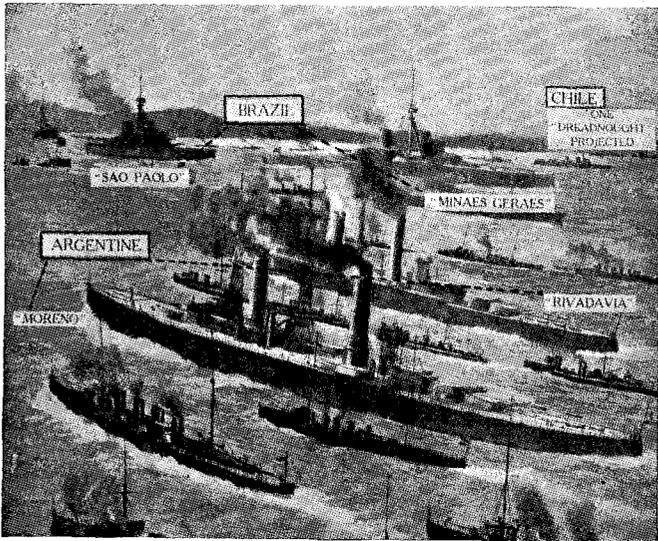


# FOREIGN COMMENT

## CONFEDERATION IN LATIN AMERICA

THE SHADOW of North American influence, falling across the Latin-American Republics, leads some of the European and South American press to ask whether the territory once won for Spain and Portugal by the great *conquistadores*, should not be confederated, wholly, or in groups, as a matter of self-protection. The obvious arguments are put forth that the intellectual spirit of the three leading Latin-American nations is identical. Argentina, Brazil, and Chile are of the same ethnic origin and undivided by religious differences. They have the advantage of owning no overlord. Canada and Australia have become confederated, one in a dominion,



THREE FLEETS WORTH WATCHING.

The navies of Brazil, Argentina, and Chile, three Republics which are contemplating confederation. Argentina's huge dreadnoughts, *Moreno* and *Rivadavia*, are to be built in the United States. The *London Sphere*, which publishes this picture, calls the Brazilian *Minas Geraes* "without doubt the most powerful fighting-ship in commission."

the other in a commonwealth, following the example of the United States.

What prevents the institution of a similar great South American Confederacy? According to the *Vossische Zeitung* (Berlin), Dr. Saenz Peña, President-elect of Argentina, and General Hermès da Fonseca, President-elect of Brazil, are actually to meet in the German capital for the purpose of consulting European statesmen on this question. An article written in a spirit of opposition to the preponderance of North American influence in the Latin Republics appears in the *Berliner Morgenpost*, a widely circulated morning and evening paper. The Monroe Doctrine, we are told, threatens South America with complete subjection to our commercial monopoly. The writer concludes as follows:

"The time has arrived for the three great Republics, Argentina, Brazil, and Chile, to unite and assert their independence of the Northern Republic, and to raise the cry, 'South America for South Americans!' By this means they will also strengthen the ties that bind them to Europe. . . . The German Empire would certainly favor such a movement, and is disposed to encourage the independent development of the South American nations in every possible way, short of compromising present cordial relations with the United States."

The press of the most important Latin Republic, concerned are, however, divided on this proposition. In Argentina it is looked upon with favor by the *Diario del Comercio*, the great trade journal of Buenos Aires, and indeed of all South America.

This paper says that such an alliance will be absolutely necessary in the near future, and adds:

"Such a union of republics would augment the power of every state that should be party to it. It would assure the peace of the Continent, and if it were consummated the imperial dreams of Europe and the United States would at once be proved absurd. Such an alliance, which would leave to each such state its complete autonomy, could not fail to prove advantageous. When we consider the diversity of commercial products yielded by these three countries, it is easy to see what positive benefits would result from a *zollverein*, or tariff union, in increasing economic exchanges in trade."

