

BULLETIN

OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF THE

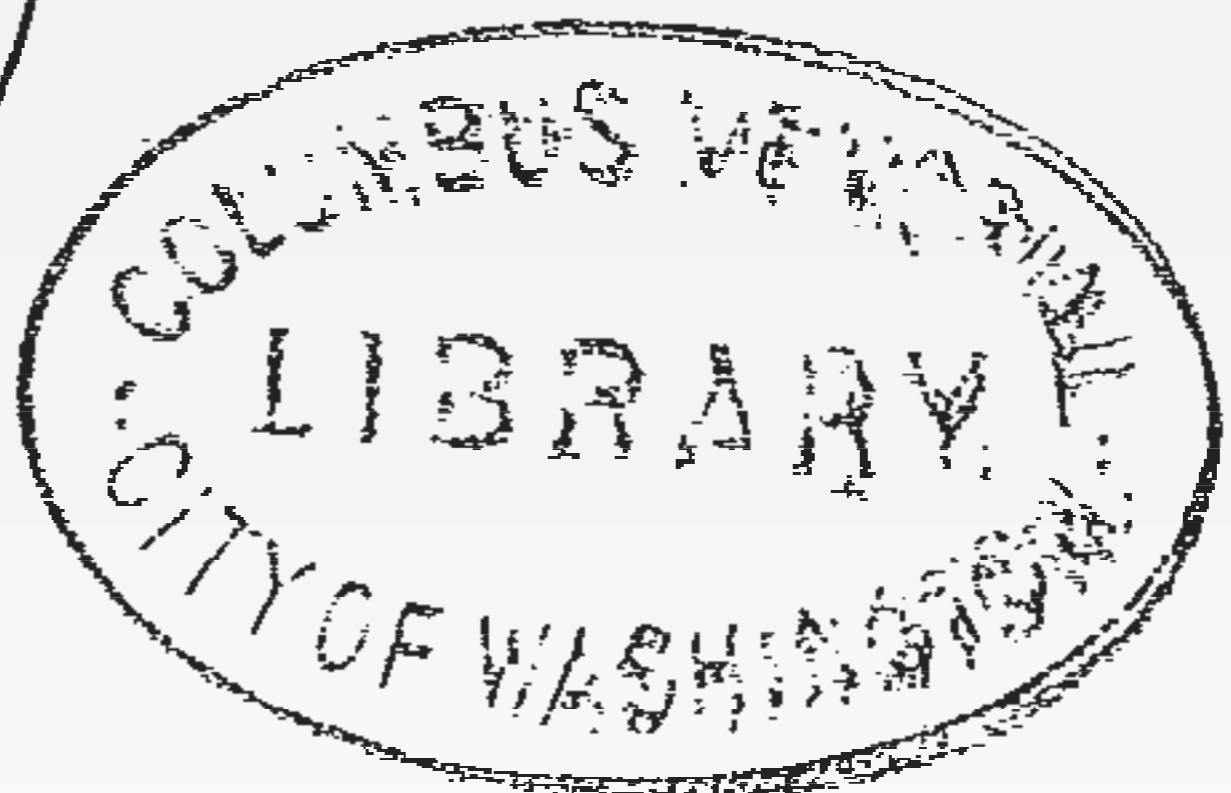
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JOHN BARRETT, DIRECTOR

FRANCISCO J. YÁNES, SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D. C., U. S. A. : : : : : :

CABLE ADDRESS for BUREAU and BULLETIN: "IBAR," WASHINGTON

said:

MR. PRESIDENT, MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: About three years ago the architects of the United States were invited to submit competitive plans for this structure. Seventy-seven individuals and firms responded. The Committee of Award, aside from Mr. ROOT, then Secretary of State and hence chairman ex officio of the Governing Board of the International Bureau, and myself as the Director, was elected by the competing architects, and consisted of CHARLES F. MCKIM, HENRY HORNBOSTLE, and ARTHUR W. LORD, three of the most eminent men in the profession. Mr. ROBERT BACON, then Assistant Secretary of State, and Mr. F. D. MILLET also assisted in the discussion of plans. After three days of most painstaking study the jury unanimously selected the set of drawings of which the present building is the evolution. They found, on opening the accompanying sealed envelope, that the successful competitors were ALBERT KELSEY and PAUL P. CRÉT, of Philadelphia. The contract with them was signed in June, 1907. They devoted the following six or seven months to revision and improvement of their plans. In March, 1908, the contract for construction was awarded to NORCROSS BROTHERS, of Worcester, Massachusetts. The corner stone was laid just two years ago on the 11th of next May by President ROOSEVELT, while the other participants in the programme included Secretary of State ELIHU ROOT, Ambassador NABUCO, of Brazil, Cardinal GIBBONS, Mr. ANDREW CARNEGIE, and Bishop CRANSTON.

Since then the work has proceeded without a day's cessation until now we ask your presence to assist in the dedication of the completed structure twenty-three months and fifteen days after the laying of the corner stone.

its erection and so made such an elaborate but practical structure possible, but as a matter of record I would state that the United States Government appropriated \$200,000 with which this beautiful and commanding site, covering 5 acres at the junction of the White Lot and Potomac Park, was purchased. The other 20 American Republics contributed a little over \$50,000, which has been used in general expenses. The entire property therefore represents an investment of \$1,000,000 in the cause of Pan-American peace, friendship, and commerce.

