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Following is an editorial written by JULES MEULEMANS, Director and Editor in Chief of "*La Revue Diplomatique*" of Paris, appearing in its issue of May 17, 1908:



While the festivities in Schœnbrunn in honor of the sixtieth imperial and royal anniversary of Emperor FRANCIS JOSEPH were taking place in Europe, in Washington, on the other side of the Atlantic, delegates from all the States of the New World were crowding around Mr. ROOSEVELT, who was presiding at the laying of the corner stone of the building for the Bureau of the American Republics. Here, at our doors, in the center of a restless and half paralyzed Europe, is the formidable Germanic grouping, which, under the spread wings of the eagle of the Hohenzollerns arises as a certain menace to the already unstable equilibrium of the Old World. Over there is a still more imposing grouping which appears, not to dominate or menace anyone, but in recognition of that solidarity which should unite the peoples of a same continent, although of different blood and mentality, and to proclaim this solidarity as an example to the whole world. And this American fraternizing takes place not in the courtyard of a feudal castle or on the bridge of a battle ship, but around a few stones which are to house a simple bureau of information.

The Bureau of the American Republics, whose building is under construction, was created following the first Pan-American Conference in 1889. It is maintained by the proportional contributions of the States of the three Americas, and its object is to develop mutual acquaintance and relations of the Republics among themselves. It has a library and publishes a MONTHLY BULLETIN in four languages—English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese.

Mr. CARNEGIE, the millionaire of enlightened generosity, to whom America to-day owes so many useful institutions and magnificent buildings, assumed the cost of the building where the Bureau is to be housed, and the laying of the corner stone of this monument took place with great solemnity last Monday. On this occasion Mr. ROOSEVELT, who presided, after having welcomed the Latin-American representatives and thanked Mr. CARNEGIE for his contribution to the new work of peace and union between nations, praised the civilization of the American Republics and pointed out the solidarity of interests and aspirations existing among the peoples of the New World. This sentiment, real in fact, has greatly changed the aspect of things since it has been openly asserted. There was a time when the Republics of Central and South America were extremely suspicious of the policy of the great Republic of the North. In particular, the Monroe Doctrine alarmed them, because they saw therein the desire of the United States to pose as a protector over all American lands and the menace of a progressive absorption of all the countries of the two Americas into a vast federation in which the influence of the Anglo-Saxon element would predominate. By miracles of diplomacy, the Cabinet at Washington has finally succeeded in allaying Latin suspicions, and the voyage taken two years ago by Mr. Root to South America, his stay in Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Ayres, greatly contributed to establish between the North and the South, between the Anglo-Saxon and the Latins, a mutual confidence indispensable to any sincere rapprochement.

Mr. ROOSEVELT properly praised the prosperity of the American nations; noted the prodigious increase in wealth, the enormous development in population, and expressed his satisfaction at the progress realized in political stability and material welfare.

The President voiced the pacific sentiments which animate him. He does not see with certainty the day when wars shall cease, but he feels that the peoples of the Western Hemisphere have made great progress on the road leading to permanent peace between nations. The American peoples have, in fact, always shown themselves favorable to everything tending to make stable the peace of the world. They have up to the present been able to avoid excessive armament; they have received with greatest favor the idea of arbitration; they have, in one word, upheld the peace movement. Their grouping together is an important element of peace and of harmony, which in itself offers a great example to the rest of the world.