

shows a determination to maintain the fullest, clearest, and most friendly understanding between the two Governments, an understanding already well established, and the continuance of which ought to be a part of the fixed policy of both countries. Mr. Bryce represents diplomacy in its latest and highest development, as the interpretation of the feelings and purposes of nations rather than of dynasties, and as substituting directness, frankness, and full statements in place of conventional indirection, finesse, and, in too many cases, falsehood. Two or three important books which have recently appeared have shown the old diplomacy, which Mr. Hay did much to break up, as a highly developed art of concealment, intrigue, and falsehood. Mr. Bryce will speak frankly for the British people to the American people, and he will use the language of one clearly understanding both peoples. He ranks with de Tocqueville and von Holst among the foremost interpreters of American conditions, American constitutional organization and development, and the growth and spirit of the American people. He will be welcomed as an Ambassador, and still more cordially as a friend of the country.



*The Affair  
at Brownsville*

Controversy over the President's action in dismissing without honor soldiers of the Twenty-fifth Infantry still rages. Those who oppose the dismissal have shifted their ground. At first they declared that the President had exceeded his Constitutional powers; now, practically abandoning this point, they assert that murder was never committed, or, if it was, that it was not committed by soldiers, or at least that if soldiers did commit murder the fact has not been sufficiently established. In his message to Congress, sent in response to a resolution of the Senate, the President restates the facts: "The evidence of many witnesses of all classes was conclusive to the effect that the raiders were negro soldiers," says the President. He explains that the circumstantial evidence regarding the bullets, shells, and chips—which showed that the firearms

used were the new service rifles obtainable only from the army—is merely corroborative, as is also the fact that some of the bullet-holes which were found in the houses show that some of the shots must have been fired from the fort, and that no bullet-holes appear in the structure of the fort. General A. B. Nettleton, a Civil War veteran, formerly Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and for twenty years a trustee of Oberlin College, in a letter confirms this evidence. One cottage where a children's party had just been held "was riddled by United States bullets, fired by United States soldiers, from United States Springfield rifles." The chief of the Brownsville police, who was an eye-witness, is wearing an empty sleeve because he was shot by Federal soldiers, and an unoffending citizen lies dead, shot down while attempting to escape. "The effort to confute this testimony so far," comments the President, "has consisted in the assertion or implication that the townspeople shot one another in order to discredit the soldiers—an absurdity too gross to need discussion and unsupported by a shred of evidence." Now, these criminal soldiers, adds the President, were "not school-boys on a frolic. They were full-grown men, in the uniform of the United States Army, armed with deadly weapons, sworn to uphold the laws of the United States." The chatter about "peaching" or "squealing" on "pals" under such circumstances the President treats with deserved contempt. The soldiers who stand by fellows who are criminals are not fit to wear the uniform as protectors of the American people. Senator Foraker, who is an exceedingly able lawyer, argued before the Senate that the evidence was not sufficient to prove the soldiers' guilt before a court of justice. "Congress has always been careful," he noted, "to provide that no man found guilty of an offense should be punished otherwise than as Congress might direct." He said that instead of "scores" of eye-witnesses, of whom the President speaks, there were really but twenty-one mentioned, and only eight who actually saw the shooting. (Incidentally we might ask how many eye-witnesses

Senator Foraker thinks are necessary to establish a fact.) Their testimony, he announces, is "utterly unsatisfactory"—to him. This exceedingly able lawyer, however, fails to observe that the President's action was not in the nature of a penalty; it was the removal of a public danger. Certain newspapers have likened the incident to the Dreyfus case and the execution of the Salem witches. These parallels do credit to journalistic imagination. We have yet to hear that a single one of the murderers has been incarcerated on a desert island or shamefully executed.

*False  
Counselors*

One of the most unfortunate aspects of the affair has been the general willingness of the negro press and negro organizations to cast the fortunes of the whole race in with these negro criminals and their accessories. A negro magazine in Boston prints a collection of extracts from negro newspapers commenting on the affair. Without exception these papers come to the defense of the soldiers, and some of them bitterly attack the President. The following may be taken as representative of them all:

The action of President Roosevelt in dismissing in disgrace from the army three companies of the Twenty-fifth Infantry because the men refused to be common tattle-tales and disclose the identity of some one of their members who had been shooting up the town of Brownsville, Texas, is unprecedented in the history of the army of the United States. It is a matter of history that some member of a battalion did kill a man in Brownsville, and it was the specific duty of the Government to send detectives to Brownsville and to the barracks and have them ferret out the guilty parties. Failing in that, the matter should have been dismissed for lack of evidence.—The Kentucky Standard, Lexington, Kentucky.

One negro paper urges that no "Afro-Americans" enlist to take the places of the discharged soldiers. The accusation has been brought against the negro race that it stands solidly behind every member of the race in any issue that may arise between him and society, whether he is in the right or the wrong. These ill-advised negro counselors, and their less excusable white apologists, are following the very surest method of justifying this charge.

As a matter of fact, we believe there are many negroes who are eager to see negro offenders dealt with justly. They could do no greater service to their race than boldly to speak out their minds now.



*"Soldiers of the  
Common Good"*

In contrast to the unwise racial feeling exhibited by these apologists for unworthy negro soldiers, the events following the riots in Atlanta are most encouraging. The grave disturbance which resulted in the killing of innocent, some of them exemplary, negroes, has incited the best people of both races to a movement characterized by justice, mutual forbearance, and mutual service. Dr. Booker Washington two weeks ago told in our columns the story of this movement. With his characteristic spirit he emphasized the part which the people not of his race were taking to promote co-operation between whites and blacks. There is another side to that story; it is the part which the colored people of Atlanta have taken. A committee of ten leading white citizens, appointed at a public meeting, held conferences with leading negro preachers and business men. As a consequence, besides the white organization a negro organization was formed. Before the middle of December this body had nearly two thousand members. A negro committee has been working in co-operation with the white committee to secure justice. This negro committee has not only called to the attention of the white committee cases of alleged injustice to negroes, but it has also reported cases of injustice done by negroes to whites. Until lately, at least, in no single instance has the negro committee reported a case that was even doubtful; and the white committee has, after investigation, indorsed the representation made by the negro committee. In performing this service the committee of negroes has acted quietly, with no bad feeling, with scrupulous impartiality, and on a high plane of intelligence and morals. This is the testimony of one of the leading citizens of Atlanta, conspicuous in the organization among the whites. One instance is worthy