With the responsibility resting directly upon me as the executive officer of the Bureau to push forward the construction of the building, I wish to emphasize that my own efforts would have failed if I had not always been aided by the wise advice, warm support, and sincere cooperation of Mr. Root. This building is in a sense his child and I have acted as nurse. The members of the Governing Board, consisting of the Latin-American diplomats in Washington and the Secretary of State of the United States, have also shown an interest which has been encouraging and helpful. The architects, Mr. KELSEY and Mr. CRÉT, have given far more time and attention to the building than their contract demanded, and have always manifested a personal concern for its success as a temple of Pan-Americanism. The contractors, NORCROSS BROTHERS, of Worcester, Massachusetts, have shown a marked desire to comply with our wishes and to respond to our suggestions for changes. They should have joint pride with us in its successful completion. The Superintendent of Construction, Mr. JAMES BERRALL, has given faithful and undivided attention to his duties. The sculptors, including GÜTZON BORGLUM, ISIDORE KONTI, SALLY JAMES FARNHAM, GERTRUDE VANDERBILT WHITNEY, SOLON BORGLUM, HERBERT ADAMS, CHESTER BEACH, RUDOLPH EVANS, and ROBERT AITKEN, have all given us the best of their skill, while we feel grateful to the principal subcontractors for always doing their best to make this a unique edifice of a great capital. Nor do I forget Mr. WILLIAM R. SMITH, Superintendent of the Botanical Garden, who has generously provided for our patio an abundance of rare varieties of tropical flora.

While this building is admittedly beautiful and striking in architecture, the impression must not be carried away that it has not abundant and practical office space. It possesses large, well-lighted, and sanitary rooms for double the staff or working force which it now employs, and it is arranged and equipped with every modern convenience for the efficiency and health of its occupants and the dispatch of public business. It has all the facilities of a modern office building, set, however, in an unconventional and attractive environment. In short, it comprises, possibly more than all the public buildings in Washington, the useful and the pleasing—a most appropriate condition for housing an institution which has about it so much that is alike practical and sentimental.

I will now mention a few facts not generally appreciated in regard to the actual scope and work of the institution.

The International Bureau of the American Republics is the only official international organization upon the Western Hemisphere. It is in no sense a subordinate bureau of the United States or of any other Government, except that it is equally subordinate to all. Its control rests in a Governing Board composed of the diplomatic representatives in Washington of the American Republics, and having as its chairman ex officio the Secretary of State of the United States. Its chief administrative officer is the Director, who is elected by the vote of this Governing Board and not appointed by the President of the United States. He is, therefore, in every respect an international officer. The funds for the maintenance of the Bureau come from all the Governments, with each country appropriating or contributing a sum in the proportion that its population holds to the entire population of the American Republics.

The chief object and purpose of the International Bureau, expressed most briefly, is, on the moral and sentimental side, to develop mutual acquaintance, better understanding, lasting friendship, peace, and good will, and, on the material side, to develop

THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW BUILDING.

737

the largest possible exchange of commerce and trade, industrial prosperity, and economic progress among all the American Republics. In both respects it is accomplishing practical and far-reaching results, even though at times there may be some clouds upon the horizon of the vast field which it includes.

It was established twenty years ago, at the First International Conference of American Nations, called upon the initiative of JAMES G. BLAINE, and held in this city. It was reorganized, enlarged, and given new life by the Third Conference, held at Rio Janeiro and attended by ELIHU ROOT in 1906. In the following January the present Director took charge and has therefore administered the affairs of the Bureau for a little more than three years.

As illustrating the practical growth and useful work of the Bureau, a survey of these three years shows that its correspondence with all of the world has in that period increased nearly 600 per cent, while it distributed in 1909 some 450,000 pieces of printed matter, all in response to specific requests, in contrast to only 60,000 in 1906. Three years ago, only 10 per cent of the membership of both Houses of Congress utilized the Bureau in any form; last year 97 per cent made some use of it. In 1906 the United States Congress appropriated \$36,000 as the United States quota for its support; this year it appropriated \$75,000, and the other 20 Republics have made corresponding increases in their quotas; and yet every dollar is needed to care for the Bureau's growing tasks and broadening responsibilities.

Its MONTHLY BULLETIN, devoted to receiving and spreading information about the progress, resources, possibilities, and characteristics of the American Nations, which had little bona fide actual circulation in 1906, is now experiencing such popularity that the demand for it can only be met in small part. The Bureau also issues from time to time special reports, handbooks, circulars, and maps for which there is a large and increasing call. Its library, numbering some 18,000 volumes and known as the Columbus Memorial Library, contains an excellent collection of books, pamphlets, official documents, newspapers, etc., descriptive and representative of the American peoples and nations.

The staff of the Bureau is made up of expert translators, statisticians, compilers, clerks, and stenographers, all of whom are loyally interested in its broad international work; and the Director desires to take advantage of this opportunity to express his gratitude to all persons employed in the Bureau from the highest to the lowest position for the cooperation they have given him in his administration and in the extra work demanded by the rapid growth of the institution and the building of this new structure. Especially does he wish to thank Mr. FRANCISCO J. YANES, his scholarly and sympathetic first assistant, who is the efficient Secretary of the International Bureau and of the Governing Board, and Mr. FRANKLIN ADAMS, the Acting Chief Clerk, who has labored effectively for the improvement of the MONTHLY BULLETIN.