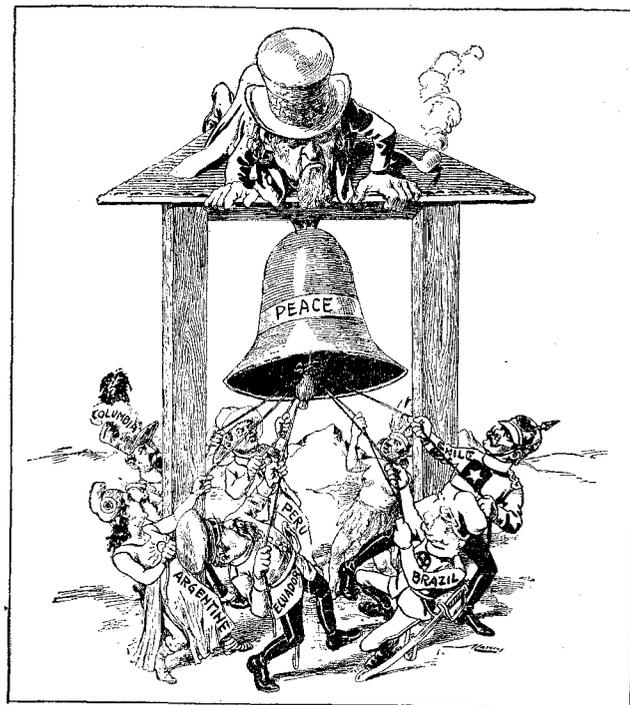


THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The important *Prensa* (Buenos Aires) remarks that the project of such a confederation has been long in the air, but has never come up before the South American Governments for favorable consideration. This journal denies that the Republics are dreading our encroachments. On the contrary it declares:

"Never before have the sentiments of South America, and especially of the Argentine Republic, been more friendly toward the United States. At no period of our history has the Government at Washington inspired this country with more complete confidence than is felt at present. The cordiality which reigns in the relations of North and South America is perfect. . . . Surmisings to the contrary can only arouse foreign prejudices against the civilization of our land."—*Translations made for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*

Dr. Roque Saenz Peña, who is to visit Berlin to discuss the practicality of confederating Argentina, Brazil, and Chile.



UNCLE SAM TRIES TO FIND OUT WHY THE BELL OF PEACE WON'T RING IN SOUTH AMERICA.

—*Union* (Santiago, Chile).

EGYPT PREDICTS BRITAIN'S EXIT

**M**R. ROOSEVELT'S speech on British rule in Egypt gives point to an article on the subject that has just appeared from the pen of one of the Nationalist leaders. That the territory which Lord Cromer so forcefully improved has disappointed England and that she contemplates evacuating the rich valley of the Nile and the Suez Canal is the substance of an article in a new organ of the Nationalist or New Egyptian party, the *Shoob* (Cairo). The author of the essay is Bey Salem, a rising young barrister.

"The most distinguished statesmen in England now desire evacuation," writes the Bey, "and are waiting impatiently for a good opportunity to justify their withdrawal from Egypt." This writer seems to have scored a clever "beat" on the press of Great Britain, whose columns contain no hint of this startling change of British opinion, and as he fails to name the distinguished statesmen who hold these views, the matter takes on the air of a deep mystery.

He derived his information, so he says, during a tour in England, where he met men well informed as to the opinions of statesmen, soldiers, and civilians. Their views were confirmed by the British residents of Gibraltar and Malta. "England," he says, "no longer appreciates the route to India by the Suez Canal." He finds that the English in Egypt are beginning to find out that the Egyptians are no inferior race and can actually govern themselves. Moreover, the British are disappointed with Egypt and wish to propitiate the Khedive. Thus we read:

"Englishmen in Egypt are no more proud or arrogant, and have adopted the policy of compromise and tolerance with H. H. the Khedive and the Government. Again, it seems as if England could not realize what she once hoped to get from Egypt.

"It is a well-known fact that when England first occupied Egypt, she thought she would benefit by strengthening her commercial situation in the Mediterranean which was then the center of commerce. This was not, however, realized in view of the fact that the Atlantic and the Pacific have taken the place of the Mediterranean as the best commercial centers."

Nor has the English Government benefited by the wealth of Egypt, which has passed into the hands of private companies, and Bey Salem declares that even the Suez Canal has become obsolete and practically superseded as a route to India. "The importance of the Suez Canal as a highway to India, etc., has now diminished since the construction of the Transsiberian and the Canadian Pacific railways." England has, in short, according to this writer, made a dreadful muddle of her Egyptian

policy, and he confidently concludes that "the longer England stays in Egypt, the worse her political and commercial position will grow."

