League has asked a few of the larger universities, before addressed, to advise the public of their present facilities for training young men for the American consular and diplomatic services, and for that larger and ever-widening foreign field with the great exporting and importing interests of this country. The eighteen statements herein submitted are pertinent and inspiring. They conclusively show that many of our great universities are *amply prepared* to meet the demands of the Government and business interests for specially trained young Americans who, hereafter, are to enlarge, maintain and protect American interests in foreign lands.

The examination records of the State Department at Washington show that since the observance of the Executive Order successful candidates for entrance to the Consular Service are mostly university graduates. In this connection the League is indebted to Mr. Wilbur J. Carr, Chief Clerk of the Department of State (formerly Chief of the Consular Bureau), and to the Bureau of Appointments, for the information that one hundred and one men have passed the seven consular examinations, from March, 1907, to November, 1908. They are residents of thirty-seven States, Territories and Possessions of the United States. Of this number forty-four were graduates of American Universities and Colleges, thirty-two took a partial college course and twenty-five did not go to college. In the last examination for the Consular Service, in November, 1908, there were forty-one successful candidates, mostly university graduates; every man speaking one language besides English, and many were familiar with three or four languages; German, Spanish and French predominating. At this writing about seventy-five per cent of the successful candidates have been appointed to the Consular Service as consuls, consular assistants or student interpreters. Thus it is evident that in

the brief constructive period for consular betterment, since the Executive Order of June 27, 1906, became operative, the universities and colleges have furnished the maximum of candidates competent to enter the service.

For the purpose of familiarizing them with service regulations, consular appointees receive special instruction, usually of several weeks' duration, at the State Department, prior to their departure for foreign posts. It is understood that President Taft and Secretary Knox will soon inaugurate a similar system for the benefit of appointees to the diplomatic service.

Without expense to the United States Government, therefore, our great institutions of learning have become indispensable factors for the equipment of American industrial and commercial interests, in the forthcoming gigantic struggle for supremacy in the markets of the world.

While the great business interests of this country are today largely conducted by university and college graduates, and our rapid progress as a nation is mostly the direct result of the thorough training of these higher schools, some of our leading educators are seriously handicapped by the lack of funds. They merit, and should receive, cordial and liberal support, by contribution or endowment, from the public spirited capitalists of the country, for they are fitting the hustling sons of American business men, with brawn and brain to accomplish, for useful and successful careers in every avenue of human endeavor, in all lands and under all conditions.

There is a desideratum, however, of the weightiest importance; an essential saving clause to make the work of the State Department and the Universities permanently effective; to insure to specially trained young men successful careers in the foreign service. Until the Congress of the United States enacts an *adequate consular law* covering the merit system of examination, appointment and promotion (with complete Americanization), there will always remain the danger of returning to the vicious practice of using the American Consular Service as a political asset.

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

(WASHINGTON, D. C.)

PRESIDENT, CHARLES WILLIS NEEDHAM, LL. D.

THE COLLEGE OF THE POLITICAL SCIENCES

BY DR. RICHARD DAVENPORT HARLAN.

That so many of our leading universities are now offering (or planning) courses that will be specially preparatory to the Consular Service is a hopeful sign of the times. It marks the beginning of the full answer that will be made to the growing demand on the part of the great business interests of the country, that the Consular Department of the Government shall be taken out of politics, not only temporarily and in theory, but permanently and completely, in point of fact; and that it shall be placed so thoroughly and irrevocably upon a business-like, Civil Service basis that it can be properly spoken of as a "career." Only on that basis will it be prudent for ambitious young men to educate themselves with special reference to it.

To quote (with slight verbal alterations) from an article on "Education for the New Consular Career," contributed by John Ball Osborne, the Chief of the State Department's Bureau of Trade Relations to the North American Review for October, 1908:

"It has been suggested that the Consular Service is too limited a field, numerically, to justify the establishment of special courses of training at many of our great universities. * * * It must be remembered that the training for the Consular Service is essentially practical, and even although a young man who has taken a four years' course at such an institution as the new College of the Political Sciences connected with The George Washington University, and who has received the degree of Bachelor of Arts, may fail to obtain the coveted Consulship, he may be infinitely better qualified to face the world than many a graduate from the academic

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department of the regular universities, who emerges from the classic shades with a training that can rarely be utilized at once except in the poorly remunerated profession of teaching; while, on the other hand, the Political-Science graduate is admirably equipped for a variety of practical avocations in the business world."

While the mastery of such courses as the ones indicated in this article will give the diligent student valuable general information and, above all, a mental training that will fit him for effective work in many callings in his own country (in case he should fail of a Consular appointment, or afterwards decide not to seek one), yet it is obvious that such courses will give the much needed *special* training for the Consular Service which is being more and more demanded by the State Department and by American business interests. Only a body of specially trained men can realize that ideal for the Consular Service which is condensed in the happy phrase first coined by our former Consul-General at St. Gall, James T. Dubois (recently appointed as Consul-General to Singapore), when he spoke of the need of "A Consular Corps of Well-Disciplined Soldiers of Commerce."

Most of the actual knowledge which an efficient Consul ought to possess must be gradually acquired in the daily work at the Consulate, *after* he reaches his post, just as the practical work in a law office must supplement and vitalize the previous study in a Law School. Therefore, it must always be borne in mind that the most essential service which a Consular Training School can render to the student is to give him the proper mental *training*. And yet, on the other hand, it must also be remembered that such a training can best be imparted through the medium of subjects that will furnish the student with a knowledge of the essential fundamentals of those special subjects with which an American Consul ought to be familiar.

THE NEED OF A SPECIAL CONSULAR TRAINING SCHOOL, AND ITS IDEAL LOCATION.

It augurs well for the Nation that so many of the leading universities in different parts of the country are developing strong post-graduate courses in such subjects as INTERNATIONAL LAW AND DIPLOMACY, ECONOMICS and POLITICAL SCIENCE (in addition to courses in MODERN HISTORY and MODERN LANGUAGES), with

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the special view of training men for the public service, both at home and abroad. But I think that all disinterested observers will agree that—in addition to, and as supplementing, the very best work along these lines that can be done by such universities—there still remains an important place for a CONSULAR TRAINING SCHOOL of a unique type, in which (over and above the broad, fundamental courses in the topics just mentioned) there may also be found certain highly specialized and intensely practical courses of instruction with reference to the duties of Consuls, the history and present day conditions of our industrial life, the resources of our own country, and the possibilities and methods of increasing our Foreign Commerce, etc., etc.

Such a special Consular Training School would in no sense be a competitor of the Political-Science Departments in the various universities, but would supplement their work and thus be *the ally and servant of them all.*

When one bears in mind (1) the rich statistical resources of the various Government bureaus and libraries (connected with the State, Treasury and Agricultural Departments, the Department of Commerce and Labor, and the Interstate Commerce Commission); and (2) the possibility, and the great importance, of working out *some* plan of unofficial co-operation between the leading men of the State Department and a special Consular Training School, there can be no question that the National Capital offers such unique and practical advantages that, all things considered, it is, far and away, the best strategic location for such a school.

A GOVERNMENT SCHOOL NOT FEASIBLE.

Whatever may be possible after another generation of gradual approach toward the Civil Service millennium, the writer of this article also believes that it will be quite generally conceded, by those who are best informed as to our governmental methods and tendencies, that it will not be feasible, in our day and generation, for the Government itself to attempt the actual management of such a School. Such a plan would be impossible without seriously interfering with the proper freedom of teaching in the fields of Political Economy and Political Science. As things are now, and are likely to be for another generation, a *Government* School would become either the football of partisan politics or,