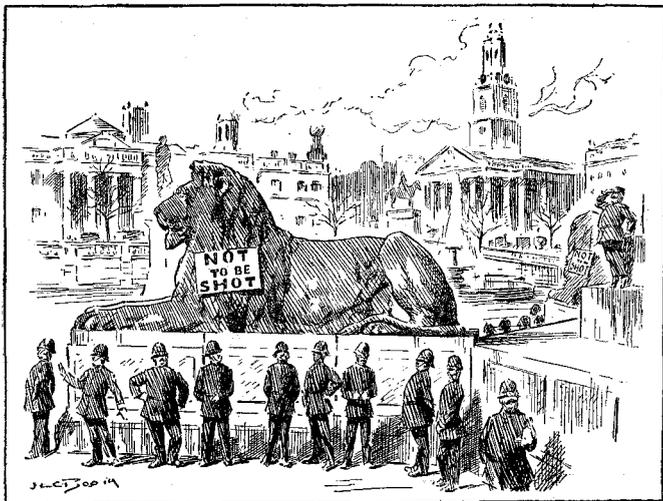
FRENCH TRIBUTES TO EDWARD

**T**HE GREAT French papers show a very delicate sympathy in speaking of the funeral cortège of Edward VII. It was England's day of domestic sorrow—and next to that a day of sorrow for France. Thus the *Gaulois* (Paris) observes:

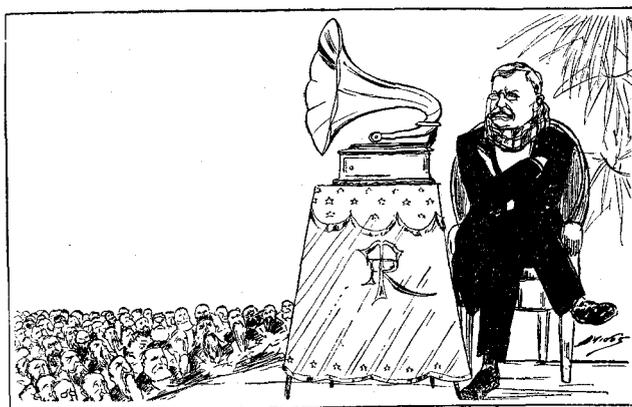
"A country so splendidly self-contained, so indifferent to other countries, so sure of itself, so admirably self-controlled, so conscious of its great qualities, so haughty over its faults, is the model people, a people likely above all things to identify themselves with their native soil, their King, and their flag. It was in vain that the Emperor of Germany came there on his white charger or that Mr. Pichon appeared in his carriage. These men were merely decorative and lay figures appearing at a ceremony which was above all a purely national function in which was being paid to a dead King and to his successor the national homage of regret and hope due from the English people."

Speaking of the way in which the Powers of Europe and America were represented at the funeral the *Temps* (Paris) interprets the solemn spectacle as a testimony to the friendship with which the late King of England was regarded by the rulers of the world. The sovereigns of Europe and the President of the United States joined in doing the last honors to a ruler whose aim, we are told, had won him the title of "Edward the Peacemaker." This writer reminds us that the monarch to whom the world was exhibiting its respect had introduced a new factor into the domain of international relations, and we read:

"The English people saw in the procession presented by the whole world at the bier of their sovereign a proof of the sentiment of esteem universally felt for him. We will not at this present moment insist on the personal note which also found an echo even in that moment of unanimity. We will simply confine ourselves to the remark that France took a special part in the grief of England because she recognized in Edward VII., as she had formerly perceived in Alexander III., a just comprehension of her own aspirations, her designs, and her resources. The clear-sighted sagacity of the deceased King, in preparing and realizing Anglo-French accord, was accepted by our country as a testimony of confidence and of sympathy. This accord introduced into the political order of the world a new element of equilibrium whose pacific and loyal value no one of the present day can realize. The work he then inaugurated subsequent events widened in its scope. There is no reason why we should not expect to see the same method applied in a larger sense, and further advances made on the same lines, advances of equal promise and value."—*Translations made for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*



A SUGGESTED PRECAUTION,  
In view of President Roosevelt's visit to London.  
—*Punch* (London).



ANYTHING BUT SILENCE.  
Hoarseness may drive T. R. to this expedient.  
—*Fischietto* (Turin).

OUTCROPPINGS OF EUROPEAN ENVY?